

The Omnipresence of God

The God Who Is Fully Present Everywhere

A Teaching Lesson · Seminary-level content, high-school-level clarity

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Big Idea: God is fully present in every place at the same time. He is not spread thin like water poured across a floor — all of God is wholly present everywhere at once, yet no place can contain Him. There is nowhere you can go where God is not already there.

Memory Verse: *“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?” — Psalm 139:7 (ESV)*

Contents

PART ONE

Teaching Outline (Leader Notes)

This lesson is about God's omnipresence — the truth that He is present everywhere. It builds on the earlier lessons: because God is infinite (without limits) and not made of parts (simplicity), He is not confined to any location and is not divided up among places. This is one of the most comforting doctrines in all of Scripture, but it also carries a solemn warning. Teach both sides. Part One is your full teaching material; Part Two is a handout to copy for students.

I. Lesson Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students should be able to:

1. Define omnipresence in one clear sentence.
2. Explain the difference between God's immensity and His omnipresence.
3. Describe the different WAYS God is present in different places.
4. Give at least three passages that teach it.
5. Explain both the comfort and the warning this truth carries.

II. What the Word Means

Omnipresence (from *omni*, "all," + *presence*) means God is present in all places at all times. But be careful how you say it. God is not present the way air fills a room — a little bit here, a little bit there, spread out so no single spot has all of it. Because God has no parts, **all of God is fully present in every place at once**. Your whole self cannot be in two rooms at the same time. God's whole self is in every room, every galaxy, every moment — completely, not partially.

Immensity vs. omnipresence — a helpful distinction

Theologians use two related words. Teach the difference to older students; it sharpens the idea.

Immensity	God's greatness considered in Himself — He transcends and exceeds all space. Even if no universe existed, God would still be boundless. Space cannot contain Him.
Omnipresence	The same greatness considered in relation to creation — God is present to everything He has made. Immensity looks at God above space; omnipresence looks at God filling space.

The balance to hold: God is present in every place, yet no place holds Him. He fills all things without being confined by any of them.

III. The Biblical Foundation

1. You cannot escape God's presence

"Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me."

— Psalm 139:7–10 (ESV)

David lists the highest place (heaven), the lowest place (Sheol, the grave), and the farthest place (the ends of the sea) — and God is already in all of them. There is no direction you can run to leave His presence.

2. God fills heaven and earth

"Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth?"

— Jeremiah 23:23–24 (ESV)

God asks a rhetorical question with an obvious answer: no one can hide from a God who fills everything. There is no secret place, no blind spot, no corner outside His sight.

3. Even heaven cannot contain Him

At the temple dedication, Solomon prayed: "Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!" (1 Kings 8:27). God graciously meets His people in specific places, but He is never trapped or housed there.

4. God is not far from any of us

Paul told the Athenians that God "is actually not far from each one of us, for in him we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:27–28). We are not far from God searching for Him; we already live inside His sustaining presence.

IV. The Key Nuance: God Is Present in Different WAYS

This is the most important teaching point in the lesson, and it answers most of the hard questions. God is everywhere by His being — but He does not relate to every place in the same way. Scripture speaks of at least three different “modes” of God’s presence:

Present to sustain	God upholds all things everywhere by His power — even the wicked and even hell exist only because God holds them in being (Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3).
Present to bless	God draws near to His people in grace, comfort, and fellowship. This is what Scripture means by God being “with” Israel or dwelling among His people (Matthew 28:20; Psalm 46:1).
Present to judge	God is present to the rebellious as a holy fire against sin. Hell is not a place where God is absent — it is where God is present in wrath, not in blessing (Revelation 14:10).

The crucial point: When the Bible says God is “near” the righteous and “far” from the wicked (Psalm 34:18; Proverbs 15:29), it is not talking about location — it is talking about relationship. God is everywhere by His being, but He is present in blessing only to those who are His.

V. What the Church Has Taught

- **Augustine** wrote that God is “wholly everywhere” — present entirely in each place, not divided into portions. God is nearer to us than we are to ourselves.
- **Thomas Aquinas** taught the classic threefold way God is in all things: by His power (all things are subject to Him), by His presence (all things are open before Him), and by His essence (He gives being to all things).
- **The Reformed and Baptist confessions** affirm that God is “most present” everywhere. The Westminster and Second London Baptist Confessions describe God as “infinite... most absolute,” whose knowledge and presence reach all things.

The phrase to memorize: **God is “wholly present everywhere” — all of Him, in every place, at once.**

VI. Common Confusions (and How to Answer Them)

“If God is everywhere, isn’t He inside sinful and dirty places too?”

