

# He is...

## (Omnipresent)

LIFE LESSON

Today we're starting a new series called "He is...", where we'll be discussing four important statements that are often made about **GOD**, but they don't always get explained in great detail. One of those statements is that **GOD** is omnipresent, or that He's everywhere all at once. Now the reason why it's so easy to make this statement about **GOD'S** presence, is because of what He said to the prophet Jeremiah...

📖 **Jeremiah 23:23-24 (NLT)** *Am I a God who is only close at hand?" says the Lord. "No, I am far away at the same time. Can anyone hide from me in a secret place? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?" says the Lord.*

➔ **When you were a child, did you ever have a "secret" hiding place? If so, where was it?**

Perhaps one of the funniest Bible stories highlighting **GOD'S** omnipresence, and therefore His ability to see anyone who is hiding from Him, is the story of the prophet Jonah, who tried to hide from **GOD** because he didn't want to confront the Assyrians (or Ninevites) with an opportunity for repentance like **GOD** had asked of him. However, **GOD** knew where Jonah was the whole time and ultimately arranged for him to head back towards Nineveh through a giant fish. Now, it will always be a mystery as to why Jonah (a prophet) didn't understand this truth about **GOD'S** presence being everywhere, especially considering the fact that David wrote about His omnipresence in the psalms...

📖 **Psalms 139:7-12 (NLT)** *I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you.*

➔ **When you think about GOD'S presence being constantly with you and watching you, does that comfort you or intimidate you? Why?**

Based on what we've learned from Jonah, David and Jeremiah, it should be clear that no one can hide from **GOD** or hide their actions from Him. Which means, if we're living like Jonah, with the belief we're hiding our actions from **GOD**, then we're going to experience a crisis at some point that will hopefully cause us to reconsider our choices, and repent. So when a "Jonah sized redirection" happens in our lives, it's

because **GOD** holds each of us accountable for what He's called us to do. For example, look at what the writer of the book of Hebrews said...

📖 **Hebrews 4:13 (NLT)** *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.*

➔ **In your opinion, what is it that GOD has asked you to be responsible for, or what is it that He's going to hold you accountable for?**

➔ **If you were to die this week, how would you be doing with those responsibilities?**

So if there's one thing we've learned about **GOD'S** omnipresence so far, it's that there's no use trying to hide our sin and rebellion from Him. He sees everything, and will hold us accountable. And if necessary, He will redirect us onto His path via a crisis. And when it comes to those who refuse to believe in Jesus, or for those who believe but persist in evil rather changing, His omnipresence is what makes His judgment against us perfectly just. Meaning, He's judging us based on what He's personally witnessed. For instance, look at what Paul said to the churches in Corinth about who will be doing our judging...

📖 **2 Corinthians 5:10 (NLT)** *For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.*

➔ **As followers, what are some examples of the good or evil things we do, and what do you think or imagine our judgment to be like?**

➔ **In your opinion, what would we deserve for the good things we've done, or what would deserve for the evil things we've done?**

Because of **GOD'S** omnipresence He's the perfect judge over everyone. So He knows how to judge a person with a rebellious attitude like what Jonah had, or with those who attempt to hide their sin from Him. But for those who are living for **GOD**, we can view His omnipresence as something to strengthen us or guide us, like the way David did. In fact, let's look again at what David said about **GOD'S** omnipresence, but let's also look at what he went on to say about His personal understanding of our lives...

📖 **Psalms 139:7-16 (NLT)** *I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you. You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.*

- ➔ **Based on what David said, GOD wasn't just responsible for "knitting" us together in the womb, He was constantly watching our development. How does that make you feel about GOD?**
- ➔ **How does it make you feel to know that GOD has also "recorded" ever day of your life, including every moment, and that it was recorded before the moment of your conception?**

As we wrap up today's lesson, let's remember that David not only believed **GOD** to be omnipresent or constantly with him, but he clearly believed that **GOD** was also omniscient, or all-knowing (which is what we're talking about next week). Therefore, David knew that **GOD** was the best "life-guide" he could ever ask for. So in a sense, you and I are asked to be like David, and recognize **GOD'S** omnipresence and omniscience in our lives and live accordingly. Or in other words, never be like a Jonah and try to hide from **GOD** or from His will.

