

"I turned away from believing in God a long time ago. Even if I did change my mind and want to believe in God, I've already missed my chance. God surely doesn't want anything to do with me now."

This is what one of my non-Christian friends said to me the other day. My intelligent response was, "Huh?" There was too much in his statement with which I didn't agree to immediately form a better reply. I did manage to say, "You can't put God in a box."

My friend is expecting God to act like an ordinary person. But we can't expect God to act like an ordinary person would act or to obey rules we set up. If we put limits on what we think God can do, we're second-guessing that God is in control of everything, just like the Pharisees in John 9 who thought the Son of God shouldn't heal on the Sabbath.

God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-loving. God can't be put in a box. Our ideas of how or when God should act can't confine God, and this truth should make us happy. God isn't confined by anything, because God is everything—and that's why God is God.

Kristin Conard, age 18

You Can't Put God in a Box



Think with Your Feet

Talk to your friends. Do some of your friends think God can't love them? Why do they feel that way?

Then talk about what you could say to people who think God doesn't love them. Go beyond "hah" as an answer. Practice talking to one another, trying out various ways to tell others about God's love.

- How would you have answered Kristin's friend? Do you think God wouldn't want anything to do with her?

- What are some ways you've seen people try to put God in a box?

- Do you believe God still loves you even when you turn away from God?

