

# draw near

*Seeking the Presence, Promises,  
and Practices of God*



*Pine Cove Shores Bible Study  
Summer 2020*



*DRAW NEAR TO GOD,  
AND HE WILL DRAW NEAR TO YOU...  
JAMES 4:8*

## A LETTER FROM FISH FACE

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Why are you here right now?

Most likely, you love camp. (I hope!) Maybe your parents made you come or you have no clue how you got here - a friend invited you last minute, your family Googled “summer camps in Texas”, you wanted to get out of the house after a weird, isolating Spring - I don’t know. But I will tell you this...

God has you exactly where you are because He wants to be with you.

And this week is His way of getting your attention. This is His way of drawing near to you. He wants to show you Himself. He wants to come close to speak to you. He wants to give you exactly what you need most right now.

I truly believe God wants to be with you - not to use you or condemn you or let you know how helpless you are in life. He wants to be with you because He loves you. How do I know that? Historical evidence proves it. The Bible tells me so.

You see, if I had to boil down the narrative of all of Scripture to one single word - it would be “WITH”.

God loves His children. So, He created us so that He could be WITH us. He sent His Son to live WITH us. The Son sent the Holy Spirit to be WITHIN us. We are now called to walk by the Spirit to be WITH others.

And too often and for far too long I lived in a way of doing things FOR God instead of WITH God. This is the “With Life” - drawing near to His presence, believing His promises, and practicing His way. You can be WITH Him right now and forever!

This is what a good, loving Father wants to do for His children!

When my kids know they've done something wrong, when they think they've done something right, when they need help, when they're sad or lonely or just want to be loved, they come running to me. Because they know I love them and I want what is good for them. Where do you run in these moments?

God's heart is for you to "draw near" - not "do more." Seriously, there's nothing else you have to do to experience closeness with God. Just draw near. Come closer to Him. Seek His presence.

What is presence? Simply it is "you here now." All of a person - physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually; aware and focused at the specific place they are in; right this very moment.

And the truth is that God is present - all of Him, with you, right now! And His presence is the answer to everything - so we draw near to Him.

Over the next several days you're going to dive deep into the promises and presence of God, learning how to seek Him and how to practice His presence in your daily life to experience the fullness of His joy in any circumstance. Presence. Promises. Practices.

This week, it's our prayer that you draw near to God, throw away your old life and leave it behind, get rid of your beliefs that you have to have it all together and have a perfect Christian appearance, and that you are never too far from God.

Because He is always close, ready to show you just how much He loves you and wants to be with you.

### **Fish Face**

*Shores Camp Director*

## INSTRUCTIONS

*how this booklet  
will work*

This booklet is made up of five days worth of **Memory Verses**, **Quiet Times**, and **Bible Study** - as well as additional space each day for journaling and taking notes at Club.

## 1. Memory Verses

At the beginning of each day's pages, you'll see the daily Memory Verse.

We are called to "hide God's Word in our hearts" and to "meditate on it." Memorization leads to meditation which leads to transformation. It helps us to draw near!

A helpful method for memorizing Scripture:

1. Read the passage silently in your head 5-10x.
2. Read the passage out loud 5-10x.
3. If you need to break the passage down into smaller chunks, do that and read it out loud 5-10x. Then put them all together.
4. Recall the passage 5-10x out loud - as much as you can. Look at passage when you need as you recall it out loud - until you have fully memorized it.
5. Pray and ask God to sink it deep into your heart, mind, and soul.

Each day's Memory Verse will be the passage we spent time on in our Quiet Times, which are explained in detail below.

## 2. Quiet Time Guides

Every day this week we will have a few minutes of what we call "Quiet Time" in the mornings.

Throughout this booklet, you'll see sections titled "Quiet Time Guide" at the first part of each day's pages. Each morning the Quiet Time Guide will simply walk you through drawing near to God through Scripture and Prayer.

This week, we'll be learning a Bible reading method called Lectio Divina - which is Latin for "divine reading".

Very simply, Lectio Divina is reading God's Word with God. What makes this reading divine? The Divine One. And we go to Scripture to meet with Him, not just to get more knowledge. Lectio Divina is essentially reading the Bible in God's presence!

Before I ever open my Bible or app - I still myself. In my spirit, I recognize and thank God that He is with me and in me. I recognize that I can't understand anything on my own and I can't teach myself - so I ask the Holy Spirit to teach me (John 14:26). I ask him to "open my eyes" (Ps. 119:18). To speak to me (John 10:27). To renew my mind (Romans 12:2). To strengthen my spirit in the deepest places (Proverbs 16:32).

Then, eventually, I open my Bible or app - and I go to the passage in my reading plan (or sometimes I'll listen to the Spirit for where He wants to take me in the Word).

There are 4 "movements" in Lectio Divina that you flow through:

### **1) READING**

During this first movement in Lectio Divina, you are reading through the passage maybe 1-3 times slowly, trying to grasp the overall truth/idea/word that was being spoken in the original context.

(Again, Lectio Divina is typically for shorter passages - whether one verse or one chunk/paragraph.)

### **2) REFLECTING**

Read the passage again and see what words, phrases, sentences, characters, anything at all that stands out.

Dallas Willard used the phrase "what is glimmering" when talking about Reflecting. Eugene Petersen asked, "what has that little pop of delight?"

Pay attention to those. Circle, highlight, underline - then I write that down in my journal for the next movement of my reading, which is Reflecting.

Keep in mind, this is not study! This is listening to God in a receiving posture in your spirit.

(Personally, I just start to "flow" or write in my journal anything that comes to mind. If nothing, I'll sit longer and ask for God to help.)

### **3. RESPONDING**

Reflection leads naturally to the next movement of Responding (purposeful prayer), asking God why and what and who and how. Responding is simply talking with God about what you're reading/hearing.

Prayer is talking with God about what you're doing together.

The basic truth: God can and wants to speak to you, right here and now.

[A quick word on prayer and journaling: God can be trusted. So if you ask Him a question, write down the first thoughts that come to you until the "flow" of thoughts slows down or stops. This is a helpful way to record your thoughts and feelings and then read and study God's Word to know He is speaking. If you are confused about something, just ask your Counselor! They're here to help walk you through this!]

### **4. RESTING**

Resting is the fourth and final movement of Lectio Divina where you are simply meditating quietly in stillness, letting the Holy Spirit slow you down and for Truth to sink deep. This is contemplation - a quiet, still expression of love between you and God.

Stay here for as long as you can or need.

The purpose here is to "be still and know that He is God."

Words of advice for you (that I have to give myself all the time):

- Slow down.
- If you get distracted, ask the Spirit to bring yourself back.
- If you don't feel a "great movement of God, that is okay" - and maybe even the point. God wants to sink His Word deep into us. And I hold onto spiritual "emotions" too often. Instead, I would rather hold onto His words and promises.



### **3. Bible Study Guides**

This section will be used during each day's Bible Study time with your cabin. Your counselor will guide a discussion in your cabin Bible Studies from the Scripture and questions listed for each day. All you have to do here is be engaged and help out your counselor with some answers whenever they ask!

There will also be a time for you to "draw near" to God as a group and individually. Enjoy this time, do your best to engage, and be present to God and your friends.

### **4. Journal & Club Notes**

If it isn't obvious – this is where you can take notes for Club each evening. You can also use this space to write down things you're learning each day or as a daily journal for your time at camp.

DAY 1 : *THE PRESENCE OF GOD IS*

# the Answer to my prayers





**MEMORY VERSE**

*JOHN 16:23-24*

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*<sup>23</sup>“TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU,  
WHATEVER YOU ASK OF THE FATHER  
IN MY NAME, HE WILL GIVE IT TO  
YOU. <sup>24</sup>UNTIL NOW YOU HAVE ASKED  
NOTHING IN MY NAME. ASK, AND  
YOU WILL RECEIVE, THAT YOUR JOY  
MAY BE FULL.”*

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# Quiet time

*A quick recap of Lectio Divina  
- reading God's Word in God's  
presence. (Go back a few pages  
and reread the full breakdown of  
Lectio Divina if you need.)*

*If you don't hear or feel anything,  
that's okay - just ask God! If you  
get distracted, that's okay too. Just  
bring yourself back to His presence  
with you.*

## 1. READING

Before you start reading the passages below, take a minute to take some deep breaths and recognize that God is with you and wants to speak to you through His Word by the Holy Spirit.

We'll take a slow, simple start to Lectio Divina today. Read John 16:23-24 one to three times slowly.

## 2. REFLECTING

Read the passage again slowly. What stands out to you? Circle or underline those words, phrases, etc. and write them below.

