God In A Box
Joe Serdinksi

When my girls were very young, on warm nights when we had finished playing outside for hours and they were finally tired, we’d lay down in the cool grass and look up at the stars and I would tell them Bible stories about the things God had done in the world and in my life. I would tell them how they could always depend on God’s love and mercy. I taught them how to find Orion’s Belt in the night sky and told them that just like Orion’s Belt was always in the southern sky, even if it was covered with clouds, God was always present in their lives, even if they couldn’t see Him or hear Him.

When they got a little older, I took them on their first mission trip to Mexico. After we pitched our tent the first night, we looked at the stars in the southern sky and sure enough, there was Orion’s Belt. It gave me the opportunity to teach them that we didn’t worship God In A Box. God didn’t live in our little town in Superior, Colorado. I explained to them that just like they can see Orion’s Belt in Superior, Colorado and Juarez, Mexico, God is the same God in Superior, Colorado and Juarez, Mexico and deeply desires the people in Superior and the people in Juarez to be in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Over the fourteen years of doing missions work with them in Mexico, they continued to grow in their own faith as they watched God do amazing things among the people they were serving. They learned very quickly what God can do when you let Him out of the box. My girls learned that God loved them deeply but wanted to use them for something even bigger than just a personal relationship with Him. He wanted to use them to reach others in the world with the message of the gospel. My girls learned that lesson pretty quickly, but I needed to learn it as well even as I was teaching it to them.

When I started seminary back in 2001, I knew exactly what I believed and why I believed it. I’ve known God my entire life. I didn’t have some dramatic conversion experience. In fact, I can’t tell you of a time when I didn’t believe in God, even if the evidence of that wasn’t always on display.
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in my life. I believed that God called me to seminary in preparation for a life of vocational ministry. All I really needed was to fill in some of the technical blanks of the faith. You know, big words like “justification” and “sanctification.” I soon realized that while God was certainly calling me to a life of ministry, what He really wanted was to be let out of the box I had Him in. Gradually, over my years at seminary, God, with the faithful help of all my professors, changed my faith and my life. It was an uncomfortable and scary experience. After all, I was very comfortable with my God In A Box. He didn't really ask much of me and I really didn't need much from Him. However, once He was out of the box, life for me would never be the same. While in seminary, I was forced to question everything I believed about my God In A Box. At that point I was ready for God to begin writing Truth on my heart. God was not only transforming me, He was preparing me to be an instrument through whom He would reach thousands of others around the world with the message of the gospel—I just didn't know it yet.

Before I started in ministry, I assumed my ministry would look like every other ministry: I thought I would be the pastor of a local church. When that didn’t happen, I was stuck because I had God In A Box. Once I let Him out, everything changed. God guided me to develop an internet-based teaching ministry. I assumed the purpose of the ministry was to edify family and friends who were simply being entertained on Sundays, but that assumption put God In A Box again. This time, I didn't have to let God out of the box, He broke out! In the five years since the first lesson was posted on the ministry website, more than 40,000 people from more than 100 countries have accessed nearly 260 lessons for free. I continue to learn a valuable lesson—although God is interested in my relationship with Jesus Christ, He is also always seeking ways to reach all people with the good news of the gospel. I just have to remember that that won’t happen with God In A Box.
About Denver Seminary

Denver Seminary is an accredited, graduate-level school of theology in Littleton, Colorado, with extension campuses in Washington DC and West Texas, that offers a wide range of theological degrees. With enrollment of approximately 900 students representing over 50 denominations, we prepare men and women to engage the needs of the world with the redemptive power of the gospel and the life-changing truth of Scripture.

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Joe has a tech degree from Colorado Aerospace Technology and a Master’s degree from Denver Seminary (‘11). He has returned to Denver Seminary as a student to begin his Doctoral studies. He is currently an itinerant Pastor and simple carpenter. Joe has been married to his beautiful wife, Laura, for 31 years, and they have two amazing daughters.

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