



## His Presence

**Focus** God is omnipresent—He is everywhere and holds everything together. When we are saved, He comes to live within us and fills us with His presence. When God makes His presence fully known to us, that’s when we sense His manifest presence. Even when we make mistakes, God wants to make His presence clear to us because He loves us. He desires us to be in His presence worshipping Him.

**Fun** It is football season! You are on the field getting ready to throw the ball to your receiver. What team are you part of and what colors are you proudly wearing?

**Review** Key Scriptures: Genesis 3; Jonah 1

### 1. His Manifest Presence

The word “manifest” means to make known, seen, recognized, and understood. God wants to make His presence known to us every day; He wants us to recognize that He is with us. God wants to walk and talk with us, bless us, provide for us, heal us, and give us peace. He wants us to understand that we can live in His presence (Exodus 33:14–15). Sin causes us to want to hide from God, but that is when we need Him the most.

### 2. Leaving His Presence

We cannot leave the omnipresence of God, but we can leave the manifest presence of God (Genesis 4:16; Jonah 1:1–3). When we do not do what He is telling us to do, we are being willfully disobedient and we leave His presence.

### 3. Entering His Presence

Through music, singing, praise, and worship we enter the presence of God. (Psalm 16:11, 95:2, 100:1–2). Music uplifts and moves us deep in our souls; our hearts are filled with joy and gladness. God inhabits the praise of His people!

But entering in to His presence on Sunday alone is not enough. We need to be in His presence daily. Why? Because His mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:23).

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Ask if anyone would like to share a verse that brought encouragement when they needed it most. This might be the timely word that uplifts someone else's discouraging day.

## Discuss

1. Adam and Eve knew God in the most intimate way, yet once they sinned they hid from Him (Genesis 3:8). We sometimes do the same thing. Why do you think that is?
2. Although we can never leave the omnipresence of God, we can leave His manifest presence. Review the stories of Cain (Genesis 4:16) and Jonah (Jonah 1:3). Did they react in willful disobedience or did they simply make a mistake? What is the difference?
3. There are times when we willfully disobey God. How can our choices affect our ability to sense His presence?
4. Because of God's mercy, He forgives us when we ask. Identify ways we can open the door to God's presence.
5. We can be in church yet still not *enter* God's presence. Why?
6. Take a few minutes to reflect. Are you entering God's presence only once a week? Are there things God asked you to do that you have not done? Make sure you are right with God in these areas, then determine to live more fully in His presence from this point on.

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- God wants us to live in His presence.
- He wants us to walk and talk with Him each day.
- It is possible to leave His presence.
- We leave His presence when we do not listen to what He tells us.
- We can enter His presence through music, singing, praise, and worship.

**Prayer**

Lord, I want to be in Your presence. I want to walk and talk with You every day. Forgive me for the times I have hidden from You, feeling unworthy because of sin. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** When new people come to your group, make sure they know the ins and outs of your group. Take time to let them know if it is ok to get up and replenish their coffee or tea during the study, where they should put their jackets, where the bathroom is located, or if you would like them to let you know if they cannot attend that week. Understanding how a group functions is important.