

The Presence of God: Building Blocks for Your Time With God Bible Study Handout

Psalm 16:1–11 (NKJV)

¹ Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust.

² *O my soul*, you have said to the Lord,
“You *are* my Lord,
My goodness is nothing apart from You.”

³ As for the saints who *are* on the earth,
“They are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.”

⁴ Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten *after* another *god*;
Their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,
Nor take up their names on my lips.

⁵ O Lord, *You are* the portion of my inheritance and my cup;
You maintain my lot.

⁶ The lines have fallen to me in pleasant *places*;
Yes, I have a good inheritance.

⁷ I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel;
My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.

⁸ I have set the Lord always before me;
Because *He is* at my right hand I shall not be moved.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;
My flesh also will rest in hope.

¹⁰ For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

¹¹ You will show me the path of life;
In Your presence *is* fullness of joy;
At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

Introduction: Experiencing the Presence of God Daily

My brothers and sisters, many believers love God, trust God, and serve God, yet still struggle to consistently experience His presence in their daily lives. There are moments when God feels near during worship, prayer, or crisis, but there are also ordinary days when He seems distant, even though we know He has not moved.

This tension creates frustration because we believe in His nearness, but we do not always live with an awareness of it.

Psalm 16 provides a clear and practical pathway into the presence of God. David does not begin with joy; he builds toward it. He starts with dependence, moves into relationship, and ultimately arrives at a place of stability, confidence, and joy. By the time he reaches verse 11, he declares, *“In Your presence is fullness of joy.”* This is not an emotional outburst—it is the result of a life intentionally aligned with God.

This lesson is designed to demystify the presence of God. It is not reserved for emotional moments, church settings, or spiritual elites. It is cultivated daily through intentional dependence, consistent fellowship, and growing awareness. As we walk through Psalm 16, we will see that God’s presence is not something we occasionally visit—it is something we can learn to live in.

I. Dependence on God (Psalm 16:1–4)

The Foundation of God’s Presence

“Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust...”

David begins with a posture of dependence. The word *preserve* suggests protection, care, and sustaining power. David acknowledges that he cannot keep himself—he must rely on God. This is the foundation of experiencing God’s presence. It does not begin with strength, but with surrender.

In verse 2, David declares, *“My goodness is nothing apart from You.”* This reveals a deep understanding that everything good in his life originates from God. This challenges modern ideas of self-sufficiency and independence. While culture encourages us to rely on ourselves, Scripture teaches that true stability comes from dependence on God.

David also contrasts devotion to God with devotion to false gods in verse 4. While we may not worship idols physically, we often elevate other things to places of ultimate importance—success, approval, control, comfort, or security. These become functional “gods” when we depend on them more than we depend on God.

Jesus reinforces this principle in Matthew 6:33, where He teaches us to *seek first the kingdom of God*. This does not eliminate other responsibilities, but it establishes priority. We may have many priorities in life, but we must never forget **the priority**—God must come first.

Cross-References

- Proverbs 3:5–6 — Trust in the Lord and acknowledge Him in all your ways
- Jeremiah 17:7–8 — Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord
- Matthew 6:33 — Seek first the kingdom of God

Deeper Study Note

Dependence is not weakness—it is alignment. When we depend on God, we place ourselves under His guidance, protection, and provision. Spiritual growth begins when self-reliance decreases and God-reliance increases.

Lesson Question

What are some things people rely on instead of God for security or satisfaction?

Practical Point

Dependence on God positions us to experience His presence.

II. Fellowship with God (Psalm 16:5–8)

Building a Daily Relationship with God

“O LORD, You are the portion of my inheritance and my cup...”

David now moves from dependence to fellowship. He describes God as his portion and his cup, imagery that reflects satisfaction, provision, and personal relationship. God is not just a helper in times of trouble—He becomes the center of David’s life.

In verse 7, David says, *“I will bless the LORD who has given me counsel; My heart also instructs me in the night seasons.”* This reveals that God is actively guiding him. God’s counsel may come through His Word, through reflection, or through the quiet work of the Holy Spirit. It is not always dramatic, but it is consistent.

Verse 8 is key: *“I have set the LORD always before me...”* This phrase indicates intentionality. David is choosing to remain aware of God’s presence. This awareness is not limited to a specific time of devotion—it extends throughout the day.

Fellowship with God is developed through consistent practices:

- prayer (honest communication with God)
- Scripture (hearing God’s voice through His Word)

- reflection and stillness
- continual acknowledgment of God throughout daily life

Jesus describes this kind of relationship in John 15:4, where He says, “*Abide in Me...*” To abide means to remain connected. It is not a one-time experience but an ongoing relationship.

Cross-References

- John 15:4–5 — Abide in Christ
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 — Pray without ceasing
- Joshua 1:8 — Meditate on the Word day and night

Deeper Study Note

Consistency builds sensitivity. The more regularly we spend time with God, the more we recognize His voice, His guidance, and His presence in everyday moments.

Lesson Question

What are some practical ways you can “set the Lord before you” throughout your day?

Practical Point

Consistent fellowship with God builds awareness of His presence.

III. Transformation Through God’s Presence (Psalm 16:9–11)

The Result of Walking with God

“Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved.”

David now describes the results of living in God’s presence. Stability replaces instability. Joy replaces emptiness. Hope replaces fear. This transformation does not come from changed circumstances but from a changed perspective.

Verse 9 reveals a holistic response: *“My heart is glad... my glory rejoices; my flesh also will rest in hope.”* This reflects inner peace that affects the entire person—mind, spirit, and body.

Verse 10 points prophetically to Christ and the resurrection, reminding us that God’s presence extends beyond this life into eternity. Through Christ, we have assurance that we are not only sustained in life but secured beyond it.

Finally, verse 11 declares: *“In Your presence is fullness of joy...”* This teaches us that true satisfaction is found only in God. Many things promise fulfillment, but only God can sustain it.

This truth is echoed in Psalm 34:8: *“Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good...”* This is an invitation to experience God personally. Many things in life promise satisfaction, but only with God is satisfaction guaranteed.

Cross-References

- Psalm 34:8 — Taste and see that the Lord is good
- Romans 15:13 — Filled with joy and peace in believing
- Hebrews 13:5 — God is always with us

Deeper Study Note

God’s presence transforms desires. As we grow closer to Him, our definition of joy and satisfaction changes. We begin to value what God values and find fulfillment in Him rather than in temporary things.

Lesson Question

Where do people often look for satisfaction outside of God?

Practical Point

God’s presence produces stability, joy, and lasting satisfaction.

Conclusion: Living in the Presence of God

The presence of God is not distant or reserved—it is available daily. Through dependence, fellowship, and intentional awareness, we can grow in our experience of His presence. This is not about perfection, but consistency. As we continue to seek God, we will discover that His presence is not something we chase—it is something we learn to live in.

Final Reflection Questions

- What is one way you can intentionally spend time with God each day?
- What distractions hinder your awareness of God’s presence?
- How can you make God your first priority this week?

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank You for inviting us into Your presence. Teach us to depend on You, to walk with You daily, and to grow in our awareness of You in every area of our lives. Help us to seek You first and to find our joy, peace, and satisfaction in You alone. In Jesus' name, Amen.