

God is Present

What is God like?

We have been talking about the **ATTRIBUTES OF GOD**. **How many can you remember?** --- Tell the person next to you.

What is God like?

God has many amazing attributes.

God is...

• **Creator** • **Truth** • **Eternal** • **Self-existent** • **Gracious** He is **the Great I AM** • **Wise** • **Righteous** • **Sovereign** • **Holy** • **Good**,
... • **Omnipotent**

Today, we add a new one: **God is Present**

Do you ever get **SCARED**? Maybe you fear for your safety. Maybe something scared you at school or on TV.

Maybe you're scared that someone will hurt you.

Or scared that you'll lose something... or that you'll lose someone you love. Maybe you're afraid that someone will leave you.

When I feel that way, sometimes I do this little activity with my fingers. I hold up 5 fingers and I say: **"Jesus will never leave me."** Those words are from...

Hebrews 13:5

He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Hold Up 5 Fingers and let's do that together: "Jesus will never leave me."

Deuteronomy 31:6

⁶ Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

He won't leave... **Our God is Present.**

He is here with us. He goes wherever we go. And, watches over us no matter where we are.

God is Present.

You can be **strong and courageous** because God is with you. He is protecting you.

He says: **Do not be afraid.**

You **don't** have to fear anything. **Because** your God is the one who made everything.

He is **OMNIPOTENT**. He is powerful. He has the strength to take care of you.

Not just sometimes, but all the time.

Wherever you go, **He goes with you**.

Where are some places that you go? – Share 3 places that you go with the person next to you.

Whether you go to school, to church, to a restaurant, on a long trip in the car, or a trip in an airplane... Wherever you go, He goes with you. You are never alone.

When I taught **4TH GRADE** at a school called Cali in Windsor, one day I saw a **kid looking sad**. I said, “**What’s wrong?**” He responded, “**I miss my friend.**”

I asked, “**Who is your friend?**” He said, “My friend’s name is **ISAAC.**” I said, “Would you like to talk to Isaac?” He said yes, so I called Isaac on my cell phone and let him talk to his friend.

Isaac had left that school and started home schooling. And this little boy really missed his buddy.

You ever have someone leave you? Maybe a friend or a relative. They say goodbye. Or, they just **don’t want to spend time** with you anymore. Maybe they move away, and now you don’t even see them.

People leave you sometimes.

But the Bible says that **God... will never leave you**.

He’ll **never** say goodbye. He’ll **always** be **around**...to listen to you, to love you, to teach you, and to help you.

He is your loving Heavenly Father. God is Present. He is always present, and He’s always working for your good.

Have you ever had a **friend** who stopped being your friend? Now they don’t like you anymore. They’re not nice to you anymore. They don’t want to play with you anymore.

But **God will never forsake you**.

To forsake means to abandon or to leave.

On the cross, Jesus said...

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

WHY have you abandoned me? Why have you left me to die?

Why would Father God do that to His Son?

Isaiah 53:10

It was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer...

Why would **Father God** crush his own son? Why would he cause Jesus to suffer and to die on the cross?

Isaiah 53:10

The LORD makes his life an offering for sin...

Jesus died for sin.

Isaiah 53:5-6

But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

So, **WHY** did the Father abandon Jesus? So that He would never have to abandon you.

God is Present.

Remember: **Jesus will never leave me.**

You can **always count** on that. Jesus died on the cross for your sin. He took your punishment, so that God would **never** have to leave you and God would never have to punish you for your sin.

God actually crushed Jesus for 2 main reasons:

The first reason was for Jesus to be the **GREAT ONE**.

Isaiah 53:12

Therefore, I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

WHY did God the Father put **Jesus** through all this?

He did it for Jesus.

Because He wanted to give His son and opportunity to achieve **GREATNESS**.

JESUS IS THE GREATEST. Why? Because **he poured out his life unto death**.

He made the ultimate sacrifice.

And, **he bore the sin of many**.

Not all. **But many**. He died for the sins of those who would put their faith in Him.

And, Jesus has achieved greatness. He is the ULTIMATE **GOAT**...G.O.A.T. ... The Greatest of All Time!

Philippians 2:9-11 tells us ... Because Jesus went to the cross...

⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Why did God forsake Jesus? 2 reasons.

1. So that Jesus would achieve greatness.
2. So that God could always be Present with you.

Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

When you need help, **God is there.**

When you're in trouble, God is there.

He is your refuge. He will protect you from the storms of life.

He is your strength. He will give you courage so you **do not** have to be afraid.

Remember: **Jesus will never leave me.**

Now, back to **Hebrews 13:5**

He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

But let's look at the **CONTEXT**. The context is the verses that come before and the verses that come after. If you want to be a good Bible Student, you need to look at the context. It will really help you understand the verse.

Hebrews 13:5-6 – You can see that our key verse is right in the middle.

First, let's look at the **CONTEXT BEFORE** the verse.

Notice that the words right before **don't** talk about fear or trouble. They talk about covetousness. That's weird.

Covetousness is when you **WANT** things that aren't yours. You're not happy or content with what you have. You want **MORE**. But you're jealous of what other people have.

⁵ Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**"

⁶ So we may boldly say:

"The LORD *is* my helper;
I will not fear.
What can man do to me?"

Don't be covetous because God is Present. He will take care of you. He will give you the things that you need.

Be **content** with what you have.

Don't be covetous, but be content...because God will never forsake you.

There are some **NICE things** that you don't have. And, maybe you'd really like to have them. But the God who loves you and is Present in your life has chosen for you **NOT** to have those things. He **didn't** give them to you... **BECAUSE**... He loves you.

He may give them to you later. But for now, He knows that it's best for you NOT to have them.

Don't be covetous because God is Present, and He will never let you down.

Now, let's look at the **CONTEXT AFTER** the verse...

He Himself has said, "**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**"

⁶ So we may boldly say:

"The LORD *is* my helper;
I will not fear.
What can man do to me?"

God is **Present**. He is your **helper**, so you **don't** have to **fear**.

He loves you so much that He sacrificed His Son on the cross for you.

That's **HUGE!**

If He did that, then you know He's going to take care of you.

Romans 8:32

He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

If God **SACRIFICED JESUS** for you, you know He's going to take real good care of you.

He has all the power in the universe, and He absolutely loves you.

So, you have **NOTHING TO FEAR**.

God is Present in your life.

Remember: **Jesus will never leave me.**

Pray

- When we're lonely, afraid, or sad...
- Please remind us that God is Present
- That Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us
- **Father**, thank you for giving Jesus for us
- **Jesus**, thank you for dying for us
- You have the name that is above every other name
- You are the **GREATEST**
- We worship you!