In God's presence

Exodus 33:12-23

Moses asks God to help him with leading the Israelites, and God reminds him of the promise of God's presence going with him. Moses then encounters God, but not in the way he has before – he goes to the mountain and is hidden while God passes by. He doesn't see him fully but catches a glimpse of his glory.

Read this week's passage:

Take TIME

Create a space in your home where you can encounter God's presence, e.g. a den, a particular chair, a position where you can look out of a window, or somewhere outside. Commit to spending some time there every day and invite God to make his presence known to you.

WATCH

Watch C. S. Lewis' idea of 'obstinate toy soldiers'. How can we become more like God and allow his glory to shine through us? **bit.ly/3SOel6B**

Find more free Roots resources to reflect on this week's theme:

Living Scripture

'Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray."' Exodus 33:18

How do we imagine God? In Moses' conversations with God, he comes to realise that to see God fully would be too much for anyone to bear. Sometimes people feel that they have caught a glimpse of God's glory and mystery. Perhaps a shaft of light, a piece of music or art, a glorious sunset, or a kind word when needed most has taken you beyond yourself and near to God.

When Michelangelo painted the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome, he painted God as a figure, reaching out with his hand, touching the finger of the first man, Adam. Strangely, it isn't the figure that you notice first, but the point at which the finger touches the person below. God reaches out to us, sometimes in special ways and places, but also in ordinary things and through other people. As Christians, we are called to become more and more like Christ – a big ask, but if we remain in Christ, he will remain in us.

Where have you glimpsed God's glory? When has God seemed far off from you? In both these experiences, what would you like to say to God?

First impressions

- In what places do you especially notice God's presence?
- How regular or spontaneous is your prayer life? How can you spend time nurturing your connection with God?

Pray

God, thank you for your presence,
ever with us and ever impacting our world.
Help us to look for your presence as we go,
knowing we can encounter you wherever we are
and being ready to worship you in our daily lives.
Amen.

EXPLORE

People encounter God in many different ways. Roots uses spiritual styles to help produce resources for as many different Christians as possible. Which spiritual styles do you see in your faith? Explore the styles on the Roots website.

CRAFT

Take a piece of thick paper and water-based paints (or crayons). Choose colours which make you think of God's glory. Moisten your paper, then let the colours float into the damp paper and blend. When dry, choose the areas of your painting which you like best and draw a circle round them. Pin up your poster.

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