



# GOD IN A BOX

Disciples & Early Church • U1#1 1st-3rd Grade • June 9, 2024

## Concept

God is omnipresent; He is in all places at all times.

## Goal

Students will learn that because God is everywhere, their relationship with Him is not confined to just when they come to this Oasis class. He is personal and with them throughout the whole week, wherever they go!

## Passage

John 4:20-24

Key Verse: "Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?" says the Lord."

Jeremiah 23:24b

## Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p><b>Learning Activity #1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Velcro, 16'/room</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Lesson:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>2 –liter bottles, 2/room *</i></li> <li>• <i>Butcher paper (to make 2-liters into "jugs"), 12"/room</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Optional Activity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Key verse cut into individual words, 3 sets/room</i></li> <li>• <i>Brown paper lunch bag for key verses, 3/room</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Activity Station:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>It's a Big, Big World Atlas</i></li> <li>• <i>You Can Change the World, Jill Johnstone, Zondervan Publishing</i></li> <li>• "God is Everywhere" Reminder Box, 1/Student</li> <li>• Transparent tape</li> <li>• Crayons/ Markers</li> <li>• Glue Sticks</li> <li>• Scissors</li> </ul>

### \*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

# Background Information (for the teacher)

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“Church is the English translation of the Greek word ekklesia. The use of the Greek term prior to the emergence of the Christian church is important as two streams of meaning flow from the history of its usage into the New Testament understanding of church. First, the Greek term which basically means ‘called out’ was commonly used to indicate an assembly of citizens of a Greek city and is so used in Acts 19:32, 39...

“Second, the Greek term was used more than one hundred times in the Greek translation of the Old Testament in common use in the time of Jesus. The Hebrew term (qahal) meant simply ‘assembly’ and could be used in a variety of ways, referring for example to an assembling of prophets (1 Sam. 19:20), soldiers (Num. 22:4), or the people of God (Deut. 9:10). The use of the term in the Old Testament in referring to the people of God is important for understanding the term ‘church’ in the New Testament. The first Christians were Jews who used the Greek translation of the Old Testament. For them to use a self-designation that was common in the Old Testament for the people of God reveals their understanding of the continuity that links the Old and New Testaments..., the term ‘church’ is used in the New Testament of a local congregation of called-out Christians, such as the ‘church of God which is at Corinth’(1 Cor. 1:2), and also of the entire people of God, such as in the affirmation that Christ is “the head over all things to the church, which is his body’ (Eph. 1:22-23).”[1]

In Acts 7:48-50 Stephen quotes Isaiah 66:2 saying, “The Most High does not live in houses made by men.” “Judaism never taught that God actually lived in the temple or was confined to its environs but spoke of his ‘Name’ and presence as being there. In practice, however, this concept was often denied... Stephen’s assertion is that neither the tabernacle nor the temple was meant to be such an institutionalized feature in Israel’s religion...”[2]

[1] Trent C. Butler, Ph.D., Holman Bible Dictionary, “Church,” QuickVerse, ©1999 The Learning Company Inc.

[2] Frank E. Gabelein, The Expositor’s Bible Commentary Volume 9, “The Acts of the Apostles 7:44-50,” p. 346.

## Incorporation Lg. Group

## Introduction Lg. Group

## Transition

## Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

## Transition

## Lesson Lg. Group

### Activity Stations

- **“Where is God?”**

- **Instructions:** Look through You Can Change the World and discuss the fact that there are people all over the world. Look in the atlas to find the countries in which these people live. Ask them if they think God is in that country. Talk about where they think God lives. If God is in another country with other people, can He be here with us?

- **Craft – “God is Everywhere” Reminder Box**

- **Instructions:** Follow instructions at the end of the lesson.

**Drama – “God in a Box”** skit performed by the drama team.

Let’s return to our classrooms for a game and the lesson!

### **Game – “God in a Box” Instructions:**

**Suggested introduction:** When you first came in to class, many of you did activities that made you think about where God is. Let’s play a game to see what it would be like if God could only stay in one small space.

This is a very quick activity just to illustrate the point. The person who is “IT” represents God. “IT” closes his eyes and counts to 10 while the students hide. Then IT tries to find the students. After playing the game once, change the rules so that IT cannot leave a Velcro square (4' x 4') marked on the floor.

**Debrief:** What was the difference between IT being able to go anywhere and IT having to stay only in a small space? What happened when IT couldn't go out of the small space? Let's pretend for a moment that "IT" is God. Some people think that He lives in a small space like a church building. The Bible tells us that God is everywhere. God made the world and everything in the universe. He does not live in one small space. Our key verse today is, “‘Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?’ says the Lord” (Jeremiah 23:24b).

This week we will study a Bible passage that tells us about a woman who was confused. She thought that God lived only in a special place.

### **Drama – Storytelling**

**Instructions:** Tell the Bible story through the drama included at the end of the lesson or simply read the story from John 4.

