

## INTRO

This week's episode introduced us to Bluey's imaginary friend, Tina. Sam and Steph guided us throughout the message to see how Jesus engages with us through our imaginations.

**What were some of the ways or activities you engaged your imagination as a kid?**

**Before the message, had you ever engaged with God *with your imagination*?**

## IDEA 1

Their choice (Bluey's parents) to enter into their imaginations is an expression and revelation of love for them. And God also invites us to experience the deeper realities of his love through our imagination.

**What are some of the usual ways you naturally engage your imagination?**

**Have you ever had an experience with Jesus through your imagination? If so, would you care to share?**

**What about engaging with God through your imagination brings about fear or even excitement?**

## IDEA 2

As children of God, made in his image, we are invited to participate with God in holy imagination. That takes us beyond the facts and physical realities and into the deeper experiential realities of God's love.

**How would you describe or define "holy imagination"?**

**In what ways does God want us to partner with him through our imaginations?**

**Is there an activity or place for you that better cultivates a "holy imagination"? If yes, what is that activity or place?**

## SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

In this week's message, Steph recommended that one simple step to engage with our imagination is through Scripture. Consider reading the story of Jesus being anointed by the sinful women in Luke 7:36-50 as a group.

Read the passage a couple of times as each participant has their eyes closed to insert and imagine themselves into the story.

Questions to ask yourself:

***What do you see?***

***What do you hear?***

***What do you smell?***

***What do you feel?***

## NEXT STEPS

We invite you to this practice of meditation - take a few minutes each day of this week to engage with God with your imagination. The meditative practice is based on the story of ***Jesus' baptism in Luke 3***: find a place where you will not be distracted or interrupted. Use these directions as your guide:

"Take a deep breath and begin to imagine yourself in a peaceful and calm environment. You may visualize yourself beside the ocean or lake, in a forest or meadow, surrounded by mountains - anywhere that exudes beauty. Allow yourself, now, in your imagination, to take a few moments to be aware of your surroundings, simply taking in what you sense visually, tactilely, and auditorially.

Next, allow yourself to sense God's presence. There is no right or wrong way for him to appear or be revealed. You may even perceive his physicality in bodily form. Now imagine hearing God clearly say to you directly, calling you by name, ***'You are my daughter/son, and I do so love you. I am so pleased with you and that you are on the earth.'***

Sense, if you can, God is looking you directly in the eyes as he says these words. Do not turn away from his gaze. Do not resist his voice. Allow yourself to be in his presence for several minutes. ***What do you feel? What do you feel God feeling as he looks with tenderness and strength into the window of your soul.***" - Curt Thompson in *The Anatomy of the Soul*