## 3. RESPONDING

Ask God why those words, phrases, etc. are standing out to you. There is a reason, just ask Him.

Write down what you are thinking, sensing, hearing - and how He wants you respond/change/act in today's Journal a few pages to the right.

## 4. RESTING

Recall what you just heard, felt, sensed, and wrote down above - and simply rest in the truth that Jesus is speaking in this passage. Let it sink deep into your heart and mind. (Too often we move on to try and force application of the Bible. God simply wants us to rest in Him right now before we act on anything.) Be still and know He is God!

Write down how you feel based on what you read and heard in this space. If nothing, that's okay - just pray and thank Him.

# bible study



## PRESENCE

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*Begin your cabin Bible Study time being still together in silence. Recognize that God is with you and He is excited to teach you this morning as a group. Once your counselor is ready, they will pray out loud to begin Bible Study.*

The presence of God is all that we need, in any moment. And today's lesson will set up the rest of our week. It's amazing and essential to life with God on earth!

The presence of God is: the Answer to My Prayers.

*If you had to give a short, simple definition to Prayer, what would you say?*

*How would you describe your "prayer life" throughout your life / lately?*



## PROMISES

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Honesty time. On the last day of 4th grade, I asked my crush to be my girlfriend. And of course, she said yes! I went into that summer the next day so pumped about life and everything. And over the course of the

next couple of weeks, I would call her home phone (those old school 90's phones that had a cord and were plugged into the wall) and we would talk for a little bit until we didn't have anything else to talk about.

But over the course of the next few weeks or so, our phone calls kept getting quieter and quieter. I would ask a question, and receive a one word response. Eventually, I would call and we would just sit on the phone not saying anything for what seemed like eternity.

Well, I wanted to have an awesome summer, so I just stopped calling her - because she was super boring and wasting my precious time as a 10 year old.

So the summer comes to a close and I get to the first day of 5th grade - Mrs. Powers class - where I walk in, feeling good in my new clothes and shoes and backpack. I walk through the alphabetized desk placements to my name - and lo and behold, who is my next-desk neighbor? HER.

We haven't talked in over two months and the first thing I ask after I sit down is: "Are we still going out?"

She looks at me, rolls her eyes, and writes back on a wide ruled piece of paper in the biggest capital letters I've ever seen: "NO. WAY."

You see, it is impossible to have a close relationship with someone when you don't speak and listen to each other.

Here is what I know to be true: God is real. He is good. And He is our Heavenly Father. He promises to always be with us and to never leave us. These are promises that God fulfills and IS fulfilling right now.

As our Father, He wants a close relationship with us. He wants us to draw near to Him. And to do that He promises to hear us and speak to us!

*Do you believe that God hears you when you talk with Him or cry out to Him?*

*What do you think it means that He speaks to us?*

Prayer is a way of life in which we converse with God. At its core, prayer is simply “life with God”.

*With this in mind, talk about how you can live and talk with God in your everyday life.*

Transparently, I have always struggled with my “prayer life”. I get distracted easily and I’m never sure how to start the conversation. Also, I read things in Paul’s letters like “always pray constantly all the time” and I put an overwhelming, unhealthy burden on myself with prayer! (That’s called legalism. And Jesus wasn’t pumped about that. So he showed us a better way...)

Christian philosopher and author Dallas Willard says:

*“I believe the most adequate description of prayer is simply, talking with God about what we are doing together. That immediately focuses the activity where we are but at the same time drives the egotism out of it. Requests will naturally be made in the course of this conversational walk. Prayer is a matter of explicitly sharing with God my concerns about what he too is concerned about in my life. And of course he is concerned about my concerns and, in particular, that my concerns should coincide with his. This is our walk together. Out of it I pray.”*

This is drawing near - or practicing the presence of God. In fact, you cannot draw near (or practice the presence of God) without prayer. You cannot pray and not be in God’s presence.

If we believe that the presence of God is everything to us then God's presence is a place where prayer is heard and answered. It is a place we are safe, secure, and in right standing to \*ask anything\* of our Father, according to His will and we will receive.

Prayer is the foundation for the rest of our life of faith (and for the rest of this Bible Study). And if God is real and good and loves us - then we can ASK HIM ANYTHING!

Asking Anything = giving my desire to God and His will in prayer

I say it's time to open up the Bible and get some confirmation about asking anything of God. Let's look at some promises!

Multiple times throughout the Gospels and the New Testament, Jesus is recorded saying that we can "ask anything in his name and the Father will hear and answer."

**Go around your circle and each person take 1-2 of these passages below to find read out loud.** (It's okay if this takes a minute - this is the most important part of Bible Study.)

Matthew 7:7-8

John 15:7

James 1:17

Matthew 18:19

John 15:16

James 4:2-3

Matthew 21:22

John 16:23-24

1 John 3:22

John 14:13

James 1:5-6

1 John 5:14

*What is the big Truth you can walk away from all these verses with?*

*What are some other Truths you see here? What else stands out in these verses?*



A dozen times in the New Testament, God invites and expects us to ASK ANYTHING! And if we ask anything in Jesus' name, it will happen according to the will of the Father! Woah.

*Do you really - like REALLY - believe this? Are you okay if it's not in your timing, your method, your control?*

Ok, now listen up. It's vital to know that God is not our spiritual genie granting wishes. He is not our heavenly vending machine that we put something into just to get something out. He is our good Father. If we come to the Father with selfish and prideful desires, we will be found out quickly.

We get to ask anything because of 1) our faith in Him to do it and 2) our absolute love of HIS will and therefore obedience to him. We must love HIS will more than OURS.

*How does the idea of surrendering your entire life, every moment, to His will make you feel? What thoughts come to mind?*

When we love His will, we will constantly draw near to Him.

Jesus himself drew near to his Father and asked anything recorded many times throughout the Gospels. Possibly the most notable being in the garden of Gethsemane, at the end of his life right before he was led to the cross.

**Read Mark 14:36.**

*What do you see happening here? How does it make you feel? Does anything stand out to you?*

Jesus believed it was possible for His Father.  
Jesus made his request.  
Jesus asked for the Father's will, not his own.

## ➤ PRACTICE

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*(Each day we will get as practical as we can. In this Practice time, we may do a number of different things to help you be able to practice the way of Jesus individually and together. We will also ask good questions here.)*

**So, let's talk it out.** *What are some reasons you don't ask God anything?  
What holds you back in prayer?*

This really comes down to our theology - who we think God is and who we are. I now have a strong conviction that when we're standing face to face with God, I don't think He'll say "You asked too much of me."

*But we don't always get what we ask for! Why?*

*We can and must learn how to pray. How? Why?*

**Take a minute to look at Luke 11:1 together.** *Why do you think the disciples didn't ask how to heal the sick, cast out demons, multiply food, do all the miracles?*

*Do you want freedom, peace, hope, power in your life? How do you believe you will receive those things?*

