



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - July 8, 2012

Sermon

The Beauty of Creation:
"There's No Place Like the Mountains"

Psalm 121
by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember
about this sermon...

Monday 7/9/12
Psalm 121:1

"I lift up my eyes to the hills..." Do you ever look up to the mountains around you? There is a beauty in the mountains that is indescribable. We might not have 12,000 feet tall mountains here in the east, but there is still a beauty in these mountains. Some go to the mountains to find solitude and peace and quiet. Others go to the mountains to enjoy the fresh mountain air and the scenic views. Why do you go to the mountains? When you look up to them what do you see?

Tuesday 7/10/12
Psalm 121:1a-2

Sometimes we do face mountains in life and these mountains can be intimidating at best and overwhelming at worst. Where do you find help in difficult to impossible situations? The Psalmist says he looked to the mountains and found help in the Lord. When we look around at God's Creation and all of its beauty and wonder we cannot help but see God's presence. This same presence helps us face the mountains in our lives. Today trust in God and face your mountains with courage and strength!

Wednesday 7/11/12
Exodus 3

Moses met God on the mountain. There is something special about the mountains. Something even holy at times. Moses met God on the mountain in the form of a burning bush and it changed his life forever. In fact, it changed the life of an entire nation! Where do you meet God? Is God's holy presence only in the church? Or are there other places in Creation that God's presence can be found? Experience God's presence this week as you enjoy the beauty of God's creation.



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - July 8, 2012

Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

What is your favorite mountain or mountain range?

Take some time this week to enjoy a mountain in some way?

Think about all the amazing things that happened in the Bible up on a mountain.

Thursday 7/12/12
Joshua 2:1-16

“Get you to the mountains...” one translation puts it. Sometimes we can find relief and even escape in the mountains. I know for myself that I prefer to be in the mountains than anywhere else. As I like to say, “there’s no place like the mountains!” I guess we all have our preferences for favorite places to go for vacations and just to get away. I think I’ll continue to take Joshua’s advice to “get you to the mountains.” What about you?

Friday 7/13/12
Matthew 14:1-23

Jesus seemed to enjoy getting away to the mountains throughout his ministry. We read over and over again in the New Testament how he went to a mountain to pray. This usually happened after he was with a lot of people; almost like he needed the mountain to rejuvenate and revive his soul. We all need those times when we can get our spiritual batteries recharged. How can mountains help us do this?

Saturday 7/14/12
Mark 9:1-10

The transfiguration of Jesus took place on a mountain. Peter, James, and John saw this event with their own eyes! They went with Jesus to the mountain not knowing what to expect and what they witnessed was beyond their wildest imaginations. Mountains can have this tendency. Things happen in the mountains that sometimes seem more full and larger than anywhere else. Today, give thanks to God for the mountains you’ve experienced in your life. Thank God for the beauty of the mountains and all they represent in the entirety of God’s Creation. The mountains truly are special and God’s presence can definitely be found there.