Yes, God sustains every place in being — but His presence is never stained by what happens there, any more than sunlight is dirtied by shining on a garbage heap. God is present without being contaminated, because He is holy and cannot be changed by His creation.

“If God is everywhere, why do we say He is ‘in heaven’ or ask Him to ‘come’?”

Heaven is where God specially displays His glory and where His blessing presence is most fully revealed — not the one spot He is confined to. When we ask God to “come” or to “be with us,” we are not asking

Him to travel to a place He is absent from; we are asking Him to make His blessing presence known and felt among us.

“Isn’t this the same as saying God is in the trees and rocks (pantheism)?”

No. Pantheism says the world IS God. Omnipresence says God is present TO the world while remaining completely distinct from it. He is in the tree the way a author is present in every page of his story — fully involved, yet not the same as the paper.

The one-sentence guardrail

God is present everywhere by His being, but He is present in blessing only where He wills. Nearness and distance in Scripture describe relationship, not location.

VII. Why This Matters for Us

- **Comfort: you are never alone.** There is no hospital bed, prison cell, lonely night, or foreign land where God is not already present with His people. “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).
- **Warning: nothing is hidden.** There is no secret sin, no private moment, no closed door where God does not see. This is a call to live honestly before the God who is always there.
- **Confidence in prayer.** You never have to get God’s attention or wait for Him to arrive. He is already fully present the instant you turn to Him.
- **Reverence in worship.** We do not summon God into the room; we wake up to the God who is already here. Worship is responding to a Presence that never left.

PART TWO

Student Handout

The Omnipresence of God — The God Who Is Fully Present Everywhere. Fill in the blanks and follow along as we work through the lesson together.

The Big Idea

God is fully present in every place at the same time. He is not spread thin — all of God is wholly present everywhere at once, yet no place can contain Him. There is nowhere you can go where God is not already there.

Words to Know

- **Omnipresence** (omni = “all”) — God is present in all places at all times.
- **Immensity** — God is greater than all space; even without a universe He would be boundless.

Three Ways God Is Present

- **To sustain** — He holds all things in being, everywhere.
- **To bless** — He draws near to His people in grace and comfort.
- **To judge** — He is present to the rebellious as a holy fire against sin.

Key Verses

- **Psalm 139:7-10** — “Where shall I flee from your presence?”
- **Jeremiah 23:24** — “Do I not fill heaven and earth?”
- **1 Kings 8:27** — “Heaven... cannot contain you.”
- **Acts 17:27-28** — “In him we live and move and have our being.”

Comfort AND Warning

Comfort	You are never alone — there is no place God is not with His people.
Warning	Nothing is hidden — there is no secret God does not see.

Fill in the Blanks

1. “Where shall I _____ from your presence?” (Psalm 139:7)
2. All of God is _____ present in every place at once (not spread thin).
3. God is present to _____, to _____, and to _____.
4. In the Bible, God being “near” or “far” describes _____, not location.

Discussion Questions

1. If God is fully present with you right now, how should that change this very moment?
2. Which do you feel more strongly — the comfort or the warning of God being everywhere? Why?
3. If God is already fully present, what does it really mean to ask Him to “be with” you?
4. Is there a place or situation where you have felt God was absent? How does this lesson speak to that?

One Sentence to Remember

There is nowhere you can go where God is not already there.

This Week

Memorize Psalm 139:7. Each day, in one ordinary place — your car, your desk, your kitchen — pause and pray: “Lord, You are fully here with me right now. Help me live as if I believe it.”

Sources & Further Study

Scripture quotations are from the English Standard Version (ESV). Key passages and classic sources referenced in this lesson:

- Scripture: 1 Kings 8:27; Psalm 34:18; Psalm 46:1; Psalm 139:7–10; Proverbs 15:29; Jeremiah 23:23–24; Matthew 28:20; Acts 17:27–28; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3; Hebrews 13:5; Revelation 14:10.
- Augustine, *Confessions* and *On the Trinity* (God “wholly everywhere”; nearer to us than we are to ourselves).
- Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* I, Q. 8 (God in all things by power, presence, and essence).
- Westminster Confession of Faith (1646), ch. 2; Second London Baptist Confession (1689), ch. 2 — God “infinite... most absolute.”
- For modern treatment: Herman Bavinck, *Reformed Dogmatics* vol. 2; Stephen Charnock, *The Existence and Attributes of God* (discourse on God’s omnipresence).