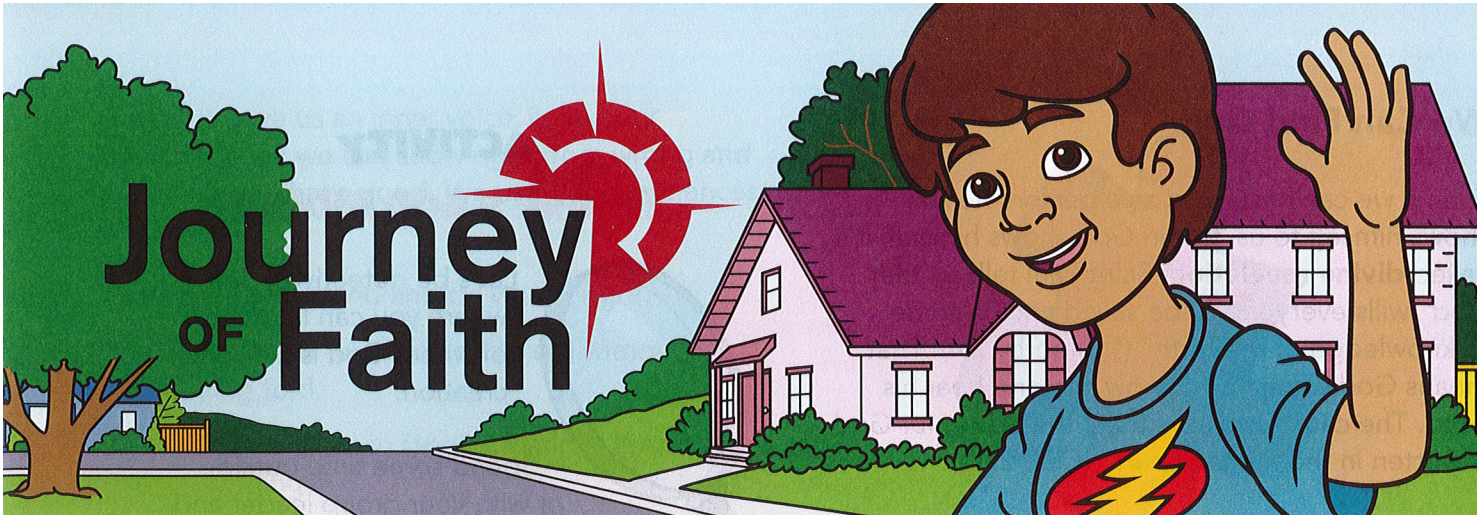




Where We Find God

Tomás knew Terrence was around somewhere. He looked around very carefully. He couldn't see Terrence, and he couldn't hear Terrence, but Tomás knew he had to be here somewhere.

Then he saw it. Terrence's bright red-and-blue shoes! They revealed where Terrence was hiding. "I found you!" Tomás yelled.

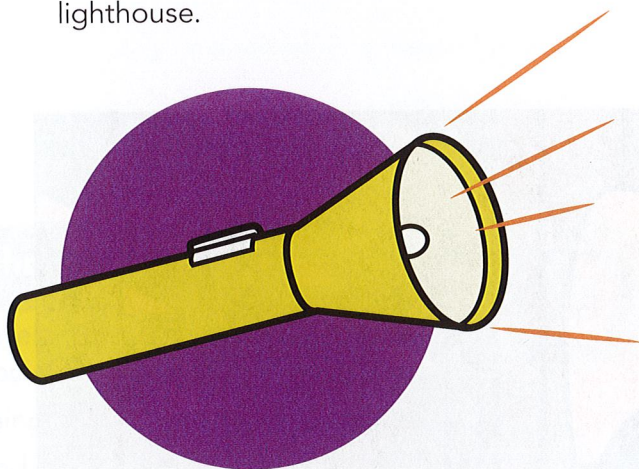


We Can Find God

Even if we can't see God as a person, he still shows himself to us. When God shows himself, it's called **divine revelation**. Saint Paul tells us that God "wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). That means God wants us to know him and hear his word. The catechism says that "the desire for God is written in the human heart" (CCC 27).

