

## Finding God in Nature

Isn't it amazing that we can recognize our God in the natural world? Sometimes we fool ourselves into thinking that God can only be found in certain buildings. While it is true that God is present in holy buildings made with human hands, we can take great comfort knowing that God is present in all of creation. St. Paul tells the Romans that God has revealed himself through creation, and that people have always been able to sense the holy in nature.

Just look at the images of the Holy Spirit in Scripture. The Spirit always comes in the form of something from nature: a dove, wind, fire, clouds, etc. The prophet Elijah encounters God in the silence while on a mountain. Moses met God in the burning bush, also on a mountain.

Can you think of any other examples of God using nature to reveal himself, or using the outdoors as place to have an encounter with people?

Where do you see God in nature?

Within nature, and through nature, God reveals himself and enables us to encounter him.

Jesus also encountered God in nature. Read the following and see what happened:

The Transfiguration	Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-26
Calming of the Sea	Matthew 8:24-27; Mark 4:37-41; Luke 8:23-25
Walking on Water	~~~~~Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:47-52; John 6:16-21
The Man Born Blind	John 9:1-12
God's Providence	~~~~~Matthew 10:29-31; Luke 12:6-7, 24, 27-28

Cursing of the Fig Tree

~~~~~Mark 11:12-14, 20-25

Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene John 20:1-18

What happened in these stories?

What does it tell us about Jesus?

Say a prayer to God thanking him for the world he created. Use your own words or use the following:

Jesus,

You reveal yourself to us on the mountaintops and in the sunrise.

May we recognize you in all of creation and be moved to worship and adore you.

May our lives be changed by our encounters with you.

We ask this in your name. Amen.



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