

# Does God Speak to Us Today?

Our discussion in the Atrium of "The Flight Into Egypt" had opened the question of the many ways in which God speaks to us ... guide, leads and protects us. An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream to lead him both to and from Egypt. Does God speak to us today? How so? How is it that God sends a "messenger of light" to us? Their responses ranged from ... "dreams" ... "angels" ... "the Bible" .... "a small inner voice" ... "our conscious" ... "other people" and also through "circumstances." (Wow, and I didn't prompt that one!) All good responses from 6-8 year olds.

We had a nice art picture of the Flight Into Egypt with the angel guiding Joseph. As part of their work we had looked together at pictures of classical paintings of angels, and they were presented also with line drawn angels from stained glass windows. This was a work choice in which they were invited to add their own art interpretation.

Such delight came with this work that the next week it was immediately chosen by Anna Kate when she arrived early in the Atrium. The intervening week had seen the remembrance at her school of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in which Anna Kate (coming from a long line of history teachers in her family) had taken great interest in the stories her second grade teacher shared about the Civil Rights Movement. She began very intentionally water coloring the stained glass angel with dark brown face and dark brown hands that gently plucked the mandolin and dark brown feet that walked a certain path.

I had taken notice of her artwork but made no verbal comment. (I was interested in the color choices made by this blond, fair skinned child.) She looked up at me and said, "This is Martin Luther King Jr.'s angel that guided him to lead his people to freedom." Maybe she was struck by the words of this great orator .... who, like Joseph – had also had a "dream." And I wanted to believe that in some far off distance she could hear the strings of the mandolin softly playing , "We shall overcome, we shall overcome, someday....."

## **How do you open the door for children to make a connection between the biblical story and the events of their world?**

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