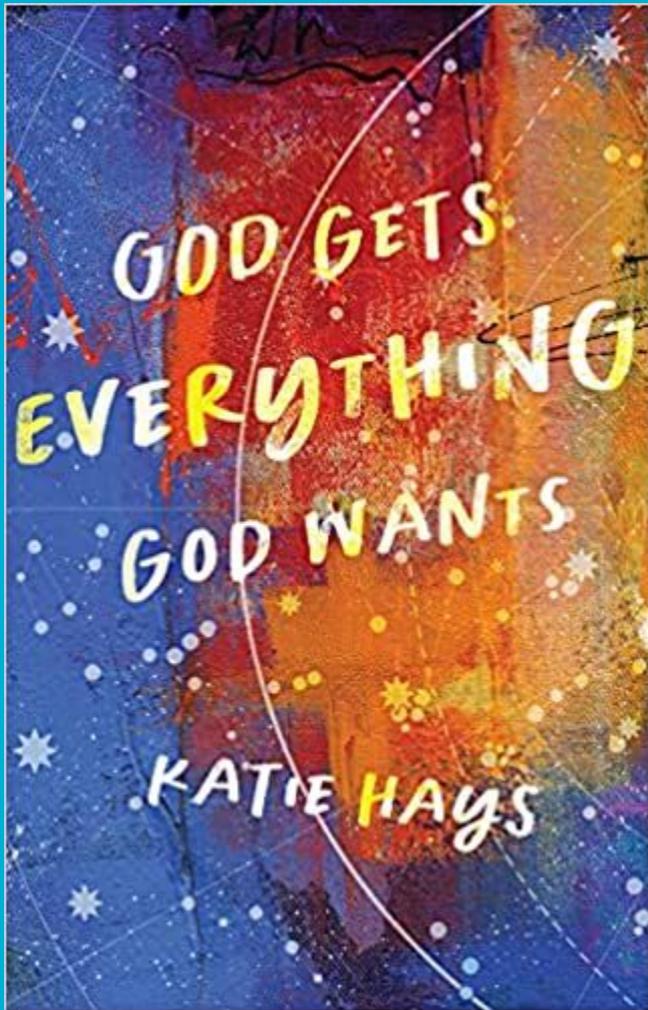


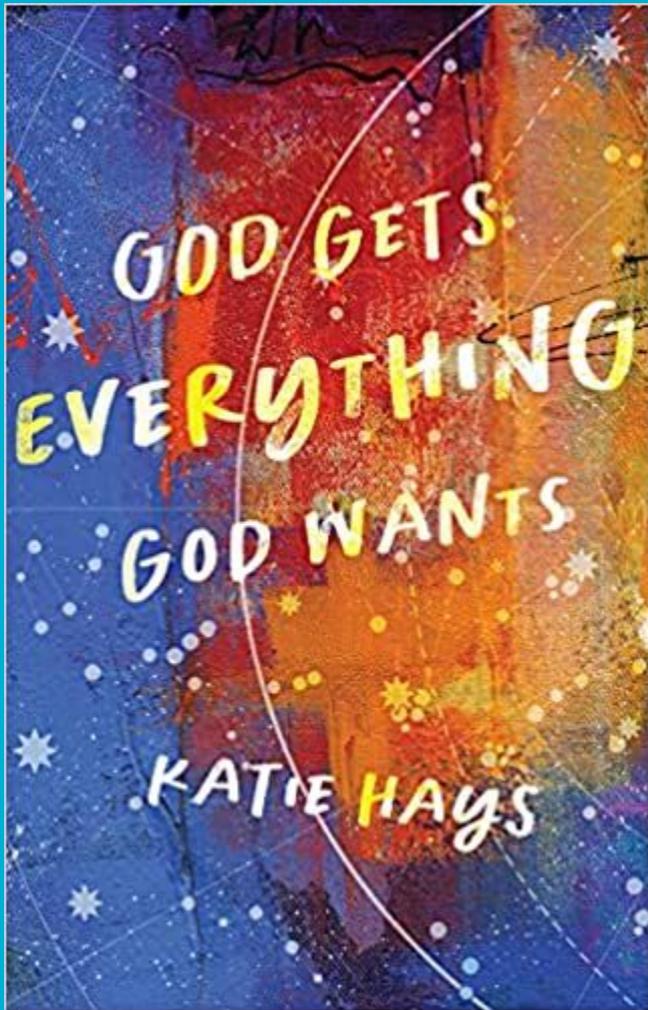
# God Gets Everything God Wants

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Advent Bible Study Part 1



Katie Hays invites weary Christians, former Christians, and the Christ-curious to take another look at God through the testimony of our biblical ancestors and to reimagine the church as a community of beautiful, broken, and burdened people doing their best to grow into their baptisms together. Hays insists that yes, God does get everything God wants, and—even better—we're invited to want what God wants, too, and want it "more and more and more, until life feels abundant and eternal and delicious and drunken with possibility."



