

God the Storyteller

Children's Chapel, St. Mark's Palo Alto | April 18, 2021
Supplemental materials for <https://youtu.be/nyxwMmr7eQU>

Lectionary Reading:

Luke 24:36b-48 Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Theological Background

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus frequently reminds people of the stories they've heard in the Old Testament, and positions himself and the events of his time as significant in the same story and timeline. He wants us to know that God is telling one great big story, and it all connects!

Looking at Jesus as part of a larger story shows us that God is always present, keeping promises and shepherding us through history. It also shows that humans are always present, with individuals and communities constantly being invited to participate in this larger story that God is telling.

Go Deeper!

Talk with your child about how your family has a history, a set of stories, that stretches back to before they were born, but now includes them as well. What are some of their favorite family stories to hear? What do those stories tell them about their family and their own personal story?

What are some of your favorite stories to tell, or hear, about yourself? Do you ever imagine yourself as part of a different story, like from a book or a movie? What does it feel like to be part of a story?

What does it mean to be part of God's story? How does it feel to be invited, by God, to participate in the storytelling? What kind of story do you think God wants to tell? How can your choices and actions help God tell a story of love, justice, and joy?

The animated movie *The Prince of Egypt* is a great example of how individual people - Moses, Aaron, Miriam, and others - accept God's invitation to be part of the story. Consider watching the movie together, or just share this song with your child: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oG0a9WFkgzU>