**Read this out loud together:**

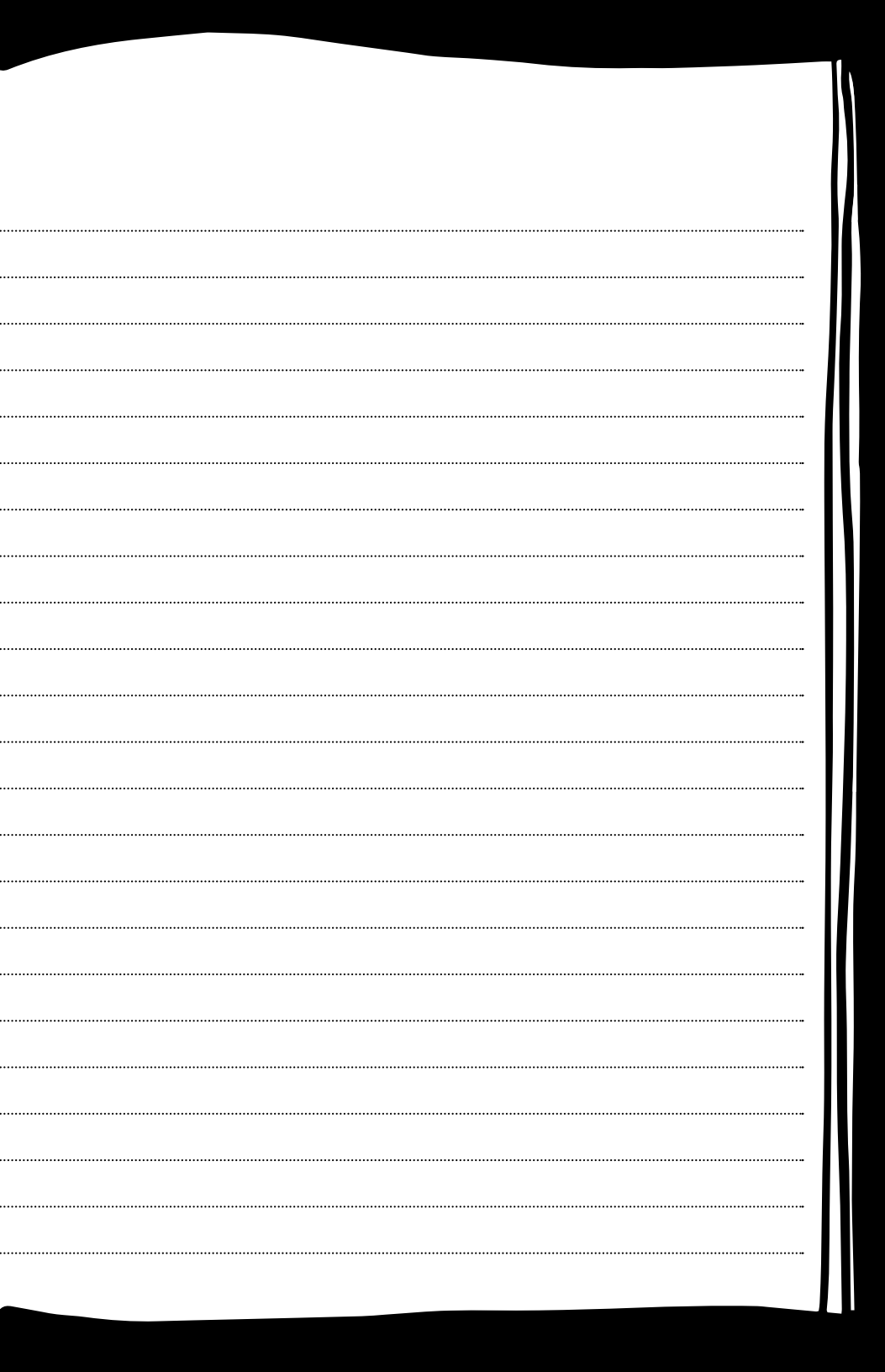
*“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.” - Romans 8:26-27*

Now - right now, ASK ANYTHING. With total silence and stillness as a group, write it down below and just GO FOR IT. God loves you, hears you, and wants to answer you in His timing, method, and control.

*“Don’t seek to develop a prayer life — seek a praying life. A “prayer life” is a segmented time for prayer. You’ll end up feeling guilty that you don’t spend more time in prayer. Eventually you’ll probably feel defeated and give up. A “praying life” is a life that is saturated with prayerfulness — you seek to do all that you do with the Lord.” - Dallas Willard*



journal



**DAY 2:** *THE PRESENCE OF GOD IS*

my confidence  
in  
comparison





**MEMORY VERSE**

*COLOSSIANS 3:2-3*

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*<sup>2</sup>“SET YOUR MINDS ON THINGS  
THAT ARE ABOVE, NOT ON THINGS  
THAT ARE ON EARTH. <sup>3</sup>FOR YOU  
HAVE DIED, AND YOUR LIFE IS  
HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD.”*

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# Quiet time

*Good morning! It's time for another session of Lectio Divina - reading God's Word in God's presence! (Go back a few pages and reread the full breakdown of Lectio Divina if you need.)*

*This morning, there will be a few passages to read that will direct us to the truth that the presence of God is our confidence in comparison.*

*Before you start reading the passages below, take a minute to slow down, take some deep breaths, and recognize that God is with you and wants to speak to you in His Word by the Holy Spirit.*

## 1. READING

Now read Colossians 3:2-3 one to three times slowly. If you want to stay on these two verses this whole time, go for it.

If you want, read these passages a couple times slowly. If any of them really stand out to you, stay on them for the next movement: Galatians 1:10, Romans 12:2-3, Matthew 7:1

## 2. REFLECTING

Read the passage again slowly. What stands out to you? Circle or underline those words, phrases, etc. and write them below.

## 3. RESPONDING

Ask God why those words, phrases, etc. are standing out to you. There is a reason, just ask Him.

Write down what you are thinking, sensing, hearing - and how He wants you respond/change/act on it in the Journal pages.

## 4. RESTING

Recall what you just heard, felt, sensed, and wrote down above - and simply rest in the truth that Jesus is speaking in this passage. Let it sink deep into your heart and mind. (Too often we move on to try and force application of the Bible. God simply wants us to rest in Him right now before we act on anything.) Be still and know He is God!

Write down how you feel based on what you read and heard in this space. If nothing, that's okay - just pray and thank Him.

# bible study



## PRESENCE

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Begin your cabin Bible Study time being still together in silence. Recognize that God is with you and He is excited to teach you this morning as a group. Once your counselor is ready, they will pray out loud to begin Bible Study.

The presence of God is: my Confidence in Comparison.

*How would you define the word "confidence"?*

*What does it mean to compare yourself to others? Do you think it's a good or bad thing?*

One of my all time favorite children's books is called You Are Special by Max Lucado. It tells the story of Punchinello, a Wemmick (small wooden puppet) who lives in a town with lots of other Wemmicks, going about their daily lives trying to gain Star stickers from the others.

You see, in their Wemmick town they give Stars to others who are attractive, popular, successful, funny, well-liked - and Dots to those who... aren't those things.

But those Dots have fallen off of me - and they don't stick anymore. Do you want yours off, too?

I believe in some way or another, we all care too much and too deeply what the people around us think about us. Because deep down, we have made the approval of others our god - for the validation of something we believe is missing in us. To cut to the point - only the presence of God can fill that void. And He fills it perfectly.

Today's Bottomline: it all comes down to Inner Intimacy with God, not Outer Image for others.

## **PROMISES**

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Our Heavenly Father really, really cares about Inner Intimacy with us - drawing near to each other and "running up the hill" to meet with Him! He is less concerned, if at all, about our Outer Image.

Everything around and in us strives for an Outer Image constructed from our external environment - thinking once we achieve it, we will have Inner Intimacy with ourselves, with others, with God.

But again, we can already have Intimacy in our innermost being with the One who created us \*in His image\*!

Let's take a look at some of these promises.

**Go around the group and read:**

Psalm 18:2,10

Psalm 46:1-3

Psalm 91:1-2

Psalm 27:5

Psalm 62:6

Psalm 63:7

Psalm 31:20

Psalm 71:3

Psalm 144:2

*What do you take from these verses? Share just a couple simple truths from the group.*

When we seek the presence of God, when we run to Him and hide ourselves in Him - nothing else matters. No one can harm us - not even ourselves.

Hiding is an interesting word/idea found all throughout Scripture. Essentially, when we were kids and something scared us, we would hide from it.

As we get older and things scare us, the feeling is not much different - but our reaction may be. We hide in passive aggressiveness, judging people in our hearts, being mean to others with our words and actions, lashing out in some way, grasping for some kind of control.

And we definitely do this when we feel insecure around other people, as we try to craft an image for the world that we are trying to attain for the sake of some fake security.

*Let's get real. What does this look like in your life lately?*

When you seek the presence of God, you hide **IN** Him - not **FROM** Him. And He protects you from the judgement of others and of yourself. The words you read in the verses above about God being our Rock, Fortress, Shelter, Dwelling are all words of *\*security\**! You no longer have to be insecure - because God is our security. He is your confidence. Confide in Him.

"Sure man, that sounds great and all - but what do I do with this?"

I'm glad you asked. Let's find some more promises God wants us to know.

**Read:**

Romans 12:2-3

Isaiah 2:22

Galatians 1:10

Psalms 118:6

Psalms 23:1

John 2:15

Corinthians 10:17

*What do you see in these verses? Talk or journal it out.*

Some translations of Romans 12:2-3 say “do not conform to the patterns of this world...” Our world creates and follows patterns of shallowness, fake personalities, status grasping, image crafting, love lacking, prideful selfishness. You know it’s true. And we give in all the time.

I want to get the approval and applause of people around me for the way I look, act, talk, etc. My “brand” is important to me. But my heart is important to Jesus.

So, what can man do to you?

He’s on my side. I love Him, not the world. So I stop regarding man and worrying about what man thinks. He is my Shepherd. I only boast in His image, not my image. I seek and already have His approval.

*Do you believe this? Are you living this way? Do you want to?*

*What do you think this way of life looks and feels like?*

Ok, now let’s get really, really practical. We need to look at a quick story or two in the life of Jesus - to see how he dealt with people judging him.