## **MEMORY PASSAGE FOR THE WEEK**

*For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.*

***Philippians 2:13 (NLT)***

# He is...Omnipresent

**LESSON GOAL:** Kids learn what it means that God is omnipresent

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

'God is working in you. He wants your plans and your acts to fulfill his good purpose.' | **PHILIPPIANS 2:13 NIRV**

## **OMNIPRESENT – WHAT'S THAT?**

Omnipresent means being everywhere at once and God is the only being who can be omnipresent. It's one of the special things that make God unique and powerful and worthy of our praise and worship. We're going to learn about some of the other things that make him special over the next few weeks.

## **OMNIPRESENT – WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT?**

God's ability to be everywhere at once means that we can't have any secrets from him. He sees us all the time no matter where we go or what we're doing.

'Who can hide in secret places so that I can't see them?' announces the Lord .  
"Don't I fill heaven and earth?" "Am I only a God who is nearby?" "Am I not a God who is also far away?" | **JEREMIAH 23:23-24 NIRV**

That might seem weird to us that God is with us all of the time, but really it just means that we can't hide ourselves or our sins away from God. And it means that he's with us even in our toughest moments, which we can and should be really thankful for!

Do you remember the story of Jonah? He tried to ignore God's command for him to go to the people of Nineveh to warn them of God's judgement if they didn't repent and change their behavior. Jonah tried to run far, far away from Nineveh and God and even tried hiding in a ship to get further away, when God sent a storm to get his attention!

And King David even wrote about how God was always with him both in light and darkness:

'How can I get away from your Spirit? Where can I go to escape from you? If I go up to the heavens, you are there. If I lie down in the deepest parts of the earth, you are also there. Suppose I were to rise with the sun in the east. Suppose I travel to the west where it sinks into the ocean. Your hand would always be there to guide me. Your right hand would still be holding me close. Suppose I were to say, "I'm sure the darkness will hide me. The light around me will become as dark as night." Even that darkness would not be dark to you. The night would shine like the day, because darkness is like light to you.'

**PSALM 139:7-12 NIRV**

Instead of being worried about God *watching* us, we should think about him as *watching over* us. He is with us because he's our creator and father and because he loves everything that he makes. When we are choosing to follow him and obey his commands, we don't need to be worried about being "seen" or "watched."

'You created the deepest parts of my being. You put me together inside my mother's body. How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well. None of my bones was hidden from you when you made me inside my mother's body. That place was as dark as the deepest parts of the earth. When you were putting me together there, your eyes saw my body even before it was formed. You planned how many days I would live. You wrote down the number of them in your book before I had lived through even one of them. God, your thoughts about me are priceless. No one can possibly add them all up. If I could count them, they would be more than the grains of sand. If I were to fall asleep counting and then wake up, you would still be there with me.' | **PSALM 139:13-18 NIRV**

We can't hide anything about our lives from God because he already knew everything about us before he even created us, he's with us all the time and he LOVES us so much he planned for Jesus to take all of the punishment for our sins! (We'll be talking about how he knows everything about everything next week!)

### **DISCUSSION | REVIEW**

- Read Jonah in a kid-friendly Bible, or the story of Jonah in a Bible storybook.
  - Why didn't Jonah want to obey God?
  - How did Jonah respond when God forgave the Ninevites?
    - Do you think Jonah ever repented for disobeying God or for his attitude after the Ninevites were forgiven?
- Have you ever made a mistake or bad decision and tried to hide it?
  - How did you feel when that happened?
  - How did you feel when (if) the truth finally came out?
- What is one thing you learned today that you can share with a friend?