

READ★PRAY★WONDER★PLAY

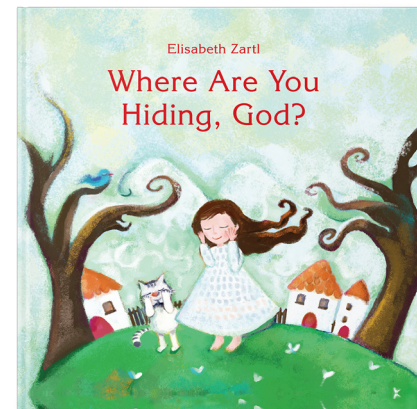
A GUIDE TO SHARING STORIES WITH CHILDREN

Where Are You Hiding, God?

By Elisabeth Zartl

Where Are You Hiding, God? is a playful story about a child looking for God in various places. While well-suited for young children who are intrigued with a simple game of hide-and-seek, older children may engage on a deeper level and consider the idea of seeking and finding God.

The story is presented like a mirror, reflecting what is sought. In the first half of the story, the child seeks God. In the second half of the story, the child recognizes that God is in those different places and items where they first looked. The use of a mirror at the end of the story wraps up the theme of reflection as the child sees God in their own image.



★ ★ WONDER TOGETHER ★ ★

- Where are some of the places that the child looked for God?
- Why do you think the child was looking for God?
- The title of the book is *Where Are You Hiding, God?* Do you think God hides? What does this story tell you about finding God?
- Why do you think the story ends with a mirror? What does that tell you about God? What does that tell you about yourself?
- What part of the story do you like best? Why?

★ ★ EXPLORE THE STORY ★ ★

- Look at the pictures on each page and name different items and places where God may be found.
- Play a game of hide and seek. Talk about what it feels like to be hidden and to be found, what it feels like to seek and to find.
- Explore your home, neighborhood, and other places you frequent. Name places and ways you find God in those spaces.
- Some of the characteristics of God are: loving, forgiving, good, kind, faithful, patient, just, and truthful. Look in a mirror and name those attributes. Think of examples when you have acted in those ways. Make a poster with a picture of yourself and those qualities. Remember that God is in you and practice those actions.

PRAY

Dear God, sometimes it feels like we can't see you or feel you, that you are hidden to us. Thank you for always being with us, being found when we seek you, and letting us find you all around us, and even within us. Amen.



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The Bible is full of ways in which we seek God and God is made known to us. The Bible itself is considered one way of God revealing Godself to us. Through the stories of the Bible, we find God in the lives and events of humankind. Jesus is also God's revelation—the Word made flesh, living among us. Learning about Jesus and knowing who Jesus is, what he did, and what he calls us to do, helps us know God too.

Here are some ideas to explore the Bible together:

- Read Bible stories from a children's Bible storybook such as *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible*, ed. by Elizabeth F. Caldwell and Carol A. Wehrheim (Flyaway Books, 2018). As you read them together, wonder, like the child in this story, where God is in the Bible story. Consider where you see God's actions, presence, and love.
 - *With older children:* talk together about the connections there may be with the Bible story and your lives today. Where might God be found in a similar way?
- Read psalms. Psalms are prayers, poems, and songs expressing deep human emotions to God, or in other words, oftentimes seeking God or praising God's presence. *Psalms of Wonder: Poems from the Book of Songs*, by Carey Wallace (Flyaway Books, 2023) is a good place to start. Use the pictures that accompany the psalms to explore conversations about where God might be found. Talk together about the feelings expressed in a psalm and what questions that feeling is asking or stating about God's presence.
- Read these passages in a Bible and wonder what they say about how God is known.
 - Genesis 1:1-3
 - Genesis 1:26a
 - Exodus 3:1-6
 - Exodus 13:21-22
 - 1 Kings 19:11-13
 - Psalm 23
 - 1 John 4:8

MORE TO READ & DO

CLICK THE LINKS BELOW TO LEARN MORE

ADDITIONAL BOOKS THAT CELEBRATE GOD IN OUR LIVES

- [A Very Big Problem](#), by Amy-Jill Levine, Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, and Annie Bowler
- [God's Big Plan](#), by Elizabeth F. Caldwell and Theodore Hiebert - Also available as a [board book](#)!
- [God's Coming to Visit](#), by Franz Hübner, Angela Glökler, & Rea Grit Zielinski
- [When God Gave Us Words](#), by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and Darcy Day Zoells

Guide written by Meg Elliot Rift and created in partnership with PC(USA)'s initiative "[Around the Table](#)" (pcusa.org/aroundthetable).



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