**Read the story in Luke 6:6-11.**

*What do you see happening in this story?*

*Why do you think Jesus is able to heal, to know their thoughts, to speak directly without caring what they think?*

I think the answer is in the very next verse. **Read Luke 6:12.**

There's a lot in this story of the Sabbath healing and in the verses that follow verse 12. What I want to focus on as we close out today's study is:

*Any power to heal, any insight to discern what's happening around him, any confidence He had to speak plainly and boldly - came from time with his Heavenly Father.*

All throughout the life of Jesus you read about him "going away to pray." He was constantly seeking Inner Intimacy and had no concern for Outer Image. The only Outer Image he cared for was the love he gave to other people.

"Dots" and "Stars" couldn't get close to Jesus - because He was constantly meeting with His Father. Those stickers couldn't stick. And guess what, if you trust Him and believe the Gospel, the same is true for you. He is in you, with you.

This is true confidence in the midst of comparison - that our Father loves us, is for us, and is with us.

Hide in Him. Confide in Him. And from that confidence, love others the way you have been loved.

**(If you have extra time, read Matthew 7:1, James 3:16, 1 Corinthians 11:1 and talk it out.)**

## PRACTICE

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*Let's just go for it again today. Do you care what other people think about you?*

*In what ways do you craft an Outer Image?*

*Have you ever experienced Inner Intimacy — the deep love of the Father to the point that you don't care what people think about you?*

**Take a few minutes to be silent and still as a group. Think on the truth that God loves you and wants to protect you and be with you.**

At some point, your counselor will read our memory verse Colossians 3:2-3 over you and pray for you to close Bible Study for today.



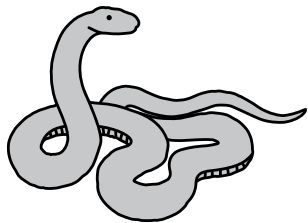
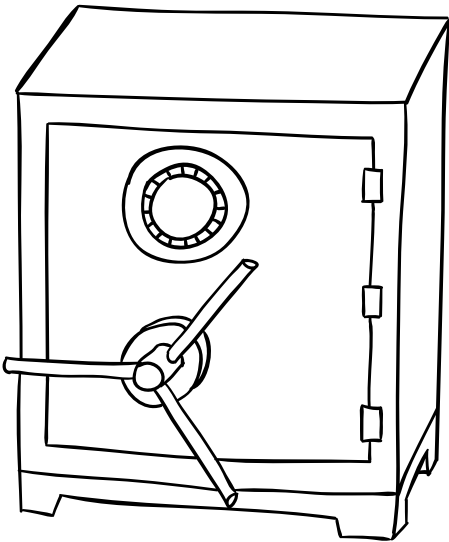


journal



**DAY 3:** *THE PRESENCE OF GOD IS*

the protection  
of my  
purity





**MEMORY VERSE**

*PSALM 51:10-11*

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*“CREATE IN ME A CLEAN  
HEART, O GOD, AND RENEW  
A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME.  
CAST ME NOT AWAY FROM YOUR  
PRESENCE, AND TAKE NOT  
YOUR HOLY SPIRIT FROM ME.”*

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# Quiet time

*Happy Wednesday! Hopefully by today you have a better grasp on Lectio Divina and knowing you can come to God's Word and He will teach you and speak to you by His Spirit.*

*So, like the past two days, before you start reading the passages below, spend a minute taking some deep breaths and recognize that God is with you and wants to speak to you in His Word by the Holy Spirit.*

## 1. READING

Read Psalm 51:1-12 one to three times slowly.

If you have time and want to, read these passages a couple times slowly. If any of them really stand out to you, stay on them for the next movement: Psalm 119:9-11, Galatians 5:1, 16-26

## 2. REFLECTING

Read the passage again slowly. What stands out to you? Circle or underline those words, phrases, etc. and write them below.

## 3. RESPONDING

Ask God why those words, phrases, etc. are standing out to you. There is a reason, just ask Him.

Write down what you are thinking, sensing, hearing - and how He wants you respond/change/act on it in the Journal pages.

## 4. RESTING

Recall what you just heard, felt, sensed, and wrote down above - and simply rest in the truth that Jesus is speaking in this passage. Let it sink deep into your heart and mind. (Too often we move on to try and force application of the Bible. God simply wants us to rest in Him right now before we act on anything.) Be still and know He is God!

Write down how you feel based on what you read and heard in this space. If nothing, that's okay - just pray and thank Him.

# bible study



## PRESENCE

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We're going to begin today just like the past two - by being still and silent and recognizing that God is with you. He's looking forward to teaching you this morning as a group.

As you are sitting still, taking some deep breaths and just being aware of God's goodness, ask Him specifically to open your heart to the peace He gives you in Jesus, the protection He is to your purity, and to freedom in vulnerability you can experience today.

Today's study could bring the freedom from guilt and the full joy of the presence of God that you've always longed for to fruition in your life.

Today's study is focused on the presence of God is: the Protection of My Purity.

Once your counselor is ready, they will pray out loud to begin Bible Study.



## PROMISE

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To jump right into it today - it's not lost on any of us that our world and especially the young American culture you live in is filled with sexual imagery and desires. Turn on your phone and within a couple of clicks you

can have access to an endless amount of whatever you want - videos, photos, even interactions with people you know or don't know that feed our sexual desires.

Though we may have way easier access now because of technology, sexual sin has been a problem since the beginning. Look all throughout the Old Testament (and the New) and you'll see God's people going into deep sexual sin and then God graciously bringing them out - and the cycle continues for a long time.

God graciously brings us out and gives us new hearts.

What we hope today is not to bring any more weight or burden of guilt on you than you may already feel because of your sexual desires or your past. In fact, we are praying that right now in this very moment that the Holy Spirit would begin to soften your heart to this topic and begin to powerfully lift the weight of guilt off of you. He can and wants to do it!

Bottomline today - God loves you. In our worst moments, our Father comes in, draws near to us, and speaks to us gently and graciously. And He makes us 1) new 2) free and 3) alive!

*As honest as you're comfortable with right now - use a word or short phrase to describe any feelings you have whenever this topic of sexual sin is brought up in conversation in a Christian setting and why. Take as long as you need here.*

We can talk for days on the deep, rampant sexual sin of our culture. But I have the feeling you might be over it. And that's okay. Instead, let's dive in some of the promises God has given us about the freedom from guilt, protection of purity, and the escape-ability we can have in Jesus.

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.**

*What do you see in this verse? What do you think it means for you right now with sexual sin?*

In Christ Jesus, we are new! Yes - if you believe in Jesus for the removal of your sin, then you are a new creation! You have been given a brand new heart and spirit! The Holy Spirit is now alive in you! And “Holy” means righteous, blameless, pure, powerful, blessed, sanctified, divine. That’s you!

*Do you believe that? Do you think and live in this truth? Why or why not?*

**Now let’s read Galatians 5:1.**

*What do you see in this verse? What do you think it means for you right now with sexual sin?*

In Christ Jesus, we are free! Free! Forever you’re free! Jesus has set you free so that you can know and experience freedom! This means that ANYTIME you sin, Jesus has already paid for that and he wants you to know and experience it and to stand firm on that truth.

*In your own words, how would you describe “a yoke of slavery”?*

A “yoke of slavery” is simply a heavy burden you carry around that weights you down, slows you down, eventually breaking your back and making you useless. That’s what the Enemy wants. But no more!



*Has there ever been a time in your life, or recently, that you knew or felt burdened or enslaved to sexual sin in any way?*

*Are you still there? How did you respond? What does it look like for you now?*

Ok, this is important. We need to quickly discuss the difference between conviction and condemnation. Simply, conviction is from God - condemnation is not. Conviction is acknowledging I have wronged God (and probably another person) according to His perfect standard. Condemnation is the sentencing of punishment on yourself because you know you messed up and aren't perfect.

*Why is this important?* **Read Romans 8:1-4.**

*What do you think this is saying for you right now?*

The next time you "feel bad" for doing something wrong - acknowledge that conviction and make a conscious choice to take it to the Father, confess your sin to Him, and receive the promises of freedom He has already given you through Jesus!

Are you feeling free? A little lighter?

**Ok let's keep going. Read Romans 6:1-4.**

(If you have time - read the rest of Romans 6. It is so, so good.)

*What can you take from this passage?*

God loved us so much He came for us and sent His son. Jesus lived a perfect, pure life you aren't capable of - and he died a death on your behalf that you deserve. And get this - he transferred his purity to you! Now YOU have right standing before the Father. Woah. He protected your purity by giving you his pure life!

So, now we are called to live as pure as we can from here - not out of guilt or condemnation or that we owe God. We live pure because Jesus is alive in us. **Read Galatians 2:20.**

In Christ Jesus, we are alive! He is alive in you. He is alive WITH you!

