

What if God Sent You a Friend Request?

What happens when an outspoken atheist gets a friend request from God? That simple concept lays the groundwork for the bold new series *God Friendened Me*, debuting this fall on CBS. The first look of the series (below) gives a glimpse into the drama, which ties religion and spirituality to purpose and hope. There was a time not too long ago when networks were afraid to explore these topics, and I for one welcome more discussion, especially when presented fairly.

As I discussed with *Living Biblically* creator Patrick Walsh last year, religion is important to a large segment of the population. It's only natural that our arts reflect that.

The show was created by Bryant Wynbrandt and Steven Lilien, the producing team behind some of television's biggest hits including *Gotham*, *Hawaii Five-0*, and *Alcatraz* and stars Joe Morton (*Justice League*, *The Good Wife*), Violet Beane (*The Flash*, *Legends of Tomorrow*), Suraj Sharma (*Life of Pi*, *Homeland*) and newcomer Brandon Micheal Hall.

Here is the official synopsis. *God Friendened Me* premieres Sunday, Sept. 30.

God Friendened Me is a humorous, uplifting drama about an outspoken atheist whose life is turned upside down when he receives a friend request on social media from God and unwittingly becomes an agent of change in the lives and destinies of others around him.

Miles Finer is intelligent, hopeful and optimistic, but he doesn't believe in God. This puts him at odds with his father, Reverend Arthur Finer, a beloved preacher at Harlem's Trinity Church for 25 years who is stung by his son's strong rejection of his faith. Miles feels he's found his purpose in life

hosting a podcast where he's free to speak his mind, but that changes when he receives the ultimate friend request.

After repeated pokes by God, Miles' curiosity takes over, and he accepts the request and follows the signs to Cara Bloom, an online journalist suffering from writer's block. Brought together by the "God Account," the two find themselves investigating God's friend suggestions and inadvertently helping others in need. Joining them on their journey are Miles's supportive sister, Ali, a doctoral psych student by day and bartender by night; and his best friend, Rakesh, a sometime hacker who helps Miles and Cara research the enigmatic account. Miles is set on getting to the bottom of what he believes is an elaborate hoax, but in the meantime he'll play along and, in the process, change his life forever.

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