

Chapter 8
Jesus Is Our Bridge to Heaven
Elizabeth Wang
Metaphors for God

In this assignment, students will reflect on how God is revealed through his creation. In Scripture the nature of God is described by comparing him to natural elements, “God is my rock”. Students will explore similar phrases that reveal something about God’s nature. They will then create their own metaphor comparing God to something in the natural world. The purpose of this assignment is to reflect on the qualities of God and teach students to see God all around them.

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Beginning in the Old Testament and throughout Church history, we see the qualities of God described metaphorically through the natural world. For example, Psalm 18:2 states:

My God, my rock of refuge,
my shield, my saving horn, my
stronghold!

Note how God is compared to a rock: solid, dependable, and unchanging.

Analyze other places in Scripture where metaphors are used to describe God. Read each of the following Scripture metaphors and describe its meaning. (The first passage is completed for you as an example.) Then create a metaphor of your own that uses something found in nature to describe a quality of God. Explain the metaphor's meaning by revealing which quality of God you are describing.

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear? (Ps 27:1)

God is light. He brings comfort and clarity in situations that feel dark. When we don't know which way to go, he leads us in the right direction.

2. The Lord is your guardian; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. By day the sun will not strike you, nor the moon by night. (Ps 121:5–6)
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3. He will shelter you with his pinions, and under his wings you may find refuge; his faithfulness is a protecting shield. (Ps 91:4)
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4. For the Lord, your God, is a consuming fire, a jealous God. (Dt 4:24)
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5. "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." (Jn 10:11)

6. "I am the vine, you are the branches." (Jn 15:5)

Your Own Metaphor

Explanation