## PRACTICE

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Ok now I want to end today with some really helpful practices from the life of Jesus and the teachings of Paul to the young people he was leading that you can take and implement in your life.

**Recall what you read earlier in 2 Corinthians 5:17.** When you recall sexual sin (or any sin) from your past - or you recognize you are currently sinning, pray to the Father for help and tell yourself "That Me is dead and buried and gone. The new me is standing here! Thank you, Jesus!" (Jesus makes all things new - which means he makes you in any moment, right now brand new.)

**Read Luke 4:1-13.** *Where is Jesus and what is happening to him?*

How does he respond to temptation?

Jesus didn't use magical heavenly superpowers to zap Satan into oblivion. He used something better. He quoted Scripture to him. And Satan was overcome. *What does this look like for you when you're tempted?*

**Read 1 Peter 5:8 and 1 Corinthians 10:13.** These are two helpful verses to remind that 1) you have a real Enemy who wants to ruin your life and 2) God can and does help you overcome.

**Read Psalm 119:9-11, 37, 55, 133.** *What can you take from these verses to help you?*

**Read 1 Corinthians 6:18, 2 Timothy 2:22, and Colossians 3:5.**

*What do these verses have in common? What do you think God is calling us to do here?*

And finally, your counselor will read Psalm 51:10-12 over you.

When he wrote this Psalm, King David had just committed the “worst” sin in his life - committing adultery with Bathsheba, who was someone else's wife; and also murdering her husband. He was guilty. He was burdened. He felt enslaved. And he is crying out to God here.

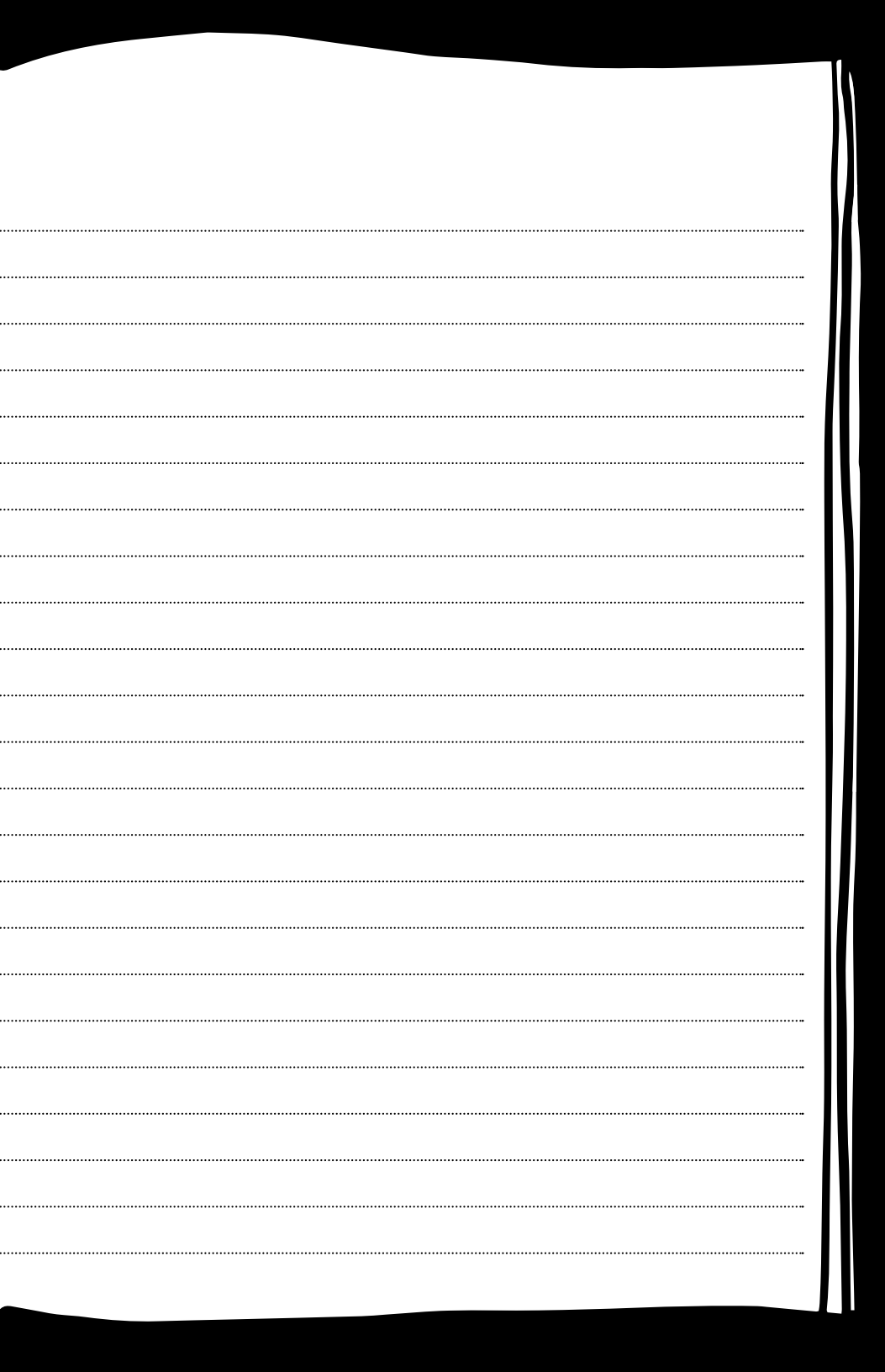
And if you follow the life of David from here, God didn't leave him or take His Spirit from him. In fact, God drew near to him. David was graciously disciplined by the Father, but he fell even more in love with God and continued to draw near to God's presence until the end of his life.

And from David's lineage would come the ultimate promise of God's presence and protection for our purity - Jesus.

*Pray and thank God for drawing near to you and exchanging our purity for Jesus' purity.*

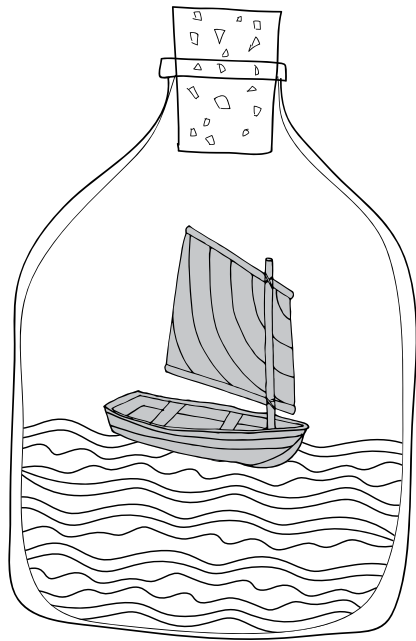


journal



**DAY 4 :** *THE PRESENCE OF GOD IS*

the peace in  
my anxiety







**MEMORY VERSE**

*PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7*

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*“DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT  
ANYTHING, BUT IN EVERYTHING BY  
PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION WITH  
THANKSGIVING LET YOUR REQUESTS  
BE MADE KNOWN TO GOD. AND THE  
PEACE OF GOD, WHICH SURPASSES  
ALL UNDERSTANDING, WILL GUARD  
YOUR HEARTS AND YOUR MINDS IN  
CHRIST JESUS.”*

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# Quiet time

*Good morning! It's time for another session of Lectio Divina - reading God's Word in God's presence!*

*Today is a big day. I really believe it.*

*Before you start reading the passages below, take a minute to take some deep breaths and recognize that God is with you and wants to speak to you through His Word by the Holy Spirit.*

## 1. READING

Now read Philippians 4:6-7 one to three times slowly. If you want to stay on these two verses this whole time, go for it.

Read these passages a couple times slowly. If any of them really stand out to you, stay on them for the next movement: Isaiah 41:10, Matthew 6:25, 1 Peter 5:6-7

## 2. REFLECTING

Read the passage again slowly. What stands out to you? Circle or underline those words, phrases, etc. and write them below.

## 3. RESPONDING

Ask God why those words, phrases, etc. are standing out to you. There is a reason, just ask Him.

Write down what you are thinking, sensing, hearing - and how He wants you respond/change/act on it in the Journal pages.

## 4. RESTING

Recall what you just heard, felt, sensed, and wrote down above - and simply rest in the truth that Jesus is speaking in this passage. Let it sink deep into your heart and mind. (Too often we move on to try and force application of the Bible. God simply wants us to rest in Him right now before we act on anything.) Be still and know He is God!

Write down how you feel based on what you read and heard in this space. If nothing, that's okay - just pray and thank Him.

# bible study



## PRESENCE

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I don't know about you, but there are often mornings where I wake up and immediately feel anxiety. Maybe that's what's going on in your heart in some way already today.

