

Christians do not have to serve in God's kingdom alone. The risen Christ is with His church until the end of the age.

Object Lesson: Hold a backpack or bucket and put something heavy in it. Then have someone help carry it together with you. Is it easier when you are not doing it alone?

Going Deeper:

How does Christ's promise to be with His people give courage for obeying Him?

Day #5 – God's Presence Is Our Greatest Joy

Scripture - Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. (ESV)

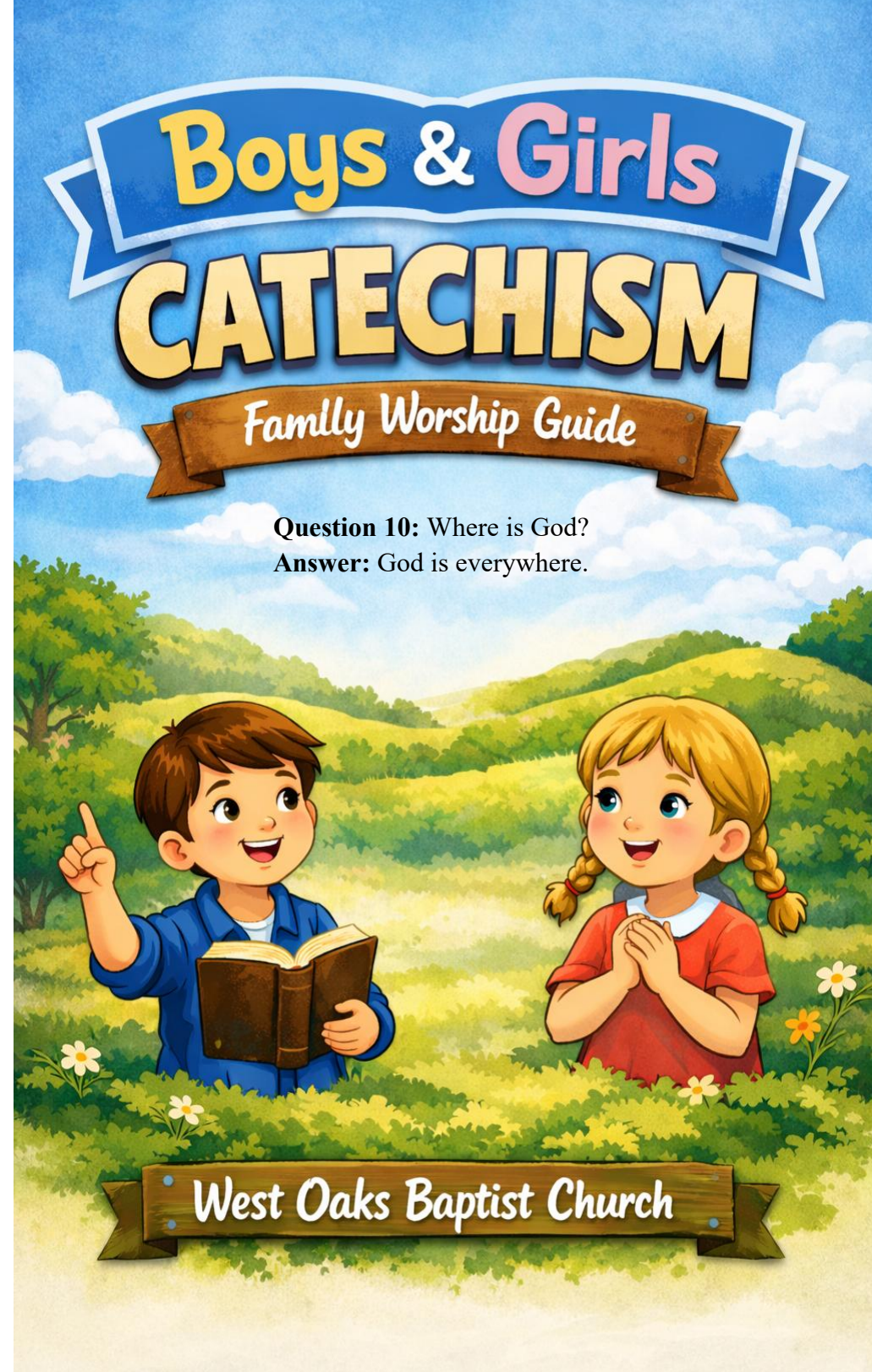
The Bible begins with God dwelling with His people in the garden. Sin broke that fellowship, and Adam and Eve were sent out away from God's perfect garden and presence. The rest of the Bible shows God bringing His people back to Himself. The tabernacle, temple, sacrifices, prophets, and promises that all point forward to Jesus Christ. Jesus is called Immanuel, meaning "God with us." Through His death and resurrection, sinners can be forgiven and brought near to God. One day, God's people will enjoy His presence perfectly. Revelation says, "The dwelling place of God is with man." There will be no more sin, death, crying, or pain. So when we say, "God is everywhere," we are not only learning a fact about God, we are learning a truth that should lead us to worship Him. God is not absent from His world. He is ruling, seeing, sustaining, and saving. For those who belong to Christ, God's presence is not bad news. It is our greatest joy. The best part of heaven is not golden streets or reunion with loved ones. The best part is God Himself.

