Faith Formation Files: Vol. 1, Issue 22 March 17, 2019

Bigfoot. The Loch Ness monster. Aliens and UFOs. Dragons, unicorns, vampires, and leprechauns. All these things fall into the realm of “imaginary or mystical beings.” Some people will argue with you about their existence. Others will swear that they are not real. I am coming to the understanding that some people learn about things and then believe in them because of their consideration and appreciation. Others need to experience an encounter before they can even think about believing. I think the same can be said about God.

Many of us believe that we will somehow recognize God when He reveals Himself to us. We have an image in mind and look for the corresponding representation of that, yet when we don’t “see it” as expected, we are disappointed, frustrated, and unbelieving. But what if we put on our “God glasses”? What if we looked at the world with His eyes? How different would our world be?

We believe in God. We believe He created the earth and all its inhabitants. We acknowledge that our very lives are a gift from Him. The people and events in our lives are also gifts from God. We see Him in the eyes of our loved ones. We see Him in the birth of our children. We see Him in a beautifully clear, starry night. We see Him in the grandeur of a mountain range. We see Him in a majestic buck raising its head from a cool river stream. We see Him in the hearts of Americans who were roused to do something after 9/11- to go help with rescue efforts, to send food and other supplies to NYC, to donate blood. We see Him in the child who buries their pet dog in the backyard marking its grave with a stick cross. Those momentous experiences show us God and it is easy to see Him, if only for a moment.

But what about the rest of our lives? If our life is a gift from God, then every minute of it is also a gift. We may have to look to see God, but He’s there. We should see Him in morning struggles to get the kids up and ready for school. He’s there in our children and in the people who will transport, teach, feed, and care for our kids during the day. We should see Him there in the sink full of dirty dishes. That means we had plenty of food to eat. We should see Him in the red light that we really didn’t have time to stop for. He may have saved us from an accident further down the road. We should see Him the “new kid/person”- at school, at church, or to town. They might be an opportunity God has given you to serve Him. (Whatever you do for the least of my people…) And I believe that once you recognize God’s presence in your life and truly begin to build a relationship, not a talk-at-a- far-off-God, but a real “I want to be your friend” affiliation, then you will want to get to know Him better. You will want to learn more about this great God and our faith. You will want to engage in service projects that glorify Him through the use of the gifts He has given you. And that’s what I’m here for. Let me help you grow your bond with our creator, savior, and life force.

The reality is most of us will never experience some amazingly “WOW” moment that makes God’s presence so undoubtedly believable. We probably won’t hear the literal voice of God talking to us, nor will we see an apparition or a bleeding host. We will have to listen for Him. We will have to look for Him. He may be as elusive as some of those creatures listed at the beginning, but believe me. He is as real as can be.

Blessings,

 Julie Gould

This Week: faithformation@ctknsf.org

* Sunday, March 17, 4-6 pm at Fellowship Hall: Faith Formation classes
* Monday, March 18, 7 pm at Fellowship Hall, Howard City: Adult Enrichment Class
* Wednesday, March 20, 5:30 pm at Fellowship Hall: A Family of Faith potluck/meeting
* Thursday, March 21, 9:30 am- 10:30 am at CTK Church: Holy Hour
* Friday, March 22, 9:30 am at SF, Lakeview: Stations of the Cross
* Friday, March 22, 7 pm at CTK Church: Stations of the Cross