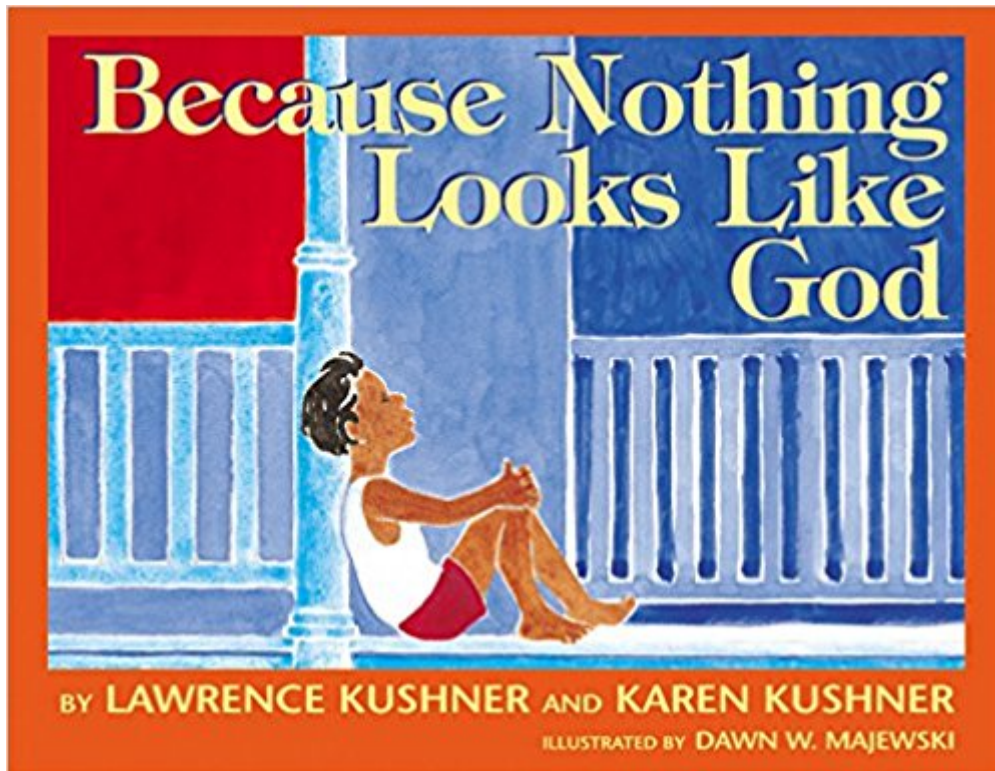




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# Because Nothing Looks Like God



## Synopsis

"Where is God?" "What does God look like?" "How does God make things happen?"  
• With little hands, and big hands. With young hands and old hands, With your hands.  
• Mixing sparks of curiosity and spiritual imagination, this wondrous book lights children's creativity and shows how God is with us every day, in every way. It is a vibrant invitation to children and their adults to explore together what, where, and how God is in our lives. Multicultural, Nondenominational, Nonsectarian; Endorsed by Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish Religious Leaders

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Jewish Lights; 1 edition (October 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 158023092X

ISBN-13: 978-1580230926

Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #612,512 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #101 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Judaism #168 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish #330 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Other Religious Fiction

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 2-This gentle book is designed to be "the beginning of a continuing conversation between adults and children about the world and God." Nonsectarian and multicultural, the text suggests a divine presence rather than anthropomorphizing, by utilizing simple questions such as "What does God look like?" and "How does God make things happen?" to guide youngsters' understanding of this very abstract concept. The result is more a feeling than an answer, with God primarily represented by several easily understood metaphors such as the wonder of nature ("God is in-caterpillars chewing leaves from daisies,/And in worms turning leaves into earth"), and the loving cooperation of a family ("See sisters taking turns on the slide,/And brothers sharing a new game").

Clearly there is no way to explain certain aspects of God, thus parts of the text seem beyond the grasp of younger readers ("God is wherever we let God in"). However, because the Kushners' intent is to explore rather than describe God, there is room for children's own spiritual awareness to grow. Watercolor illustrations are simple, bright, and nicely textured, portraying people of all ages in friendly and caring situations. Similar in tone to Virginia L. Kroll's *I Wanted to Know all about God* (Eerdmans, 1994), this book provides children of many faiths with a bridge between the tangible and spiritual world.-Teri Markson, Stephen S. Wise Temple Elementary School, Los Angeles Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Ages 3-7. How do you know there's a God? What does God look like? Where is God? These philosophical questions can leave adults groping for simple, comprehensible replies. With responses drawn from the familiarity of youngsters' everyday experiences, the Kushners provide answers: God is "in worms turning leaves into earth." God is where people come together for hugs and kisses. "God is wherever we let God in." Children are reassured that although many things cannot be seen, their presence can be felt: cool breezes on a hot night and feelings such as pride, worry, and love. The answer to the final question, "How does God make things happen?" empowers children to do God's work: siblings sharing, playmates helping each other, people donating money or time to those in need. In their overzealous effort to portray the universality of the authors' concepts, the illustrations jarringly offer too-literal scenes and juxtapose pictures (e.g., nighttime and daytime) with no borders to ease the transition. Glaringly intense colors accentuate, rather than soften, the stiffly drawn characters. It's Majewski's nature panoramas that are most effective in underscoring the meaningful messages in this valuable book. Ellen Mandel Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Love that this book teaches God as more of a spiritual, connective energy in the world, rather than this white guy in heaven telling us what to do. Perfect for my daughter who goes to a Catholic school but is being raised as a Unitarian Universalist. Book is endorsed by Catholic church but is much more UU. Nothing controversial, more inclusive...

Introduced to this book a few years ago by a friend's rabbi during a children's sabbath celebration, my husband and I were quite impressed. The art is so inviting to look at. But more importantly, the content is worth sharing with children you want to share a positive image of faith with very early on -- whether they are children who share your own religion or are in another religion that you

respect. We are Christian and have now shared this lovely book with children in our congregation, children in other Christian denominations (both Catholic and Protestant) and children being raised with Jewish traditions. We hope it will be a blessing to many -- adults and children -- as it has been to us.

Very well written for any religion or regardless of religion.

I bought this book about a year ago for my daughter (now 5 and 1/2) as she had started asking a lot of questions about God. One of her friend's Mom's saw the book at our house and thought it looked nice and wanted to borrow it. I decided to order one for her. This book doesn't try to answer some very difficult questions about God, but it does try to give the child the sense that God is everywhere and is a part of our lives all of the time and in every situation. It is simply written and beautifully illustrated. A great book for children of any religion.

I recommend this book to all of my friends! It's such a great way to talk to your child about God, regardless of religious denomination.

Simply beautiful.

This is a lovely book that introduces children to that which is essentially beyond naming, opening them to theology beyond anthropomorphism.

Book was in great condition and just what I wanted. It was just what I needed for my Sunday School/library!

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