

SESSION 5

GOD IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE (A)

Lesson Plan

RECOMMENDED READING
Chapter 6 “God Is Present Everywhere”

INTRODUCTION (5 MINUTES)

In this session we are going to study God’s attribute of ever-presence. Our magnificent God is not confined by space. He is present everywhere, simultaneously. That means He is with us all the time.

- ❓ Why do many people feel like God is so far away?
- ❓ Have you ever been in a room with someone, yet you felt like you were worlds apart? Why is that?
- ❓ Can you think of a time when a great distance separated you from someone, yet you felt very close to that person? How can that be?

How close we feel to someone is not a function of physical distance but a matter of psychological or spiritual closeness. Before we learn about the ever-presence of God, let’s ask the Holy Spirit to teach us about this attribute. Let’s also ask Him to show us how we can become more aware of His presence throughout each day.

Lead the group in prayer.

VIDEO TEACHING SEGMENT:
GOD IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE (17 MINUTES)

The cue graphic on the videotape is “Lesson 3” (the video segments are divided by attributes).

The Video Outline for today’s session is found on page 18 in your Study Guide.

GROUP DISCUSSION (20 MINUTES)

- ❓ What thoughts and feelings did you have as you watched the closing scene?

- ❓ Why is it often difficult to be aware of God’s presence in difficult times?
- ❓ Point 3 on your outline lists seven promise statements. Which of these statements is most meaningful to you?
- ❓ As you watched the video, what was your reaction to Dr. Bright’s statement, “God is *with* us”?
- ❓ What is your reaction to 1 Corinthians 3:16, “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?”
- ❓ Dr. Bright used the phrase, “Practice the presence of God.” What do you think that means?

As we consider the fact that God is always with us, I would like you to have a copy of a resource related to our study. Dr. Bright has written a booklet entitled *GOD: Seeking Him Wholeheartedly*. God wants us to pursue Him. He initiated a relationship with us and cleared away the obstacles. Our loving Savior graciously continues to reach out to us with nail-scarred hands. Page 24 of the booklet lists eight ways to enjoy God’s presence every day.

Hand out the booklets. Read and discuss the eight suggestions which form the acrostic “Presence.”

The concepts presented in this booklet will help you to respond to God with desire and commitment so your relationship with Him can grow. I would highly encourage you to take the time in the next week to read this material and to continue to refer to it for the remainder of this series.

CLOSING PRAYER (3 MINUTES)

Ask your group members to participate in this week’s closing prayer. Stand or sit in a circle and have each person pray for the person on their right—either generally or for a specific need shared during your discussion time. If your group is quite large, break into groups of four to six people.

SESSION 5

GOD IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE (A)

Video Outline

1. God is present everywhere, all the time.

- God’s “immeasurable presence” sustains the entire universe. (Acts 17:28)

2. God reveals His presence in different ways.

- God’s “illuminating presence” affects every person. (2 Corinthians 4:6; John 1:7; Ephesians 5:12,13)
- God’s “inspirational presence” is revealed in special places and at special times. (Exodus 3:1–6; 19:16–19; 2 Chronicles 5:13,14)
- God’s “incarnate presence” is manifested in Jesus Christ. (Colossians 2:9; John 1:14,18)
- God’s “indwelling presence” resides within every believer. (John 14:16,17; 1 Corinthians 3:16)

3. God wants us to “consciously” live in His presence every day.

- When we are confused, God will guide us. (Psalm 32:8)
- When we are afraid, God will protect us. (Isaiah 41:10)
- When we are tempted, God will help us resist. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
- When we are hurting, God will comfort us. (Psalm 34:18)
- When we are discouraged, God will encourage us. (1 Peter 5:7)
- When we are lonely, God will be our companion. (Hebrews 13:5)
- When we are by ourselves, God will watch what we do. (Matthew 6:4; Hebrews 4:13)

*Because God is ever-present,
He is always with me.*

RECOMMENDED READING

GOD: Discover His Character, Chapter 6 “God Is Present Everywhere”

SESSION 6

GOD IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE (B)

Lesson Plan

RECOMMENDED READING
Chapter 7 “God Is Always With Us”

You will need a CD player and the “GOD: Musical Reflections of His Character” CD to begin this session.

REVIEW (10 MINUTES)

Today we’re going to begin by listening to a devotional selection from the “GOD: Musical Reflections of His Character” CD. Dr. Bright will be reading several selections of Scripture set to music. As he reads, close your eyes and prayerfully meditate on the truths of God’s Word. When the music concludes, several of you can pray out loud and then I will conclude our prayer time.