So, let's start this morning by closing our eyes, stilling our hearts, and asking God to speak to the depths of our souls by the power of His Spirit through the Word. Let's take a minute to draw near to Him in our minds and spirits.

As a group, recognize that God is with you and He is excited to teach you this morning. Once your counselor is ready, they will pray out loud to begin Bible Study.

Remember, the presence of God is all that we need, in any moment. Just being with God is enough for us! It's our prayer that in today's study the Holy Spirit will change your life and genuinely heal you of anxiety forever, in the name of Jesus! I hope it gives you deep, living truth to hide in your heart and great practical help for your everyday life in walking with God through anxiety.

The presence of God is: the Peace in My Anxiety.

*Let's just go for it together right at the start. Do you experience anxiety in any way?*

*How does it manifest itself in your mind and body? (For example, I'll start to worry or try to control something and I get a tightness in my chest and have to start taking deep breaths to feel any sense of temporary ease.)*

*How do you typically try to deal with it?*

## **PROMISES**

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My wife is amazing - for millions of reasons. One thing that I love is that she's a great mom. Another thing is that she didn't mess around when it comes to getting our kids to sleep when they were babies. She had our son sleeping through the night in a matter of weeks.

But for reasons we still don't know, around 18-20 months old he started to wake up in the middle of the night screaming at the top of his lungs. And he wouldn't stop.

Well I can sleep like a corpse, so my wife would typically be the one to get up and try to get him to go back to sleep. And he would thrash and scream in her arms and most of the time he would never calm down.

So, only by the grace of God, I started to be the one to wake up and go into his room. I'd pick him up, sit on the rocking chair, and start rubbing his back - and he would immediately and completely relax on my chest.

In his pitch black room, nothing has changed - except the one who was with him. He's totally still and at complete peace resting on the heart of his dad.

I've learned a lot about my heavenly Father while sitting in the dark, rocking back and forth, taking care of my son in his most anxious, fearful moments - just being there with him.

Anxiety is a feeling of fear, worry, nervousness, or unease - typically about an event or something with an uncertain outcome. And to some level, all of us experience it.

It can be an indicator for us - a light on the dashboard of our heart, helping us to recognize that our faith in that moment or season is in something other than God and our mind is fixed somewhere other than His presence.

*What in your life do you get most anxious about?*

*Why do you think you get anxious?*

What I want to do right now is look at several promises God gives us when it comes to anxiety and fear. Bottomline - God is always with you, especially in the midst of your anxiety. His presence never leaves us.

**Go around the circle and everyone take 1-2 verses to find and read out loud.** (If this takes a little bit to go through, no problem. In fact, that's the point!)

Deuteronomy 31:6

Joshua 1:9

Isaiah 41:10

Psalms 34:4

Psalms 56:3

Psalms 94:19

Matthew 6:25

John 14:27

Romans 8:38-39

Philippians 4:6-7

2 Timothy 1:7

1 Peter 5:7

1 John 4:18

(There's a lot more but we'll stop there for now.)

*What stood out to you in those verses? Why?*

**Turn to Mark 6:45-52.**

This is a story right in the middle of Jesus' ministry to the region of Galilee. Specifically in this passage, Jesus has just fed the 5,000 and he sends his disciples to the other side of the Sea of Galilee while he goes up to a mountain to pray and be with the Father.

**Read Mark 45-62.**

When I read this story, the quickest lesson I see is that of a story about Jesus' rescue of his disciples who are distressed and scared but not in danger. However, if we examine more, this is a powerful moment where Jesus is revealing who He is to his own followers.

Mark notes that all the disciples saw Jesus as he was "passing by", and they all thought He was a ghost. Jesus seeing their fear, told them to "take courage" and stop fearing.

*Why do you think they were so afraid?*

My take: more than just being scared in a storm, there's a bigger question at play here: WHO WALKS ON WATER?!?

**Read Mark 4:35-41.**

The moment we read earlier in Mark 6 provides the answer for the question the disciples ask here in Mark 4.

Let's practice. I do not believe it is possible to truly draw near to Him and to stay anxious. So, let's draw near to Him right now.

Your counselor can lead this next few minutes:

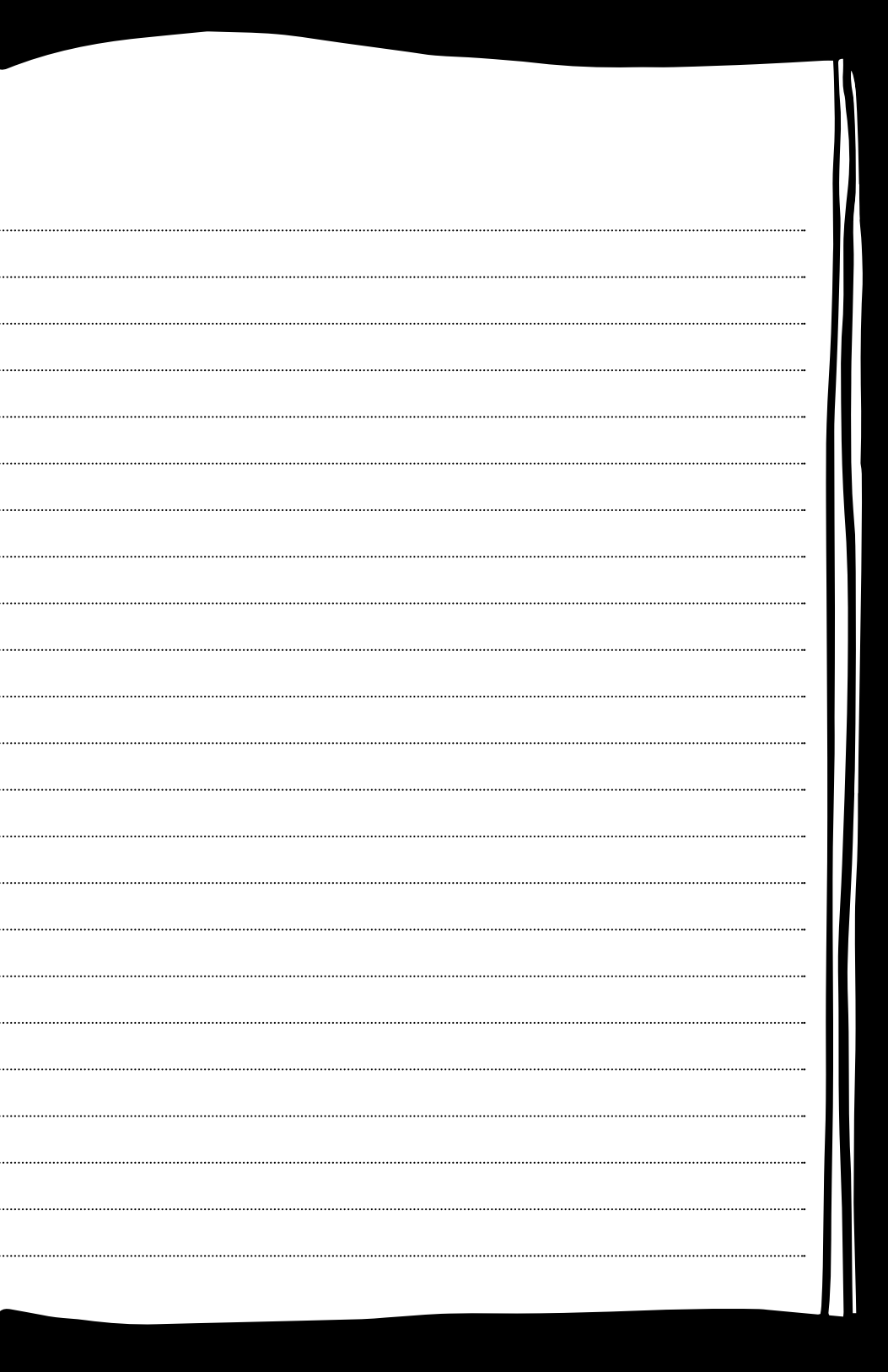
- *Take a moment to close your eyes, take a few slow breaths, and imagine putting your head on the chest of God. You are breathing together. He is taking care of you, calming you down, speaking words of life over you.*
- *Recall some of the verses we read together earlier. Let the Holy Spirit remind you of the truth you need to know and believe.*
- *Picture whatever you are anxious or fearful about here at camp or especially back at home. Picture it being in your hands and you are giving it to God, your loving Father. He takes it from you, smiles at you, and He tells you He has better things for you.*
- *Receive those things from Him, reminding yourself of the Scripture that has really stood out to you today.*

This is drawing near. This is practicing His presence. And you can do this anytime, anywhere when you're experiencing fear or anxiety!

