

Year of Faith Session 4: The Bible –

Where on earth is God?



Encounter 1: *(Read 1 Samuel 7: 1-2)*

- The Ark of the Covenant, which was the “powerhouse” of God’s presence with the Jewish people, stayed in the House of Abinadab for 20 years.
- A few years ago, David Payne, the presenter of this DVD, stayed in a convent built on the site of the house of Abinadab.
- He and his companions had a powerful experience of God's presence - peace, joy and wellbeing, whilst staying there, even 3000 years after the Ark had been there.
- At the time recounted in the Old Testament, God was present on earth in the Ark. *But did not stay there....*

Encounter 2: *(Read Luke 1:26-37)*

- Mary was overshadowed by the power of God and was told: the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God”.
- God became man in Jesus *(Read Philipians 2:5-11)*
- For 9 months, God was present on earth in Mary, *but did not stay there....*

Encounter 3: *(Read John 1:29-34)*

- This takes place at the same location as the Jewish people entered the Promised Land after wandering in the desert.
- John the Baptist recognises Jesus as the "Lamb of God" who will "take away the sin of the world" and prophesies that Jesus will "baptise us with the Holy Spirit" *(Mark 1: 7-8)*
- Jesus was affirmed as the "Beloved Son" *(Matt 3:1 6-17)*
- And was revealed as the new Ark, filled with God's presence.
- For 33 years, God was present on earth in the form of Jesus. *But did not stay there....*

Encounter 4: *(Read Acts 1:8)*

- Jesus had promised the Holy Spirit
- It was always God’s perfect plan to fill everyone with His presence.
- Through Baptism, prayer, sacrament and Scripture, **we** become carriers of God - we are temples of the Holy Spirit *(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)*
- “I no longer live but Christ lives in me” *(Galatians 2:2)*
- “God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us” *(Romans 5:5)*
- We will never be “ready” – God uses us in our weakness *(2 Corinthians 4: 7)*
- We are carriers of God and people will be affected by His presence in us.
- To experience this infilling of the Holy Spirit, we have to thirst for it and pray for it expectantly, as the disciples and Mary did in the upper room at Pentecost.

Prayer

***Father, thank you that you have chosen to make your home in me.
Thank you for the privilege of carrying you into a broken world.
Fill me with more of your Holy Spirit.
Come Holy Spirit: fill me, strengthen me, give me faith. Amen***