

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4 Year Olds

Sunday Morning

Study 14

N is for Near

N is for Near

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word

Objective To teach the students that God is omnipresent (all places at all times) and that He promises specifically to always be with us.

Key Verses

John 1:43-50

Psalms 139:7-10

Jonah 1

Jeremiah 22:23-24

Joshua 1

Memory Verse Psalm 145:18 (April Memory Verse)

The Lord is near to all who call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him in truth.

Hook

Place the magnet supplied on the cart under a piece of paper. Place a paper clip on the other side of the paper and hold the paper up so that the paper clip is showing toward the students. Now move the paperclip around the piece of paper from behind. Give the students an opportunity to move the paperclip around the paper.

Tell the students that even though the magnet was hidden it still had the power to move the paper clip. Even though we couldn't see it, it was there, and it was powerful.

In the same way, even though we can't see God, He is there, and He is powerful.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK In John chapter 1 we are introduced to Jesus with a very strange story. Jesus is calling His disciples and one of them, Philip, after deciding to follow Christ, goes and finds Nathanael under a fig tree. Philip tells Nathanael that they have found the Messiah, the one they have been waiting for and Nathanael goes off to meet Jesus. Nathanael is shocked that Jesus knows some details about his life and when he asks about this Jesus responds, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Jesus was not physically with Nathanael and Philip under the tree, but yet he still "saw" them.

In Psalm 139 David declares in verses 7-10 that there is not a single place in the world, or even outside of the world, that he can go to run away from God. God is everywhere from the tops of the mountains to depths of the oceans. He is in the USA and He is in Australia. God is everywhere.

Do you remember the story of Jonah. Jonah decided that he did not want to do what God had asked him to do, so he ran away, to the farthest away place he could think of, but he couldn't outrun God. God was with Jonah in the middle of the ocean, in the belly of a whale, and also while he was preaching in Nineveh.

Jeremiah 22:23-24 says, "Am I a God near at hand," says the Lord, "And not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the Lord; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" The Bible is very clear, God is in all places at all times.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK Sometimes it feels like we are all alone. This can sometimes be a really good thing, and at other times can make us lonely. The Bible verses that we read show us something really wonderful. God is everywhere, and that means that even if we feel like there is no one else around, God is. God is with you when you are alone in your room. God is with you on the playground. God is with you on your first day off school, and He is with you on the bus ride home. God is everywhere. But there is more to it than that. God isn't just everywhere in the same way that air is everywhere, God is everywhere deliberately. God is with you in all of those places because He wants to be with you. In Joshua chapter 1 God tells Joshua, "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for I am with you wherever you go." God looked down at Joshua and told him that no matter where he went, no matter how far he walked, God would be walking right beside him the whole way. Because God was with Joshua all the time, wherever he went, it helped Joshua in a few really amazing ways. First it helped Joshua to not be afraid. Joshua was

LOOK (Continued)

going to be doing some pretty dangerous things, but because God was always with him, he was able to overcome his fear and lead God's people to victory. It also helped Joshua to do the right thing. Joshua knew that God was always with him, and saw everything that Joshua did, so when God asked Joshua to do things for him, or sometimes to not do things, Joshua always did what he was asked to do. He knew that he couldn't lie to God, because God was always with him.

This is true for you and I as well. Knowing that God is always with us should give us an incredible encouragement. Because He is always with us we never have to be afraid, and knowing that He is always with us should help us to do all the things He asks us to do. Lastly, because God is always with us, it means we can always talk to Him about anything that is going on in our lives. We never have to be embarrassed with God, or scared about what we want to talk about, because He already knows, and he just wants to comfort us and help us through it.

There is a wonderful promise that God gives to us in Hebrews 13:5, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you." Isn't that a wonderful thought! God is with you because He loves you and wants to spend time with you, and He promises that no matter what we do He will always be with us, He will never walk away from us. There is a beautiful song that we sing at church called "One Thing Remains." My favorite line in the song says, "Your love never fails, it never gives up, it never runs out on me!"

