

## Children's Moment

Rev. Paulo, would you agree that part of your job is to help the congregation understand God? That's a pretty tricky thing to do! God is extraordinarily complex and mysterious, and it is impossible for us to truly understand everything about God. God knows this, though, and helps us to understand various aspects of herself by using metaphors. Metaphors help us to think about different parts of God and to understand them more fully. According to Gammarly.com, "A **metaphor** is a figure of speech that describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true, but helps explain an idea or make a comparison."

Those of you who joined us for worship recently will remember that the last two Sundays I have talked about metaphors for God during my Children's Moments. Two weeks ago, I talked about fire as a metaphor for God, and last week I shared a glass of ice water as a metaphor for the Holy Trinity. Today, I thought it might be nice for the children and myself to help out Rev. Paulo by providing some props to help him with the difficult task of explaining God.

We'll start out with **Fire** (candle). Fire is powerful and scary, but it also gives us warmth and light.

Speaking of light, **Light** (flashlight) is another metaphor for God. It helps us see which way to go and guides us safely on our path.

What are some of your favorite metaphors for God? (congregation answers)

Great! We have props for a lot of those! Let's start with some Nature metaphors.

God is a **Rock** (rock). He is solid and reliable.

During a Children's Moment a few weeks ago, we talked about how God is a **Vine** (vine) and we are the branches that grow from that vine. The vine is the source of our spiritual life.

Speaking of life, God is often described as being **Living Water or Living Bread** (soggy bread). He feeds and sustains our spirit. (Not that I think about it, we probably should have used communion bread and juice for this part, but instead we have some soggy bread... oh well!)

Moving along, God has A LOT of jobs. She is a **King** (crown), and a **Judge** (gavel), and a **Healer** (Band-Aid box), and a **Farmer** (tool), and a **Shepherd** (crook), and a **Watcher** (binoculars), and a **Teacher** (apple), and a **Potter** (clay).

And if those weren't enough jobs, God is also our **Father** (baby doll). He cares about each one of us and loves us like his children.

Time for page two! God is a **Shield** (shield), protecting our souls from death.

Oh... um... maybe that is enough metaphors for now.

Great job, kids!

## **Family Ministries Message**

Because Sunday School generally happens during worship, it is easy for the congregation to feel disconnected from what Family Ministries does and what we are all about. I've asked the children and Jen Nelson, chair of the Family Ministries Team, to share a little bit about what they like about Family Ministries, to give you all a sense of what goes on the other side of the Sanctuary doors.

I would like to start us off by sharing my vision for the Family Ministries Program here at ACC. My goal is to create a safe space where children of all ages can be their best and most authentic selves. Where kids are encouraged to ask questions, to explore doubt, and to build meaning. Where kids and adults get to have fun and explore their faith together. I am not here to tell kids what to believe, but I am always here to help kids find their own understanding of God and the Bible, and to support the adults who guide them.