



Do this take-home activity to strengthen your understanding of this week’s lesson and be prepared to share the next time your group meets.

How have you experienced God’s presence in your life?

From the very beginning, God has desired to be with his people. From the Garden of Eden to the Exodus, from the Tabernacle in the wilderness to the Temple in Jerusalem, the God of the universe has chosen to accompany his people and dwell with them. When he revealed his name to Moses at the burning bush, he revealed not only his power but also his presence.

Read the following verses slowly and prayerfully.

And the angel of the LORD appeared to [Moses] in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, “I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.” When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, “I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them. ... Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring forth my people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?” He said, “But I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain.”

Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the sons of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM . . . this is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.”

—Exodus 3:2–8, 10–15



What stands out to you in this passage?

When he reveals his name, God also reveals his faithfulness—not just “I AM” but “I am with you, always.” He identifies himself according to the promises he made to the patriarchs, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He is the God of the covenant: “I will make a covenant of peace with them. . . . My dwelling place shall be with them and I will be their God, and they shall be my people” (Ezekiel 37:26–27).

This promise is fulfilled in the New Covenant, where in Baptism the Trinity comes to dwell in our soul, and in the Eucharist Jesus gives us his Flesh and Blood to consume. The New Covenant realities far surpasses the prefigurations in the Old Testament.

This is Jesus’s promise to you: “Behold, I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20). He is present in the Eucharist, to accompany you through every moment of life.

How can this presence of Christ in the Eucharist be a source of strength and consolation as you journey through your life? In what ways can you grow in appreciating and embracing Christ’s presence in the Eucharist?

*“The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.”*

—Zephaniah 3:17