

## Singing Silence

*In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.*

—Psalm 95:4

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**READ:** Psalm 95:1-7a

**REFLECT:** Our group of youth hiked 45 minutes to the top of a 500-foot ridge above our camp. The youth were talking, shouting, singing, and complaining the entire time. In the clearing we invited them to spread out individually for 20 minutes of silence. More complaints and shouting followed, but the youth finally went on their way to pray. I found a large stump in a clearing that let me view the valley floor and the Sugarloaf mountain range in the distance.

As I settled in for silence, my toe felt the tickle of a crawling ant. My first thought was to brush it away and get back to silence. Instead, I let it continue crawling around until it made its way back to the stump we were sharing. I gazed out at the vista of mountain peaks and valley lakes before me and immediately felt small and humbled. I was an ant on the toe of creation. I was stunned speechless at the awesomeness of my surroundings, yet my heart was in full worship of God in that moment. Though I could not put words to my feelings, my spirit sang praises to God in the silence.

As small as I was in the midst of this big, big world, God was still with me on the stump. The big, big God who created me and my billions of human brothers and sisters was still able to accompany me in the silence. I knew in that moment that God was also present to the youth on the mountain. And for that, my heart made a joyful noise.

—Adam S. Yoder

**RESPOND:** *Lord, you are great, above all gods. In your hands are the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains. We are also in your hands, and we rejoice.*