

Thanking and Blessing

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Marshall stresses the importance of our names for and images of God. When you think of the Divine, what images or names do you prefer to use in description? What are some of the reasons you find these names and images preferable? Discuss any names or images often used by others that you find unbearable. Why is that?
- In this book, blessing is described as more than praise or prayer. It also includes our effort to infuse goodness into the situations we encounter. Name people or events that have blessed you. What made these moments significant for you? In what ways did they feel like holy moments to you?
- The sacred art of thanking and blessing emphasizes the presence of the Divine in ordinary affairs. Describe a time when you experienced God as near and present. What challenges complicate living with an attentive ear for the divine footstep?
- Chapter six underscores the prevalence of divine love in multiple religious traditions. In what ways is love a quality you associate with the Divine? How have you experienced it? What demands does it make of you, if any? Describe practical ways you love others.
- Marshall encourages us to consider integrity as a spiritual quality, stressing the importance of aligning our values with our practices. As you reflect on the way you order your life, spend your energy, and direct your resources, how would you rate your own integrity? What changes might bring better alignment between your beliefs and your actions?