He is your peace.

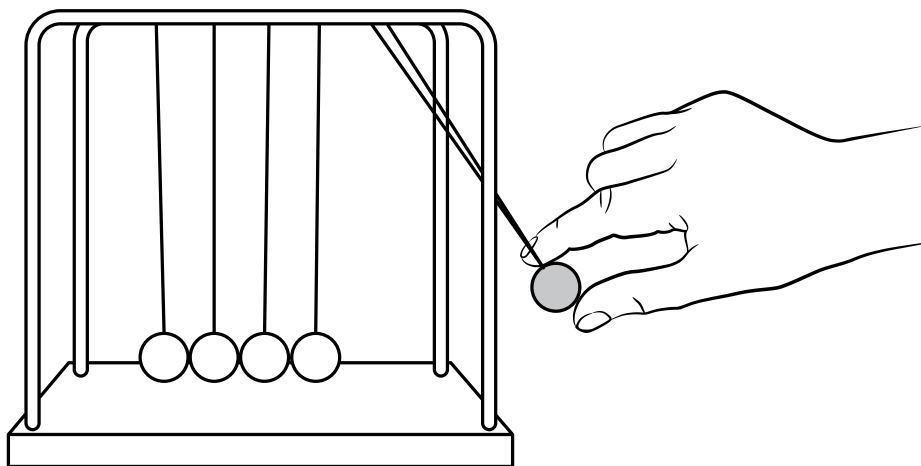
# journal





**DAY 5:** *THE PRESENCE OF GOD IS*

the next step  
of my path





**MEMORY VERSE**

*EXODUS 33:14-15*

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*<sup>14</sup>“AND HE SAID, “MY PRESENCE  
WILL GO WITH YOU, AND I WILL  
GIVE YOU REST.” <sup>15</sup>AND HE SAID TO  
HIM, “IF YOUR PRESENCE WILL NOT  
GO WITH ME, DO NOT BRING US UP  
FROM HERE.”*

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# Quiet time

*This is our last morning together to slow down before the day gets going and to listen to what the Lord has to tell us today.*

*Before you start reading the passages below, take a minute to take some deep breaths and recognize that God is with you and wants to speak to you through His Word by the Holy Spirit.*

## 1. READING

Now read Exodus 33:7-18 a few times slowly. (Some helpful context before you read: There is about to be a major shift in the life of the Israelites in all areas of the individuals, families, and the community.)

## 2. REFLECTING

Read the passage again slowly. What stands out to you? Circle or underline those words, phrases, etc. and write them below.

## 3. RESPONDING

Ask God why those words, phrases, etc. are standing out to you. There is a reason, just ask Him.

Write down what you are thinking, sensing, hearing - and how He wants you respond/change/act on it in the Journal pages.

## 4. RESTING

Recall what you just heard, felt, sensed, and wrote down above - and simply rest in the truth that Jesus is speaking in this passage. Let it sink deep into your heart and mind. (Too often we move on to try and force application of the Bible. God simply wants us to rest in Him right now before we act on anything.) Be still and know He is God!

Write down how you feel based on what you read and heard in this space. If nothing, that's okay - just pray and thank Him.

# bible study



## PRESENCE

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Once again we're starting today (and finishing the week of Bible Studies) by closing our eyes, breathing deep, stilling our hearts, and asking God to speak to the depths of our souls by the power of His Spirit through the Word. Let's take a minute to draw near to Him.

As a group, recognize that God is with you and He is excited to teach you this morning. Once your counselor is ready, they will pray out loud to begin Bible Study.

Remember, the presence of God is all that we need, in any moment - and forever! Being with our Father is everything for us, all the time.

And what we'll see today is that the presence of God is: the Next Step to My Path.

*What do you think this means?*

*What does your decision making process typically look like?*

*What kind of outlook do you have on your future? What about when you leave camp and go home?*

## PROMISES

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I'm not super old but I do know what it's like to transition from one stage or season of life to another. I think one of, if not the first, major transitions we will face in our lives is graduating high school and going to college (if college is for you). Most likely you've thought about it or are actively pursuing applications and campus visits. It's a big decision in your life!

I've done it myself - and more. I graduated college in Tennessee and started a career here in Texas. I went from being single to dating to engaged to married. We were newly married and then had a baby (and then two more). We transitioned from apartment life to buying a house (then moved to another house). Life is full of transitions and moves and different phases or seasons - no matter what they look like for you.

You're about to read and discuss a major transition in the life of God's people, the Israelites - like millions of people. And it all hinges on what one man will say in response to God speaking to him.

### **Read Exodus 33:1-23.**

*Talk about all of the different ways you can think of that God's people are about to transition.*

Here are a few I found:

**Geographically** - They are moving from one location to another location.

**Economically** - They're going from God's provision being supernatural (manna falling from Heaven each morning) and shifting to an agrarian society (plowing, planting, farming), working with God to bring sustenance over time. They're going to have to learn new rhythms of life.

**Politically** - Moses was the perfect guy to lead them through the wilderness. He's a mystic, a loner, likes climbing mountains and meeting with God privately. And now they're walking toward driving out enemy nations and they need a God-follower, a strong militant personality to lead them into that.

**Culturally** - For a generation, they've been nomads wandering in the wilderness and now becoming dwellers with homes in a land.

**Spiritually** - God has provided them a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire - God making it as easy as possible to find and follow him. Now they're going to have to discern the voice of God, listening to prophets and looking for signs.

We've been praying that this has been a life-changing week in all areas of your life. And it's important for you to realize that you're leaving camp soon. I mean, the point of this place is to get out of your daily routines and context, have the time of your life, meet with and hear from God, and then eventually leave to go tell everyone you can about Jesus with your words and how you live your life.

I do believe this place is a little glimpse of Heaven on earth. But the point of this place is to Go!

You're about to transition from (hopefully) a life-changing week back to your everyday life at home.

*What do you want to be different in your life when you leave camp and go home? How do you want to feel?*

*What specific changes do you want to make? Be specific.*

In times of transition, the choices we make are disproportionately important. Because they set the tone and rhythms, the DNA, of the next season of your life. The first few days back to your everyday life will really matter.

In these seasons of transition, a lot of times God will draw close to you to test your heart to make sure your priorities are correctly set, because He loves you and wants to make a success out of your next “season”.

*How will you make sure your priorities are correctly set?*

So, in Exodus 33, God is doing this very thing with His people. He is making sure their focus and their priorities are set correctly.

**Look at verses 1-2.** *What do you see God doing here?*

But in verse 3 He says “I’m not going.” He essentially throws them the keys, gives a thumbs up, and wishes them luck. *Why do you think He says this to them?*



Yeah, because in verse 4 God goes straight to the heart of the matter - their hearts! *If you had to take a good guess, what does it mean to be a “stiff necked people”?*

As it is figuratively used, both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, the word means “stubborn, “not to be led.” This idea was entirely familiar to the Israelites, with whom the ox was the most useful and common of domestic animals.

The plow was usually drawn by two oxen. As the plowman required but one hand to guide the plow, he carried in the other an “ox-goad.” This was a light pole, shod with an iron spike. With this he would lightly poke the oxen on the hind legs to increase their speed, and on the neck to turn, or to keep a straight course when deviating. If an ox was hard to control and stubborn and would not be led, it was stiff-necked.

*So, what posture of heart will you go into this next week / this next school year / the rest of your life with? Are you willing to be led into the next season of your life by God, who already holds it all in His hands? Or another year of just doing it all yourself?*

God also tells them to “throw off their jewelry.” *Why do you think He tells them this?*

Essentially, the people had chipped off ornaments from previous idols and were wearing them to display their earthly wealth. And God is telling them “My children, I won’t do anything with you until you turn from your old way of life. I want to show you a better way.”

**Turn to and read Matthew 4:17.** Talk about what is happening here - who is speaking, who is being spoken to, why, etc.

The essential message of Jesus is repentance. "Turn from your old ways. I'm offering a new way of life for eternity and on earth. Just turn to and follow me."

*So, back to Exodus. Do you think God wanted to go with the people into the Promised Land? Why or why not?*

I really believe that He did! But He wanted to uncover and heal their hearts, cleanse them of self-sufficiency, and call them to repent of idol worship.

Your flesh, the world, the Enemy all want you to go back to your old way of life. God is calling you to step into something new - today!

So here we are, to the point of today's study; and the point of this whole week - verses 7-11.

Moses is prioritizing the presence of God.

He makes a tent, a special place for prayer, worship, and meeting face-to-face with God.