This means God created us to want to find God! God gave us this desire so that we would want to find him in the world. Our desire for God helps us when we look for him because it sends us in the right direction. It's kind of like:

- a person in the dark turning on a flashlight to see where to go;
- a flower growing toward the sun;
- a ship in a storm heading for the lighthouse.



ACTIVITY

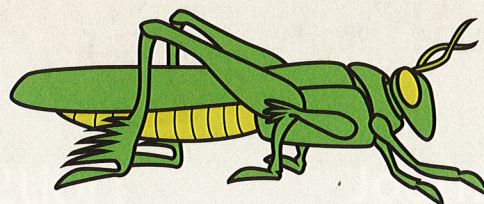
WHERE'S GOD HIDING?



Let's be detectives. See where you can find clues of where God is hidden in creation.

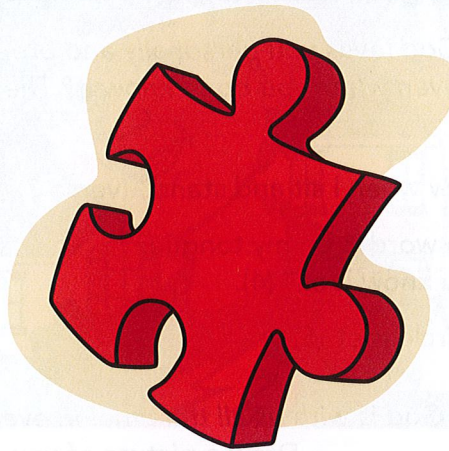
Spend some time outside or with your group leader and collect evidence of where God's hiding. Is God hiding in a flower? A bug? A tree? Write down or draw pictures of all the places you think God might be hiding in nature.

If you can't go outside, find clues of where God's hiding inside. Is he hiding in a book? A picture? Your teacher? Write down or draw pictures of all the places you think God might be hiding inside.



God also gave us an inner voice, called our conscience, so we can know right from wrong and then choose what's good. We use our consciences when we:

- want to be kind and do what's right.
- know what to do (or *not* to do) without being told.
- see goodness in God's creations (people and things!).
- trust others.



Knowing God

We learn about God piece by piece. Right now, our picture of God is like a puzzle. The empty spaces are pieces about God we haven't learned yet. It's not always easy to know where a piece goes in a puzzle without seeing the whole picture first. That's why God helps us by showing himself to us.

God reveals himself to us in three special ways:

1. **Sacred Scripture:** God inspired the words in the Bible. The Holy Spirit helped the authors write it. When we read the Bible, we see God better.
2. **Sacred Tradition:** Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the apostles shared special practices and teachings with the members of the early Church. These traditions helped people understand Jesus' words and actions better. We still follow these traditions in the Church today. When we follow sacred Tradition, we learn more about God.
3. **The magisterium:** This is the "teaching voice" of the Catholic Church. The pope and bishops have a special job: to teach God's people using the authority given to them by Jesus. Together these men make up the magisterium. It is the job of the magisterium to explain difficult things in ways we can understand so we can understand God better.



Why should we listen to our conscience?



Have you ever ignored your conscience and done something you knew was wrong?

Did that make you feel good or bad? Why?



BEING CLOSE TO GOD

God loves you personally and brought you to life. How close is God to you, even when you don't know it? These verses from Psalm 139 give us an idea:

- "You know when I sit and stand" (verse 2).
- "Before a word is on my tongue, LORD, you know it all" (4).
- "You encircle me" (5).
- "You knit me in my mother's womb" (13).
- "My bones are not hidden from you" (15).
- "In your book...my days were shaped" (16).

*God is with us all the time! In everything we do! What's your favorite thing to do?
Draw a picture of you and God doing it together as friends.*

In Short

- Revelation teaches us about God and salvation.
- Being human teaches us about God.
- God shows himself to us in many ways.



Journey of Faith for Children, Inquiry, Q6 (826351)

The process by which adults are initiated into the Catholic faith throughout the United States is now called the OCIA—the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. "Order" is a clearer translation of the Latin term for the process formerly known as the RCIA—the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. People preparing for baptism and reception into the Church celebrate several rites as part of the order to which those rites belong—an order whose mission is to journey in the faith. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted the name change in 2021, with American dioceses introducing the name thereafter. For more information, please contact your local diocese.

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