

Life toward God

KIDS

daily devotions

Jehovah-Shammah: The Lord Who is There

Laura Wofford

Scripture

When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:17-18

For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." 2 Cor 6:16

Devotion

There is a little song from the tv show Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood that goes, "Grownups come back." (Some of you can probably sing the little tune.) You see, Daniel was afraid because his parents were going out and leaving him with a babysitter. Maybe in the past you've been sad or scared or afraid when your parents were away. Maybe something happened at school - you got hurt or you felt left out - but your mom or dad was not there to comfort you. Or, maybe a parent or grandparent didn't show up to a game or performance when they said they would. Our parents and loved ones cannot physically be with us at all times. But do you know who is always there? God!

When Adam and Eve were created, they lived with God in the Garden of Eden--they walked with Him and even talked with Him out loud. Once they sinned, though, their sin separated them from God, so they couldn't be with Him in the Garden anymore. But, you see, God had a plan all along to allow His children to be with Him even though they (and we) sinned and couldn't live in the garden anymore. Let's look through the Bible to see how He made a way to be with His people. First, God began calling and gathering His people back to Himself through Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses. Then, God rescued His people from Egypt and was with them day and night when He led them by the cloud and the fire through the wilderness. While they were in the desert, God's people built a tabernacle so that He could dwell (or live) in right in their midst. Later, when they got to the Promised Land, God told King Solomon to build a house for Him, the temple. In the New Testament, Jesus Himself came and dwelt among His people and do you remember what another one of Jesus' names was? Immanuel, which means "God with us"! So, God in the flesh lived on earth with His people up until the point that Jesus ascended back into heaven. Before He left, though, Jesus told His disciples that He would not leave them alone as orphans, but would send His Spirit, the Helper. So, now God's people (not a temple or a building) are God's house—God dwells inside the hearts of His children (look back at 2 Cor. 6:16). And, do you know what? For those who have the Holy Spirit living in them because have trusted in Jesus as their Savior, even death cannot separate them from God! They will be with God in heaven forever!

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One of my favorite passages in all of Scripture is Revelation 21:3-4. John sees a vision of the New Heavens and the New Earth—this is where ALL believers will live one day—and he writes: “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Aren't these verses so comforting? We just traced a path all the way through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation that has shown us that God HAS NEVER and WILL NEVER leave His children! He has promised to love and be with us “for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health...” NOT “til death do us part” (like the wedding vows go). But God has promised that even beyond death His children will NEVER be apart from Him! And, one day Our Heavenly Daddy will take His own hand and wipe that very last tear from our eyes! So, today if you feel scared about the coronavirus pandemic or sad about not being able to be with your friends or grandparents or loved ones, remember that God is WITH YOU today and will never leave you, EVER!

Questions

3-5-yr-olds

Have you ever felt alone? What did you do to remind yourself that you were not alone? If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, will He ever leave you?

1st-3rd graders

How does the fact that God hears your cry and is near to you bring you comfort? If God never left his people all throughout the Bible, does that give you confidence that He will never abandon you? Think for a minute about the things that make you sad or disappointed or afraid today. Can you imagine what it will be like for God Himself to wipe your very last tear away?

4th-6th graders

Can you think of a person in your life who has NEVER let you down? When you have felt alone or rejected, what or whom has comforted you? The Bible calls the Holy Spirit The Comforter. Do you know if the Holy Spirit has made His home in you?

Prayer

Dear Father, thank you that you chose to be with your people despite our sin. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus, Immanuel, to be with us and to bring us back into fellowship with You. Forgive us for forgetting that you are always near and for running to other people and things to comfort us more than You. Thank you again for Jesus and your Word that promises us "that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life"! Amen.