Object Lesson:

Point to your kitchen table. Explain that a table is not special mainly because of the wood, plates, or food. A table is special because people gather there together. In the same way, heaven is not mainly wonderful because of golden streets or beautiful things. Heaven is wonderful because God gathers His people to Himself. His presence is our greatest joy.

Going Deeper:

Why is being with God better than any gift God could give us?



Day #1 – God Is Everywhere

Scripture – Psalm 139:7-10 Psalm 139:7–10 [7] Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? [8] If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! [9] If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, [10] even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. (ESV)

Sometimes when something important is happening there will be a news flash telling everybody. The news flash for this week is that God is not like us. We can only be in one place at one time. If you are in the kitchen that means you are not in your bedroom. If you are at church, you are not at home. But God is different. God is everywhere. This does not mean God is spread out like a fog or broken into little pieces. It means the whole God is present everywhere at once. David asks, “Where shall I go from your Spirit?” The answer is: nowhere. There is no mountain too high, no sea too deep, and no room too dark for God. For those that belong to God, this is a great comfort! It means you are never forgotten, never hidden from God’s care, and never outside His reach. But this truth is also serious. Since God is everywhere, we cannot hide sin from Him. He sees our every action, hears every word, thoughts, and knows our hearts. The good news is that the God who sees us completely also sent Christ to save sinners completely. Aren’t you glad. Praise God for creating you and taking care of you.

Object Lesson: Imagine yourself or actually walk into different rooms of the house and ask, “Is God here?” Answer each time: “Yes. God is everywhere.”

Going Deeper:

How should knowing that God is always present change the way you act when no one else is watching?

Day #2 – God is near when we pray

Scripture – Jeremiah 23:23–24 23 “Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? 24 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.

Sometimes people think of God as far away, as if He is watching from a great distance. The Bible teaches us that God is both high above us and near to us. He rules heaven and earth but He also hears the prayers of His people on Earth. God asks, “Am I a God at hand (meaning close)...and not a God far away?” He is not trapped in some temple somewhere, or in a church building but Scripture says He fills heaven and earth. That means you do not have to travel somewhere special for God to hear you. You can pray beside your bed, in the car, during school, outside, or even when you are afraid in the middle of the night. Isn’t this a wonderful comfort. God’s nearness does not depend on how strong you feel but is based on who He is as an unchanging God. Because Jesus died and rose again, believers can come to God with confidence. We do not pray because God is hard to reach or get hold of, but because He is near and merciful to us.

Object Lesson:

Pretend to use a cell phone but you can’t find a signal, walk around until you find a pretend signal and talk. How do people talk to God from anywhere? (through prayer)

Going Deeper:

Do you usually think of God as near or far away? What is that based on?

Day #3 – God Sees What Is Hidden

Scripture – Hebrews 4:13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (ESV)

Because God is everywhere, nothing is hidden from Him. We may hide things from parents, friends, teachers, or other church members, but we cannot hide anything from God. He sees not only what we do, but why we do it. That means he sees our secret sins, knows every private fear we have, but also sees every quiet act of kindness. That may sound scary, and in one sense it should be because God is holy. We should not treat our sin lightly. We should not pretend that our secret sin is safe just because no other person sees it. God sees everything. For believers, this truth is not scary but comforting. God sees your tears when no one else notices. He sees when you try to obey and no one thanks you. He sees the burdens you carry quietly and the best news of all, God sees us in Christ. Jesus, meaning He see believers as righteous not condemned sinners. He knows our every weakness, died for our sin, and invites us to come to Him for mercy. God’s presence exposes us, but it also comforts us. We are really and truly fully known and truly loved.

Object Lesson:

Close your eyes and describe what you see? What does God always see?

Going Deeper:

Why is it both frightening and comforting that God sees everything?

Day #4 – God Is With His People

Scripture –Matthew 28:20 ...And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (ESV)

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He gave His disciples a mission: make disciples of all nations. That was a huge command. How could ordinary people obey it? Jesus gave them a promise: “I am with you always.” God is everywhere, but He is also with His people in a special covenant way. He is present to help, strengthen, guide, correct, and comfort them every day. When Christians obey God, they do not have to go alone. When they speak the truth, serve others, resist temptation, or suffer for Christ, He is with them. This does not mean life will always feel easy. Sometimes God’s people feel afraid or weak or are just not sure what to do but God’s promise is stronger than our feelings or health. Jesus does not say, “I might be with you.” He says He is always with His people.