

November 4 to 10

Methodist Youth Work

**The blessed and only master, the King of kings and Lord of lords, he alone has immortality and lives in light that no one can come near. No human being has ever seen or is able to see him. Honour and eternal power belong to him. Amen.** (CEB, 1 Timothy 6:15.16)

## Seeing facets of God, together

“What do you think God looks like?” This is one of the most enthralling questions of all in our work with children and young people. The Bible has many different descriptions of God. There is the well-known image of God as father. But God is also described as mother (Isaiah 66), mountain (2 S Samuel 22), healer (Exodus 15), potter (Jesaja 64) or, as in Timothy, King of kings and Lord of lords. And there are many more descriptions to be found, because God is even greater than we can imagine.

“No human being has ever seen God”, says the Letter to Timothy. No-one can fully grasp the being of God. No-one can claim to have comprehensively recognised God, let alone be able to find the right words. Or, as Gerhard Ebeling put it: “Talking about God seems to exceed the possibilities of

language” (Dogmatik, Volume, Berlin 1986, p. 160). God is much greater than we humans can imagine or explain. That’s why we shouldn’t think that our own idea of God is the sole truth: in fact, we all see just a fragment of God’s glory.

During a family service, a child once drew God as a circle of brightly coloured rays of light. In one corner, standing in just one of these many rays, the child drew a picture of himself. A wonderful picture: I only always see just part of God. I only see what I can perceive from my perspective. But when we travel together on our faith journeys, when we share with each other across the generations, then we can see many facets of God’s wonderful light.

*Sarah Schulz*

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## I GIVE THANKS

- that God reveals himself to us and wants to be near us.
- for the children and youth in our churches and families who teach us to be open for God and not to put him in a drawer.
- for people who work with children and youngsters on an equal footing and take their faith experiences seriously.

## I PRAY

- for respectful, cross-generational sharing of faith.
- that we may be open to other people and spiritual beliefs.
- that our Christian faith may give us courage to meet others in love, regardless of culture, religion, colour and social standing.
- for a blessed time at the BUJU preparatory meeting from 16 to 18 November in Nuremberg

## Methodist Youth Work

In each of the conference areas, the EmK has set up a work area for children and young people. These teams work closely together as the Children’s & Youth Work of the German Central Conference. This provides support and training, and organizes events like the National Youth Rally at Whitsuntide (BUJU). The Youth Work also deals with the concerns of teenagers and young people in our churches, together with Christian and political youth associations in Germany.

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