TOOK

Ask the class:

"Is there anywhere you can go and God will not be there?"

"Is there anything you can do to make God run away from you?"

Pray: Thank the Lord that He is always with us. Ask Him to help us to live for Him in a way that always honors Him. Praise Him for His nearness to us.

Parent Question: Was there ever a time that you were all alone, but you knew that God was with you?

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life.

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on John 1:43-49 by David Guzik

Jesus calls Philip to follow Him.

The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

a. **He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me"**: If we only had John's Gospel we might think that this was the first time Jesus had met these men from Galilee. The other gospel accounts inform us that Jesus had met many of them before; yet this was His formal invitation to Philip.

b. **Follow Me**: There was nothing dramatic recorded about the call of Philip. Jesus simply said to him, "**Follow Me**," and Philip did.

i. "The verb 'Follow' will be used here in its full sense of 'follow as a disciple'. The present tense has continuous force, 'keep on following'." (Morris)

ii. "Bethsaida means 'house of the fisherman' or 'Fishertown'. It lay a short distance east of the point where the Jordan enters the Lake of Galilee." (Bruce)

4. (45-51) Nathaniel overcomes prejudice to follow Jesus.

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote; Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

a. **Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets wrote**: This was Philip's testimony as a witness of Jesus Christ. He declared that He as the Messiah and the Savior predicted in the Old Testament.

i. "Nathanael is today generally understood to be the same person as Bartholomew, one of the Twelve; Nathanael being the personal name, Bartholomew (son of Tolmai) the

patronymie." (Trench)

b. **Can anything good come out of Nazareth?** Nathanael responded to Philip's announcement with prejudice. Hearing that Jesus came from **Nazareth**, Nathanael thought he had no more reason to think that He might be the Messiah or anyone important.

c. **Come and see:** Instead of arguing against Nathanael's prejudice, Phillip simply invited him to meet Jesus for himself.

d. **Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!** Jesus gave him a wonderful compliment. The sense is that there was nothing tricky or deceptive in Nathanael. He didn't have a mask.

i. **Deceit:** "This last word is used in early Greek writers as a 'bait' (for catching fish). Hence it comes to signify '*any cunning contrivance for deceiving or catching*...It thus has the notion of 'deceit' or 'craft'. It is used in the Bible of Jacob before his change of heart (Genesis 27:35, which is the point of Temple's translation, 'an Israelite in whom there is no Jacob!'" (Morris)

ii. "He is a proper *Israelite*, a type of the man pronounced 'blessed' by the Psalmist, the man 'in whose spirit is no guile' (Psalm 32:2)." (Tasker)

e. **Under the fig tree, I saw you:** It is possible Nathanael liked to pray and meditate upon God and His Word under the shade of an actual fig tree. Yet, **under the fig tree** was a phrase Rab-bis used to describe meditation on the Scriptures. We can suppose that Nathanael spent time in prayer and in meditating on the Scriptures, and Jesus told him "**I saw you**" there.

i. "It is said of Rabbi Hasa in the tract Bereshith that he and his disciples were in the habit of studying under a fig tree." (Trench)

ii. "Perhaps it was a place where Nathanael had recently sat in meditation and received some spiritual impression. It is impossible to be sure. Certainly the shady foliage of the fig tree made it a suitable tree to sit under in the heat of the day." (Bruce)

f. **You are the Son of God, the King of Israel:** This was the testimony of Nathanael regarding Jesus. **Son of God** described the unique relationship of Jesus to God the Father, and **King of Israel** described His status as Messiah and **King**.

i. **The Son of God:** "Here, as there, the article is important. It indicates that the expression is to be understood as bearing a full, not a minimal content...Here was someone who could not be described in ordinary human terms." (Morris)

g. **You shall see greater things than these:** Nathanael was amazed by what he already saw in Jesus, but Jesus told him that there was much, much more to see - **greater things than these**.