

Cycle A

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary 115

Reading I: 1 Kings 19: 9a, 11-13a

In this passage we find the prophet Elijah at the point of total exhaustion. He has been fleeing the wrath of the monarchs for prophesying and calling them to correct their ways. Elijah hides in a cave and very much wants to drop the mantle of his office of prophet. God calls Elijah to the mouth of the cave where he is hiding to await the appearance of the Lord. God wishes to show him that his fears are unfounded and that God has not abandoned him nor the nation of Israel. Here, Elijah will experience God as the Master of the unexpected. There are all kinds of grand natural phenomenons that occur but it is in none of them that the Lord is found, but rather in *the tiny whispering sound* where Elijah is **awed** by God.

Reading 2: Romans 9: 1-5

It is difficult to read this part of Saint Paul's letter and not stand in **awe** of the total dedication Saint Paul has to the word of God and the advancement of the faith. Saint Paul voices his deep grief over the unwillingness of the great number of his Jewish brother and sister who will not embrace a faith in Jesus Christ. His pain is evident in as much as he would even consider sacrificing his own salvation and be *cut off from Christ*, if it would help his people to embrace Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 14: 22-23

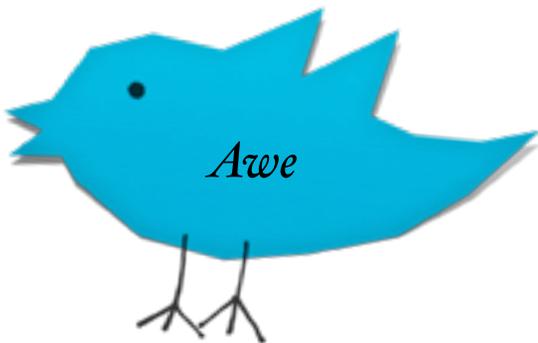
This story immediately follows Jesus' feeding of the five thousand with the loaves and fishes. The episode here reveals a deepening sense of discipleship and a growing understanding of who Jesus is among his closest friends, most especially Peter. The disciples stand in **awe** of the fact that Jesus walks on the water. Ultimately the incident says to us what it said to the disciples : In Jesus we find a divine person who transcends human categories. We are called to do him homage and stand in absolute **awe** of him.



build. plant. grow.
the word this week



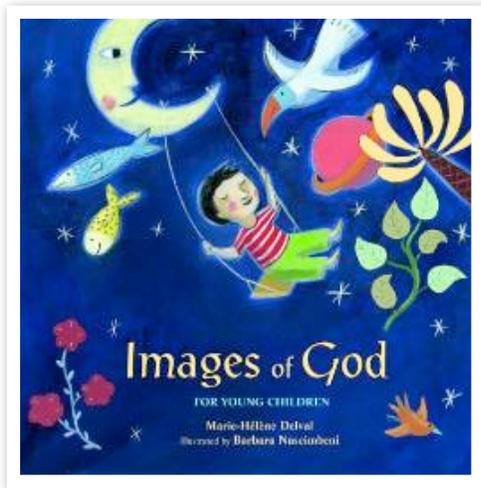
ordinary
time



lectionary
reading



children's
story



Images of God For Young Children
Written by Marie-Helen Delval
Illustrated by Barbara Nascimbeni
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character
education
activity

Awe is a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder for that which is sublime or extremely powerful. Awe is reserved most rightly for God!

Images of God for Young Children

This beautifully illustrated book remains faithful to the various images of God presented and described throughout the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. The very first image mentioned in Delval's work is God as breath. This is reminiscent of the breath of God bringing the first human to life in the Garden of Eden and the tiny whispering wind (breath) in 1 Kings: 19. The work offers a collection of beautiful and awe-filled images presented in simple language that young and old alike will enjoy and appreciate. The book clearly makes the reader aware that even though we cannot see or touch God, we can discover and have **awesome** experiences of God in our world.

Activity

Step One: Depending on the reading levels of the students in the class you may invite them to take turns reading about the various images of God in Delval's book. Otherwise, read the various images aloud for them. Instruct the students prior to the reading to be attentive to the Image of God that they most identify with.

Step Two: Ask the students to recall which of the Images of God had the greatest impact on them. Ask them to write an expression of that image.

Step Three: Provide them with various art materials available and ask them then to render an art piece that would represent that particular image. Each rendition might best be on an 8 x 8 square so that the each rendition can be placed together to form a large picture that demonstrates the vastness and **awesomeness** of God. If you have the assistance of aids in the classroom and the material available, these renditions might be done on plain cloth squares that could then be sewn together forming a quilt that could be hung on a classroom wall or outside the classroom in the hallway of the school.

Step Four: After the activity you can access the song *Our God is an Awesome God*, on YouTube which is a very easy melody to learn and with few lyrics that are repeated over and over again.

Awe is the state of standing in wonder of God and all of God's magnificent creation, most especially ourselves, as God's crowning of creation.



case study

**Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.**

What could you do today?

Access a copy of *The Canticle of the Sun* by Saint Francis of Assisi and make a printed copy of it that you can carry with you as you wander out in nature and allow yourself to experience nature as connected to you. (Going out into nature is something that you should do with an adult you know and trust. Never wander out in the wilds by yourself). See the **awesomeness** of God reflected in God's creation. You will notice that Saint Francis reveals our connectedness to nature by calling the various creations "brother or sister," thus indicated that we are related in the **awesomeness** of God's created world. Know that you and all other human beings are called the "crown" of creation.

Look Feel Know Act

Again, accompanied by your parent or adult family member or friend, do a nature walk fully intending to "see" creation in a different way. You will make this journey to see and experience God in the sights, sounds, smells and feelings you experience along the way. Feel one with each of the elements you experience. Know that all these wonderful things were created for you and every human being who has ever inhabited the earth or will inhabit the earth. Make a commitment to see God in all of creation and work to safeguard and preserve these wonderful gifts God has given to us to use for those who will next live in the world. This action is known as being a good steward or caretaker of God's gifts given to us.

Images of God for Young Children provides so many wonderful examples of the *awesomeness* of God. The scriptures selected for this weekend and, in fact, many other scripture passages, speak of the fact that we are created to stand in **awe** of God. This book provides a compendium of the **awesome** images of God for children and adults alike. This is truly a book to be owned and cherished.



**closing
tool**

Pray that you will always stand in “AWE” of God and God’s creation so that you will walk gently among God’s created world. If you recall the song, **Our God is an awesome God**, sing it loudly and often.

**Our God is an awesome God!
He reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, power and love.
Our God is an awesome God!**

*(You can always sing it in your heart if
und you don’t like your singing!!!)*



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