

Introduction

Kids are afraid, need reassurance

1. Dad - when you come in here to spank me will you bring me a drink of water?

2. God understands our fears and frailties

Fear of abandonment

Fear of loneliness

Fear of self-doubt

3. With Adam and Eve - in garden

With them in the wilderness

-bread

-water

-quail

-pillar of cloud

-pillar of fire

With us - Emmanuel

With us into all the world - Mt. 28:18-20

With me in Paradise

I. He is There

1. He exists - He is real

Debate - no other gods "before" me - in priority rank

-or does He mean they don't even exist

A big lie from Satan

2. "Being there" is everything

Dan never came to my ball games... other more pressing things

-I looked up and there he was

-did you get a hit? - I don't remember - I just remember he was there

Segue - He's there,... but...

II. The Problem Becomes...

1. He is a Spirit

-not material

-not visible -

Jesus said he was like the wind - can't see it but can see what it does

2. Seeing Him- not allowed

-too sinful to even lay eyes on Him

3. He hides

-chosen to work by faith - not sure why

4. Cannot know His name

Moses asks for His name - got "I am"

-I am what?

Lord of Hosts

El Shaddai

The Lord who provides - Abraham and Isaac

Yahweh - Lord

Father - Jesus

5. Sinful versus Holy

Aaron's approach - this way - only

-includes his clothing

-includes rituals

-includes the giving of animals

-at the tabernacle

Segue

He's there

Can't see Him

III. God's Solution:

1. Bible - words- not primarily about people but about God

God's revelation of Himself to them

2. Jesus - God in the flesh

1 John 1:1 - touched and seen for ourselves - an appearance

-even Jesus talks about His "Father"

Presence then gone

With them then gone

3. He sends the Holy Spirit - presence

-Holy Spirit of God

-Holy Spirit of Jesus

He will be with you - he will be in you

Example - Bob Thornton - he is here walking up and down these isles calling people to Himself

With ALL at Pentecost - and all around the world

Idols are limited

Words are limited

Titles are limited but the Holy Spirit with everywhere

4. Way of faith

-trust and believe

-his word mixed with my faith - there

5. Prayer as connection

-there - words to Him

-words from Him

6. Just when I need Him most - He's there

-Daniel in the lion's den - but he's not alone

-Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego - not alone - the third man in the fire

2 Kings 6:13-20 (13-17)

Elisha and servant surrounded - open his eyes Lord - those with us are greater than those with them