Play “God is Present Everywhere” on the Musical Reflections CD. Then have conversational prayer.

In our last session we discussed God’s omnipresence—the fact that He is present everywhere.

- ❓ As we begin our time together today, has anyone had any thoughts or insights about God’s presence since our last meeting?
- ❓ When you think about God as being present everywhere, what feelings do you have?
- ❓ Do you find it easy or difficult to have conversations about this information with your family, friends, or coworkers?

BIBLE STUDY (18 MINUTES)

Our Bible Study today presents several individuals whose lives illustrate the presence of God. Let’s see what we can learn from their experiences. Please turn to page 19 in your Study Guide.

VIDEO ILLUSTRATION SEGMENT:
LIVING IN GOD’S PRESENCE (7 MINUTES)

LIFE APPLICATION (8 MINUTES)

- ❓ What idea presented in today’s session really challenged your thinking?
- ❓ What is your response to Dr. Bright’s assertion, “We cannot accomplish God’s plan for our lives on our own”?
- ❓ What is your reaction to Dr. Bright’s statement, “God’s magnificent presence is all we need for any challenge that may come our way”?

This week’s Life Application steps call for a great deal of personal reflection. I want to encourage you to take the time before we meet again to memorize the Scripture passages and work through the remaining sections and questions. Your understanding and experience of God’s presence will be broadened and deepened!

CLOSING PRAYER (2 MINUTES)

Let’s individually take a moment to prayerfully consider the course of action God wants us to take this week as we focus on the reality of His presence. After a few moments, I will close in prayer.

Allow a few moments for silent prayer, then close in prayer.

SESSION 6

GOD IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE (B)

Bible Study**1. God is always with us.**

Read Psalm 139:1–12.

- a. If you are with someone all the time, how does that affect your knowledge of that person?
- b. If you are with someone all the time, how does that help you do things for that person?
- c. What does this passage teach us about God's involvement in our lives?

2. We can't run away from an ever-present God.

Read Jonah 1.

- a. Why did Jonah run from God?
- b. What are some things people do to get away from God and what He wants them to do?
- c. What other attributes did God demonstrate in dealing with Jonah?

3. We can't hide our sins from an ever-present God.

Read Genesis 3:1–22.

- a. Why was God walking in the garden?
- b. Why did Adam and Eve hide from God?
- c. Why did our ever-present God ask Adam and Eve where they were?
- d. How does God walk with us today?
- e. When do you avoid being in the presence of God?
- f. What will it take for you to desire to be in God's presence?

SESSION 6

GOD IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE (B)

Life Application**WRITE IT ON YOUR HEART**

Memorize the following statement and verses. As you encounter situations during this week where you need the comfort of knowing God is near, claim these promises by faith.

- Because God is ever-present, He is always with me.
- Joshua 1:9—“I command you—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
- Psalm 16:11—“You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of Your presence and the pleasures of living with You forever.”

EXALT YOUR GOD

Praising God is one way to consciously live in the presence of God. This week, pay special attention to how God is at work in your life and the world around you. Each day, make a list of the ways you see God working and praise Him for the special ways He is present in your life.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Life Application (continued)

REFLECT HIS IMAGE

Contemplate the following questions:

- How should knowing that God is everywhere influence what I think, say, and do?
- Do I have “hidden” areas of my life that I need to commit to my all-seeing God?
- Now that I understand that our ever-present Lord is in me, how will I live my life differently?
- How can having the Creator of the universe living His life through me impact the lives of others?

COUNT ON GOD

Our ever-present God is everywhere you have been and everywhere you will go. Are you in the midst of a struggle or situation where you need His guidance? Turn to Him now. He is right there with you. Place your trust in the One who is always with you.

OBEY GOD

God is present with you each minute of every day. He knows what you do and think on a moment-to-moment basis. Is there some area in your life in which you have not been obeying God?

Your ever-present God knows, so give it to Him and obey Him today.

SHARE HIS MAJESTY

Who can you encourage today with the great news that our God is always with us? Share the following verses with that person:

- Deuteronomy 31:6—“The Lord your God will go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor forsake you.”
- Psalm 139:12—“Even in darkness I cannot hide from You. To You the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are both alike to You.”

RECOMMENDED READING

GOD: Discover His Character, Chapter 7 “God Is Always With Us”

If you would like to download the entire GOD: Discover His Character Bible Study (which covers all the attributes) for free. You'll find it by visiting our Resources section:

<http://DiscoverGod.com/resources>