### **Discuss the following two points:**

1. Jesus taught the woman that He alone had living water. In John 4:13-14 Jesus says anyone who drank the water out of the well would get thirsty again and that the water He gives will quench anyone’s thirst forever and that it will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

## Lesson Continued

- a. What is this water? (allow children to answer and discuss) This water represents eternal life, life forever with God in heaven.
- b. Who is this water for? This living water is available to everyone!
- c. What do we have to do to get this water? The only thing we have to do to get this living water is admit that we are sinners and in need of the forgiveness God provides through Jesus' death on the cross.

2. Jesus also taught the woman that God is everywhere. Our key verse today is, "Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and the earth?" says the Lord" (Jer. 23:24b)

- a. He isn't just on a mountain or in a church building. Because He is spirit, He is everywhere.
- b. Therefore, we can talk to Him everywhere, at any time.
  - i. Have any of you ever talked or prayed to God? Where were you?
  - ii. Give some examples of places that you talk to God

## Transition

Let's get into small groups and talk about how we relate to God.

## Learning Activity# 2 Sm. Groups

### Discussion Questions:

- Do you think the woman at the well accepted Jesus' offer of a friendship with Him and life forever in heaven? (YES, we know she did accept this offer because she went away very excited and told others about Jesus. Just like the woman at the well, Jesus wants to offer you eternal life forever with God in heaven, and just like the woman at the well, Jesus wants us to be excited to tell others about him.)
- When you want to talk to God, where do you need to go? (Talk about how strange it would be if our best friend or parent would only talk to us in one particular place. Review the key verse)
- Because God is everywhere we can also pray for people all over the country and the world because we know that He is there with them. Who are some people that you care about and would like to pray for who are far away?

**Missions Prayer:** Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving Campaign.

Pray

## Transition

Let's have fun with a relay.

## Learning Activity# 3 Lg. Group

### Game -- "Water Jug Relay"

**Instructions:** Have each team form a line. Place a chair across the room from each team. The first person in each line must carry the water jug by placing the jug on his head with one hand and holding his other hand on his hip.

## Learning Activity#3 Continued

### Optional Activity

At the signal they walk across the room, around the chair and back to the next person in line who will do the same. Continue until all students have carried the jug. The first team to finish wins.

#### **Game – “Key Verse Relay”**

**Instructions:** Divide the class into 3 teams and have each team form a line. On the floor across the room from each team, place a lunch bag with the key verse words. Tell the students that they must put the words together to make a sentence. They should not be told that the words will make the key verse unless they are stumped. One by one each team member hops on one foot, retrieves a word and brings it back to his team. As the words are collected, the team tries to put the words together. The team with the verse completed first is the winner.

#### **"God is Everywhere" Reminder Box**

1. Cut the square along the outside dotted lines.
2. Turn the pattern over and fold each outside corner toward the center along the fold lines.
3. Turn the pattern over so the printed fold lines are showing with a place in each of the eight sections.
4. Fold the corners toward the center along the fold lines.
5. There will be eight new sections, two on each corner flap. On these sections, write the numbers 1 through 8.
6. Fold the square in half so that the numbers don't show (forming a rectangle, unfold, and then fold the square in half the other way to crease the box to make it work more easily.

**To work your reminder box:** Put your thumbs and forefingers each under a flap. Pinch fingers to thumbs to open lengthwise and thumb to thumb and finger to finger to open across. Pick a number, and then look under the flap to read some of the places you go – God is everywhere you go.

**Instructions:** Assign 1 teacher to narrate, 1 student or teacher to be Jesus and 1 to be the Samaritan woman. Have these actors wear head coverings. Jesus and the Samaritan woman will read the quoted parts while the teacher narrates

**Narrator:** Open your Bibles to John 4. Jesus met a Samaritan woman at a well and asked her to give him a drink of water. She was surprised that Jesus talked to her because she was a Samaritan and Jesus was a Jew. Samaritans and Jews didn't get along. And men normally didn't talk to women in public back then.

*Enter Jesus and woman with their water jugs\*

**Jesus:** Will you give me a drink of water?

**Woman:** You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?

**Jesus:** If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.

**Woman:** Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?

**Jesus:** Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

**Narrator:** That woman didn't know what Jesus was talking about. But she was curious about what Jesus had to offer. So, she responded...

**Woman:** Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.

**Narrator:** Then Jesus said what appears to be something very weird. I imagine the woman wondered why He suddenly brought up her personal life. And what does this have to do with water?

**Jesus:** Go, call your husband, and come here.

**Woman:** I have no husband.

**Jesus:** You're right, you have no husband. You have had five husbands and the man you live with now is not your husband.

**Narrator:** The woman didn't want to talk about her personal life so she immediately changed the subject. Then she made a statement that showed her misunderstanding of how and where people relate to God.

**Woman:** I can see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.

**Jesus:** Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.

*Exit woman and Jesus*