



God, Right Here Meeting God in the Changing Seasons

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Kara Lawler is the author of *Everywhere Holy: Seeing Beauty, Remembering Your Identity, and Finding God Right Where You Are* and *A Letter for Every Mother*, but she has wanted to publish a children's book since she was a little girl! As a contributor to several magazines and websites, some of her essays have been read and shared millions of times. Kara loves the outdoors, and she especially enjoys the Allegheny Mountains of Pennsylvania where she lives with her husband, her two children, and their many dogs.

Be Awakened to the Handiwork of God in Nature

What prompted you to write *God, Right Here*?

Kara Lawler: I wrote this book during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown on my small farm in the Appalachian Mountains of Pennsylvania, and I wrote *God, Right Here* to help children be awakened to the handiwork of God in nature. Additionally, even before the Covid-19 pandemic, lost jobs, financial strain, and displaced schedules, both anxiety and depression were on the rise for both adults and for children.

Given the many changes and transitions kids go through, why do you believe it is important to connect them to God and nature?

Kara: Our one God is all around, right there for all of us, visible in nature. It's important to help kids see that changes are not to be feared and that as nature changes, we do too. It is my hope that *God, Right Here* helps a child see nature as a way to connect with God in this ever-changing, ever-challenging world.

In what ways did you draw on your own childhood experiences when crafting this book?

Kara: I grew up in nature, a "free-range" child born in 1979. Without the internet or even a TV (we didn't have one), I turned to nature for all things, including a way to connect with God. When I tell the story of my childhood or even of how I connect with God and pray now—prayer as observation, prayer as the noticing of the butterflies, a child's smile, or the sun rising—people are surprised.

God, Right Here helps children make those connections, and I don't know of another book like it.

What do you hope children and adults alike will take away from *God, Right Here*?

Kara: I hope readers have at least five key learnings from the book.

1. God is an ever-present God.
2. Nature is an escape and a place to sit with God.
3. Observation can be prayer.
4. As nature changes, so do our lives, and there is nothing to be feared from change.
5. Nature is a God-given gift and must be appreciated.



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