



God's presence spans the gap

Sometimes our response to reading books from the Old Testament is, "Why? I mean, Leviticus? Really?" Which in some ways seems like a valid response. I mean, it was written to an ancient civilization who were following God in ancient ways that have largely been redefined by Christ as we read in the New Testament. However, when we skip over reading the interactions the Old Testament contains between God and His people, we miss out on learning from the amazing ways God has communicated and revealed Himself to humankind through the *entire* history of the Bible. And what we miss when we skim over that is HUGE!

One of the most important things that we learn about God as we take a look at this overarching story, spanning from Genesis to current day, is the beautiful consistency of God's presence with humankind since its inception. Beginning with creation to God's choosing of Abraham, from His rescue of the Israelites out of slavery to His calling them to faithfulness through the prophets, and even during their exile to Babylon, God was there. His presence with humanity spans from Egypt to Israel to Babylon - from the desert wilderness to the holy city - His care, concern, and call on His people remains. And this great truth is still relevant for us today!

read

Genesis 12:1-3

[Deuteronomy 26:1-15 MSG](#) (see additional resources for *The Message* version)

Isaiah 43:1-13

Psalms 46

in addition...

Watch: Story of the Bible https://youtu.be/7_CGP-12AE0

[Deuteronomy 26:1-15 MSG](#)

[St. Patrick's Breastplate](#)

reflect & journal

1. How do you see God's presence in each of the following points of history: the call of Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3), the Israelites in the desert (Deut. 26:1-15 -- *The Message* version provides a helpful translation), the promises in the prophet Isaiah before the exile (Isa. 43:1-13), and the songs of worship of the people (Psa. 46)? What specific phrases stand out to you?
2. What does this demonstrate about God and how He makes Himself known? What does it demonstrate about His relationship with humankind throughout all the gaps of history?
3. When you think about your own history, when are times where God's presence was clearly with you? Maybe it was a time you experienced Him this past summer. Have there also been times when it is hard to believe God's presence was with you?
4. How does understanding the consistency of God's presence throughout human history help you trust in His presence with you now as well?

pray

- St. Patrick was an early missionary to Ireland and is famous for bringing the message of Christ to the Gaelic people for the first time. He is the commonly claimed author of the prayer "[St. Patrick's Breastplate](#)" (see Additional Resources). This prayer may be a helpful one to print out or memorize to help you focus on the truth of God's presence all around you.