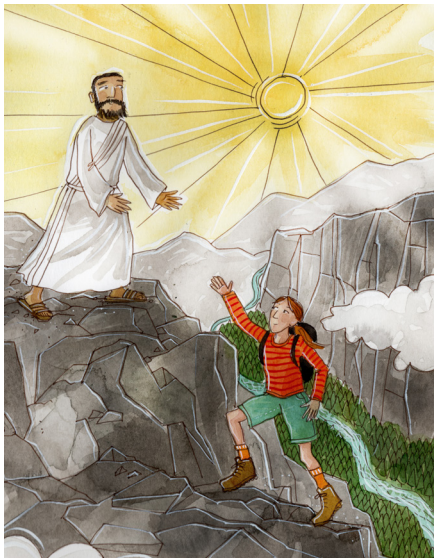


Hebrews 12:18-29

Awesome!

Today's reading is a tale of two mountains, contrasting the terrifying experience of God's presence at Mount Sinai (where Moses received the Law) with a joyful approach to the living God through Jesus at Mount Zion.

Read this week's passage:



Make a mocktail. In a world that is easily shaken, our God is not. As we drink our mocktails, let us lift up our shakeable and unshakeable moments to God in praise.

REFLECT

As you go about your daily life, how many awesome things from God can you see? Collect them in your head or as photos, and remember them in your prayers.



Decorate or colour in an angel shape, so it looks ready to celebrate/party.

Find more free Roots resources to reflect on this week's theme:



Living Scripture

'Our God is a consuming fire.' Hebrews 12:29

The Hebrews passage first describes the awesome sight of Mount Sinai, where God gave the Israelites the Law (Exodus 19:9-25; Deuteronomy 9:19) and spoke from the mountain, shaking the earth. This terrifying experience is contrasted with the destination of Christians – a heavenly Jerusalem. In the time of King David and Solomon, Jerusalem was a place of worship and celebration, where God met with his people in the Temple. The author of Hebrews points us to second mountain, a heavenly Jerusalem, where God makes a home with humankind (Revelation 21:1-4). The awe is still there, but now celebration – even the angels are partying. This is the home of the new Israel, where believers join with people of faith who lived before Christ, to celebrate God, who offers us a relationship, mediated through Jesus, whose blood sets us free from sin.

We are reminded to listen to the voice of God who will again shake the earth. God's fiery love is consuming, purifying and sacrificial. The passage mentions Abel's blood (Adam and Eve's son who was murdered by his brother). His blood cried out for justice, but Jesus' blood, shed for us, did more, bringing mercy and forgiveness, so God can again live among us, and we can join the celebration and be close of God. Does the idea of approaching God fill you with fear or excitement? Imagine the angels celebrating in this new city where God lives among us.

First impressions

- What fills you with awe?
- What does the heavenly city look like to you?
- What's your favourite way to celebrate?



Pray

Lord, we want to worship you in wonder,
(open arms wide)
not in fear. (cower as though afraid)
Help us to look towards the heavenly city
in joy and celebration! (wave arms above head)
Amen.



WATCH

Watch the part of the 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz* (or the 2019 remastered version) when Dorothy and her companions discover that the 'wizard' with the booming voice is a man behind a curtain. What do you notice? What things were you afraid of before you understood them properly? What is the difference between fear and awe? Would you feel afraid to approach Jesus?