

25 WAYS TO EXPERIENCE GOD

by Marlene Lefever

1. With a friend, **visit three churches** where Christians worship in very different ways. Talk about the experience: How was God honored? How did He speak to you?
2. **Arrive at church** 10 minutes early. Spend time praying that God's presence will be felt throughout the service.
3. Take a **walk alone** in nature, and sing or pray aloud to God.
4. **Read a novel** written by a Christian (such as C. S. Lewis' science-fiction trilogy or Narnia series). Talk with a friend about how you saw God revealed in the book.
5. **Visit an art museum** and study several paintings with biblical themes. What do they suggest about the nature of God? What insights do they provide?
6. **Listen to Scripture** being read on tape. Close your eyes and allow your mind to picture what you're hearing.
7. Visit a church that has traditional **stained-glass windows**. Identify the pictures and symbols they contain. What aspects of God's works and character are revealed?
8. As you study a portion of Scripture, **draw** with symbols, words, and doodles what the passage is saying to you about God.
9. **Play "I Spy"** throughout your day by watching for God's presence in the ordinary things that happen to you: a kind word, protection on an icy road, the first gold leaf of fall. Each evening, share with your family or a friend (or record in your journal) where you saw God at work that day.
10. Praise God by **writing an acrostic** around one of His names. In an acrostic, the first letter of a word starts the first sentence; the second letter, the second sentence; and so on. For example:
Great and wonderful You are.
Oh, how my heart praises You.
Dear Savior, You are worthy of all my love.
11. **Write your own words** to go with the tune of a familiar hymn or worship song. Sing your message to God.
12. Memorize a **Christian poem**, such as "On His Blindness" by John Milton.
13. Take a **vacation with God**, a one-day retreat where you get away from life-as-usual to be totally alone with your Savior.
14. **Kneel or lie prostrate** before God when you pray.
15. Read a story from a **picture Bible** with an elementary-age child.
16. As you read your Bible, make note of **similes** that liken things in nature to the attributes of God. For example, the fury of the hurricane is like God's anger; the gentle rain is like God's mercy. Keep a running list of these in your journal or turn them into a Bible bookmark.
17. Create a shelf that contains **mementos** of God's blessings to you.
18. Write an **imaginary letter** to someone who has never heard about God, and describe Him to that person. Or record what you would say on tape.
19. Take five minutes to **list all the adjectives** you can think of that describe God. Then thank God for every word.
20. **Draw a cross**. On the cross, write every sin you can remember committing, especially those for which you can't forgive yourself. Write "Nailed to the Cross" over your words as a visual reminder that God, for Christ's sake, has forgiven you completely.
21. **Pick a theme** to study throughout a book of the Bible, such as the love of God. Underline portions contributing to that theme with a colored pencil.
22. Each day for a week, reflect on how your day would have been different **if you were not a Christian**. Don't allow yourself to become blasé about the difference Christ makes.
23. Imagine yourself sitting on **God's lap**. How do you feel? What do you tell Him? What might He say to you?
24. For your five **favorite hymns or worship songs**, find Bible passages on which they were based or that affirm the truth of the songs' messages.
25. Sit in the back of a **children's church** service and listen to how those children respond to God.

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