



Old Testament God *April 21st / April 22nd*

Speaker: Pastor Heather Zempel

Sermon Summary:

If you have a problem with the God of the Bible, it's probably because of something He did in the Old Testament. Talking snakes, natural disasters, ancient moral codes, divine violence, sanctioned genocide . . . what does it tell us about God and what does it have to do with us? This weekend, we will confront the God of the Old Testament and explore best practices for engaging the text of Scripture.

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What did God reveal to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. What is one element of God's character you learned?

Sermon Specific Questions:

1. How would you describe the God found in the Old Testament?
2. As we read ancient texts with a modern lens, we are naturally left with questions. What is your process when navigating scripture? What questions do you typically ask or wrestle with?
3. Pastor Heather urges us to find an anchor point about God before wrestling with scriptures – something that we know that we know. What is your anchor point?

Digging Deeper

Wrestling with Scripture (Activity)

With your group, let's wrestle with Scriptures together. *Has there been a passage of scripture that has been difficult to understand?* This activity will go through the steps Pastor Heather outlined in her sermon. Choose a scripture passage that you or someone in your group has been wrestling with OR choose from the following passages below:

Abraham Sacrificing his Son

Genesis 22:1-19

Children Eaten by Bears

2 Kings 2:19-24

1. Discuss the following question: **What is your anchor point about God?**
2. Read the passage of Scripture together.
3. Talk through the following questions about the passage:
 - *Why was this included?*
 - *Why was this book kept around?*
 - *What is God telling us about himself?*
4. Find out the genre and context of the book (*you can Google search it*).
5. Are there any scriptures or bible stories that relate to this passage?
6. Discuss the following questions:
 - *What limitations do you have when interpreting this passage?*
 - *What gaps of information would you need to fully understand?*
7. Share your final interpretation of the passage?