

**NOOMA® Rhythm** | 011 Rob Bell

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“If God can help people find things on sale, then why doesn’t God spend time on things that seem more important like earthquakes, or famines, or sickness?”

What do you believe about God’s involvement in our daily lives?



"When you think about God, when you hear the word 'God,' what images come to mind?"

What images do you have of God?

What or who has helped shape the images that you have?

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

Exodus 3:14 (KJV)



"For many people their concept of God is built around a God who's outside of everything, a God who essentially is somewhere else, a God who made the world but then stands back and watches it from this other vantage point, a God who's there, and then from time to time comes here."

Where is God?



“When I think of God, I hear a song.”

Why do you think people, including some writers of the Bible use human physical references like “hands,” “feet,” “eyes,” and “he” to describe God, when other Scriptures state that God is a spirit and has no form?



You saw no form of any kind the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire. Therefore watch yourselves very carefully, so that you do not become corrupt and make for yourselves an idol, an image of any shape, whether formed like a man or a woman, or like any animal on earth or any bird that flies in the air, or like any creature that moves along the ground or any fish in the waters below.

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Deuteronomy 4:15-18 (NIV)



“Jesus is like God in taking on flesh and blood, and so in his generosity, in his compassion, that’s what God’s like. In his telling of the truth, that’s what God’s like. In his love, and forgiveness, and sacrifice, that’s what God’s like. That’s who God is. That’s how the song goes.”

Is God compassionate, truthful, loving, and forgiving or is God compassion, truth, love, and forgiveness?

What about Jesus?



"The song is playing all around us all the time, the song is playing everywhere, it's written on our hearts, and everybody is playing the song. See, the question isn't whether or not you're playing a song, the question is, 'Are you in tune?'"

What does it mean for you to be in or out of tune with the song?

Are you in tune?

God is sheer being itself – Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration.

John 4:24 (MSG)



“There are people who talk as if they know everything about being a Christian and yet they can seem way out of tune. And then there are others who would say they don’t know much at all about the Christian faith, and yet they can seem very in tune with the song.”

Can you believe in God and be out of tune with the song?

Does it work the other way around?

What is more important to Jesus: what we believe or what we do?



“Maybe you have this sense like you have no sort of relationship with God because of all these things, these ideas you have about what that means, all these things that you’ve been told about what it is or what it isn’t. And an infinite, massive, kind of invisible God, that’s hard to get our minds around, but truth, love, grace, mercy, justice, compassion – the way that Jesus lived, I can see that. I can understand that. I can relate to that. I can play that song.”

Do you believe that if you live the way Jesus taught us to live, being in tune with the song, that you “will have life in its fullest”?

I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest.

John 10:10 (CEV)



"May you come to see that the song is written on your heart.  
And as you live in tune with the song,  
in tune with the creator of the universe,  
may you realize that you ARE in relationship with the living God."



Our friends David Vandervelde (keys) and Brie Stoner (guitar), seen center stage, are the artists responsible for most of the original music created for this **NOOMA** series. They are joined by bandmates and members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.