Nov 28

Dec 7

Dec 14 - with special guest  
Rev. Dr. Katie Hays

# Faith as Concentric Circles: Hot Molten Core

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What's left when everything falls apart?

What's your Very Important Things that send out ripples to the rest of your life?

# Advent

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What is Advent?

# One Big Idea

The Bible:

+Main protagonist = God

+Plotline = God wins

+Thesis = God Gets Everything God Wants

# The Story of the People of God (Bryan Stone)

- 1) God's commitment to chosen Israel
- 2) Jesus's commitment to reign of God
- 3) Early church's commitment to the story of Jesus

# The Story of the People of God: Biblical Social Imaginary

- 1) God offers shalom to oppressed Israel
- 2) Jesus's ministry offers hope to the marginalized
- 3) Apostolic witness identifies Jesus with the marginalized in his death; so is resurrection is God's vindication

# One Big Idea

The Bible keeps saying, again and again, that this is the way the world works, because this is who God is.

# God versus Pretenders: God Wins

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God takes on a pretender to God's throne

God rescues an oppressed people

God forms the liberated ones into God's people

God promises to love and take care of them forever

God's feelings get hurt when they reject God's forever love and care

# God versus Pretenders: God Wins

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Pharaoh: Exodus 2:23-25

People groan; God replies.

God liberates the people from Pharaoh - not just the man but the system, the mindset, the way things work when Pharaoh is in charge.

End result: God gets what God wants.

# God versus Pretenders: God Wins

God's people spend the next four books getting used to a world where God is in charge.

Letting God be God is really hard: instructions, practices, mistakes are all in support of GGEGW.

# God versus Pretenders: God Wins

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Deuteronomy 6:20-25; Ezra 6:19-22

Story happens over and over and over again:  
liberation of small, disempowered Israelite tribes  
and subsequent formation into covenant people.

The Exodus is how we know who God is. The  
Exodus is how we know who God will always be.

# God versus Pretenders: God Wins

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NOT nostalgia; not past tense - “Once upon a time, God *got* everything God *wanted*, and boy wasn’t that something?”

GGEGW: then, now, and forever

# Arc of Moral Universe

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Prophets painted pictures of what the world could look like someday when God gets everything God wants. Some demolition of the “present order” might be required along the way when everything will be re-formed into the world God always had in mind.

“To be able to see beyond the world you are in, to imagine that something could be different - that is the job of a prophet. And it is the rare prophet who not only imagines a new world but also makes that new world a reality in her lifetime.” - Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt

# Arc of Moral Universe

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Micah 4:1-4; Isaiah 25:6-9

What does it look like when God gets everything  
God wants?

# Arc of Moral Universe

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Luke 3:1-6 (quoting Isaiah 40:3-4)

John's life work located with political and religious specificity - "this is the world he lived in, but there's a whole 'nother world he could see."

# Arc of Moral Universe

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Matthew 22:1-10

Jesus' vision of GGEGW

Revelation 21:1-4; 22:1-5

Happily ever after of GGEGW

# Arc of Moral Universe

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Rev Dr MLK: “We shall overcome because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

Dr Cornel West: “Justice is what love looks like in public.”

Recognizing that justice for all people is God’s intention for the future means we can respond by advancing justice for all people *now*.

# Arc of Moral Universe

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Bishop Desmond Tutu: *God Has a Dream*

“God says to you, “I have a dream...It is a dream of a world whose ugliness and squalor and poverty, its war and hostility, its greed and harsh competitiveness, its alienation and disharmony are changed into their glorious counterparts. When there will be more laughter, joy, and peace, where there will be justice and goodness and compassion and love and caring and sharing. I have a dream that my children will know that they are members of one family, the human family, God’s family, my family.”

# What Happens When God Doesn't Get What God Wants?

Refugee camp story

Jesus gives away power like he's got it to spare. The reign of God is like Him: one of the things God has always wanted from the very start is partnership with people. God wants real people with real agency to come alongside God and contribute.

# What Happens When God Doesn't Get What God Wants?

Jesus could do anything, but what he wanted to do was give it all away - the keys to the kingdom.

While God has very strong ideas about how the world should work, God is content for now to keep inviting humanity into the process of getting it just right. God keeps hoping we will care as much as God does.

# Something, Something, Holy Spirit

Acts 10-15: inclusion of the Gentiles

Holy Spirit interrupts with gifts: interrupts what we thought we knew, what we thought we had right.

Acts 15:8; 28: Here is God, drawing people into partnership (not bullying/coercing/commanding /threatening)

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Retelling Bible stories (pg 78-79)

God keeps showing up. The Spirit of the living Christ puts in appearances, presses her case by giving abundant gifts to unexpected people, hoping in God's chronic naivete that humanity will catch on.

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# Advent 1 - Apocalyptic

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Consider all this in light of Sunday's Gospel:

Luke 21:25-36

What is Jesus saying God wants? How will God get everything God wants? What is our role in making what God wants possible?

# Closing Prayer

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Dear God,

Thank you for wanting shalom for your world and your people. Guide us in learning what you want so we can strive for that too. We pray this in Jesus' name, amen.