

MIDWEEK EVENT

This week's main point is: God has never broken His promise to be with us.

SCRIPTURE | Exodus 13:21; Psalm 139; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20

THEOLOGY CONNECTION | GOD IS OMNIPRESENT

God's omnipresence refers to His presence in all time and all places simultaneously. Because God exists apart from and outside of time and space, He is not limited by their constraints (1 Kings 8:27; Acts 17:24). He is present with us wherever we are and sees all that occurs; nothing escapes His attention (Ps. 33:14; 139:7-10; Isa. 57:15; Jer. 23:23-24; Matt. 18:20). God's omnipresence is a deterrent for sin and a source of great comfort and hope for believers.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God's promises to establish a people and to redeem the world through the line of David were fulfilled in Jesus Christ through His death and resurrection.

1 EXODUS 13:21; 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16; 6:19-20

GOD ISN'T JUST AT CHURCH.

The way we experience God's presence has changed over time, but He has never broken His promise to be with His people. When God called Moses to lead His people, He spoke to him through a burning bush. In Exodus, God's presence in a cloud guided His people by day, and His presence in a pillar of fire guided them by night. Once they constructed the tabernacle as He'd instructed, God's presence dwelled in the ark of the covenant there. When David's son constructed the temple as promised in this week's main session, the priests brought the ark of the covenant to rest. We're told that "the cloud filled the LORD's temple" and "the glory of the LORD filled the temple" (1 Kings 8:10-11). But we see God's presence most clearly in Jesus, who being God the Son, stepped down from His heavenly throne to live among us and help us see our need for Him, for a Savior. All who trust in Him as their Savior receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, God's presence dwelling within us. So, we become the new temple, the new dwelling place for the very presence of God. These examples help us see that God's presence has never been tied to a place of worship; instead, His presence is with His people. He isn't just at church; He's among the church, the body of Christ.

- › WHICH OF THE WAYS GOD REVEALED HIS PRESENCE AMONG HIS PEOPLE SURPRISES YOU MOST?
- › WHAT DO YOU THINK IT WOULD'VE BEEN LIKE TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S PRESENCE THROUGH A CLOUD OR PILLAR OF FIRE? EXPLAIN.
- › WHY DOES IT MATTER THAT JESUS IS GOD THE SON AND HE CAME TO LIVE AMONG US?
- › DOES THE IDEA OF THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVING INSIDE OF YOU INTIMIDATE YOU OR COMFORT YOU? WHY?
- › DOES THAT CHANGE DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION? EXPLAIN.

MIDWEEK EVENT

2 PSALM 139

GOD GOES WITH US EVERYWHERE.

Not only is the idea of the Trinity—One God in three Persons—difficult to understand, but we also learn that the Holy Spirit, who's part of the Trinity, lives within believers. That seems like a wild thought, sometimes, right? But it's true. And we see through David's writing in Psalm 139 how this can be both comforting and intimidating: God is everywhere we go. Of course, we hear all the time that God is always with us, but we probably don't stop and think about what that actually means. Here's the thing: God goes everywhere we take our bodies, our minds, our words, and our hearts. Pause and think about that for a second. Yes, that means even there—that place you thought no one else knew about. God sees and God knows. Believers belong to God entirely. Or, as Paul says it in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "You are not your own, for you were bought with a price." This thought is neither comforting nor convicting alone—it's both. The reality that God sees and goes with us everywhere should convict us about our not-so-secret actions and the places we go that we know are wrong, even if we only "go there" mentally or on the screen of a device. But God's presence with us everywhere can also be a great comfort, especially when we're feeling alone in our faith or in a difficult situation. This truth requires us to see with balance: the Holy Spirit is our Comforter, yes, but He also convicts us, leading us to repentance and to walk in the better way of Jesus.

- › **WHAT PLACES DO YOU TEND TO THINK "GOD WON'T GO THERE"?**
- › **WHY DO YOU THINK WE HAVE IT IN OUR MINDS THAT GOD'S PRESENCE ONLY EXTENDS SO FAR?**
- › **HOW DOES THIS TRUTH HIT YOU: THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES WITHIN YOU ALL THE TIME?**
- › **WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN SOMEWHERE—PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY—AND FELT CLEARLY THAT IT WAS NOT WHAT GOD WANTED FOR YOU?**
- › **WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO LIVES WITHIN US, IS HERE TO BOTH COMFORT AND CONVICT US?**

WRAP UP

Give students a few minutes to pray alone. Encourage them to invite God to comfort them for something specific and to convict them of something that isn't His best for them. After a few minutes, offer students the opportunity to pray with a leader or a friend in the group. Allow a few minutes for this, then close in prayer, asking God to help students see the way He fulfills His promise to always be with us in the Holy Spirit.