*What will this look like for you next week / this next school year / the rest of your life?*

*Will you make the time and make a place to prioritize His presence every day, in every moment?*

The presence of God is all we need. And beginning in verse 12, Moses begins to pray on behalf of the people and he essentially says “No deal.”

I mean, think about this. Moses has led a miserable, whining, entitled people for a loooooong time - waiting for this new land every day. And he says “Nope, I’m NOT going. God, if you’re not gonna be there with us, I don’t want it. I will do this all over again - another 40 years; forever if I have to! I just want to be with You. This is who I am. This is who we are: Your people! And if You are not with us, then we are nothing. If I don’t have You, I don’t have favor. I don’t have anything!”

*Why do you think Moses says this?*

*Have you come to that place yet?*

In verse 14, God looks at Moses (I picture Him smiling, a warm love in His heart) as He says: “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

The Israelites have been wandering and working for decades. They were physically, mentally, emotionally, spiritually so worn down that even miracle manna bread from Heaven didn’t do it for them anymore. And God tells them “My presence will give you...REST.”

The only place that real rest is found is in the presence of God - abiding and remaining in the life and easy yoke of Jesus.

You can try any method or acquire anything, ANYTHING, to give you rest. And nothing will suffice besides the presence of God. True soul-rest and the peace your heart longs for today, next week, forever - is not sleep. It’s not

found in social media or social status. Not in a relationship or a scholarship. Freedom is not found in graduating from high school and finally being on your own. It's not in any amount of money. Purpose is not found in a worldly passion or how good you are at a sport or school or any other extracurricular activity. I could go on and on. Nothing you need is found in anything of this world or anything in your flesh.

It is found in the presence of God.

He is real. He is good. He is for you.

Prioritize and practice His presence today - and forever.

He is with you.

## ➔ PRACTICES

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Today, do you want / need a new way of life? Jesus is offering one.

Are you tired of crafting a Christian appearance and keepin it all together for the sake of approval or an image?

Are you weary from doing life on your own?

Are you ready to take a step back and examine your life and all the things you've tried to find deep soul fulfillment in or even surface-level fun in - to only discover none of it actually satisfies?

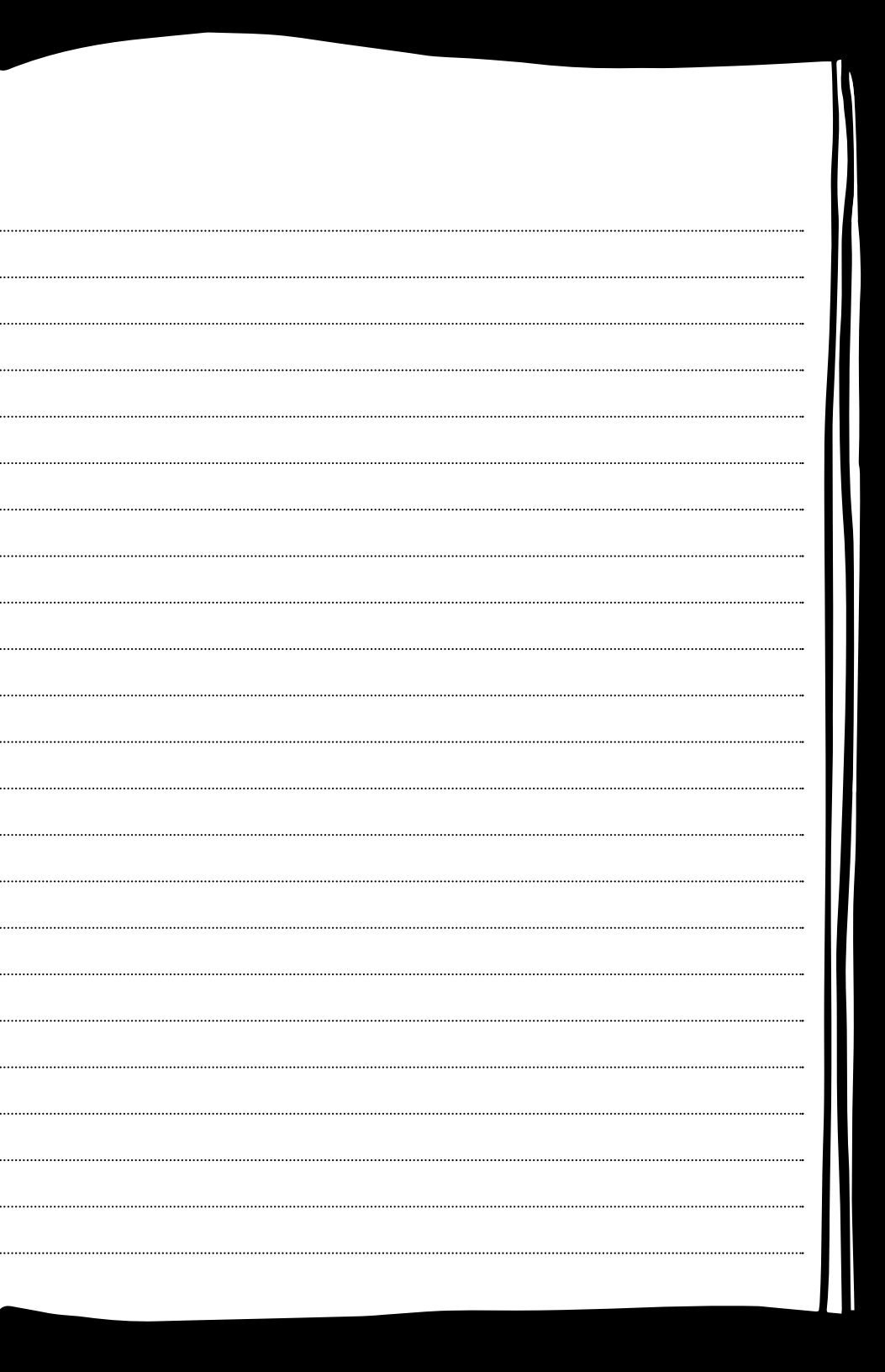
**Take a few minutes to write down how God feels about you, how He views you.**

**Take a few minutes to write down how You feel about Him.**

**Write down what changes you know you can make when you get home to prioritize and practice His presence. *How do you want to draw near to Him?***



journal





# appendix

## Appendix A | Great Scripture on Drawing Near & The Presence of God

### **Genesis 3:8**

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

### **Genesis 28:15**

Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

### **Exodus 25:8**

And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst.

### **Exodus 33:14**

And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

### **Joshua 1:9**

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

**Psalm 15:1-5**

A Psalm of David. O Lord, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill? He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart; who does not slander with his tongue and does no evil to his neighbor, nor takes up a reproach against his friend; in whose eyes a vile person is despised, but who honors those who fear the Lord; who swears to his own hurt and does not change; who does not put out his money at interest and does not take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

**Psalm 16:11**

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**Psalm 23:1-6**

A Psalm of David. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ..

**Psalm 27:4**

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

**Psalm 31:19-20**

Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind! In the cover of your presence you hide them from the plots of men; you store them in your shelter from the strife of tongues

**Psalm 41:12**

But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever.

**Psalm 51:10-11**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**Psalm 65:4**

Blessed is the one you choose and bring near, to dwell in your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, the holiness of your temple!

**Psalm 73:28**

But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge that I may tell of all your works.

**Psalm 91:1-16**

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, ...

**Psalm 100:2**

Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

**Psalm 139:7**

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?

**Psalm 140:13**

Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name; the upright shall dwell in your presence.

**Psalm 145:18**

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

**Isaiah 55:1-3**

"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy! Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

**Isaiah 55:6-7**

"Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

**Jeremiah 23:23-24**

"Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord.

**Zechariah 1:3**

Therefore say to them, Thus declares the Lord of hosts: Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.

**Matthew 22:36-40**

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

**Matthew 28:20**

Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**John 1:14**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**John 4:23**

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

**John 6:44**

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

**John 12:32**

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

**John 17:3**

And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

**Hebrews 4:16**

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Hebrews 7:19**

(for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

**Hebrews 7:25**

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

**Hebrews 9:24**

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

**Hebrews 10:1**

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near.

**Hebrews 10:19**

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,

**Hebrews 10:22**

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

**Hebrews 11:6**

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

**Hebrews 13:5**

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

**Acts 3:20-21**

That times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

**1 John 1:9**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**1 John 4:16**

So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

**1 John 4:12**

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

**Revelation 3:20**

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

## **Appendix B | Shores Social Media**

**Instagram / TikTok / Twitter:** @pinecoveshores

**Facebook:** /pinecoveshores

**Spotify:** pinecove\_shores

Please DM us on Instagram if you ever need prayer, spiritual help, or questions about camp!

