

Group Guide 9 — You Are Never Alone

God Is Present • He Is Here

ICE BREAKERS AT THE TABLE

Step 1 — Pick This Week's Table Host. The host reads the questions (or calls on others) and keeps the conversation moving. Host reminder: don't rush. Give people time to think.

Opening Questions

- When do you feel most alone — even when you're around people?
- Where is a place that always makes you feel close to God?
- On a scale of 1–10, how aware are you of God's presence on an ordinary day?

TEACHING (LED BY TEACHER)

Big Idea: There is nowhere you can go where God is not. His presence is a fact, not a feeling.

Teaching Summary: Most of us don't struggle to believe God exists; we struggle to feel that He's near. We know the truth but don't always feel it — and when we don't feel it, we start living like He's not there. This week calls us back to the truth that God is present. He is not distant, detached, or watching from far away. He is here — not just in church, but everywhere. His presence doesn't depend on our awareness of it, which means you are never as alone as you feel.

TABLE STUDY GUIDE

Scripture Focus

Psalms 139:7–10 • Daniel 3:24–25

Step 1: Read It Slowly

Have one person read Psalm 139:7–10. Have another read Daniel 3:24–25 (the fiery furnace).

Take Note: What Do You Notice?

- Where all does the psalmist say God is present?
- In Daniel 3, where is God present with the three friends — and what does that show?
- What stands out most to you as you listen?

Step 2: Take a Closer Look

The psalmist tries every direction — height, depth, distance, darkness — and God is already there. And in Daniel 3, God doesn't keep His people out of the fire; He meets them in it. His presence is not mainly a way to avoid hard places, but His promise to be with us inside them.

Discuss Together

- Is God's inescapable presence a comfort or a threat to you — and why?
- What is the difference between God being absent and us being unaware?
- When have you most sensed God with you in the middle of something hard, not just after it?

Step 3: Make It Personal

Be Honest

- Where in your daily life do you forget God is present?
- Where has God become someone you talk about more than someone you walk with?
- Where do you feel most disconnected from God right now?

Step 4: Reframe the Way We Think

Table Reflection

- What would change if you stopped compartmentalizing God into only church and quiet times?
- If God's presence is a fact and not a feeling, how does that steady a hard day?
- In your current situation, what might shift if you asked, "What is God doing here right now?"

GOING DEEPER: A CLOSER LOOK AT THE TEXT

Optional — for groups that want to dig further. Use this alongside the questions above; the table host can take as much or as little as time and the group's appetite allow.

Break Down the Verse

Psalm 139:7-8 (NIV)

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there."

The Hebrew word translated "depths" is Sheol — the grave, the lowest place imaginable. David's claim is staggering: there is no location, not even death itself, outside God's presence. The rhetorical questions expect one answer — nowhere. This is not omnipresence as an abstract doctrine, but as inescapable companionship.

Daniel 3 makes it visible: God does not keep the three friends OUT of the fire; He is WITH them IN it — a fourth figure walking in the flames. Presence is not the absence of the furnace; it is God's company inside it.

Wrestle With It

Provocative Questions

- David finds it comforting that he can't escape God; sometimes we find it exposing. When is God's inescapable presence good news, and when does it feel like nowhere to hide?
- God met the three friends in the fire, not instead of it. Why do we so often equate God's presence with the removal of our hardship?
- If God is just as present in "the depths," what changes about the lowest place you are in right now?

WRAP-UP QUESTION

As you think about this week:

- Fill in the blank: "God, remind me You are with me when ____."
- What is one ordinary moment this week where you'll practice noticing God is here?
- Who do you know who feels alone, and how could you remind them they aren't?

CLOSING PRAYER (OPTIONAL)

Invite someone to pray, asking God to open the room's eyes to His presence and to break the lie that they are alone.

God, make us aware of Your presence. Open our eyes to see that You are near. Break the lie that we are alone.