Adapted from Leading Little Ones to God

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- God is everywhere!
- When we look around, we cannot see God. But He is here. And He is over "there".

- He is close beside us, and He is high above us too, in heaven.
- And He is far away on the other side of the earth!

 Because God is God, and because He is a "Spirit", He can be everywhere at the "same time".

God is very, very great!!

 The Bible tells us about a young woman named Hagar. She was a slave.

Sarah, the wife of Abraham, was her mistress.

- One day Hagar ran away from her mistress, because her mistress was not kind to her.
- Hagar went far away, to a strange place.
 She thought nobody loved her.
- She was very unhappy. She sat down by a well of water.
- And she thought she was all alone. But she was "not" alone.
- God was there. He saw her.

- He knew her trouble. He knew her heart was very sad. And he loved her.
- Suddenly Hagar heard God talk to her!
- God said, "Hagar, go back to your mistress.
 Do what she tells you to do.
- I will take care of you."

Hagar was so surprised!

 She said, "I did not think that God would see me "here"! But He did see me!"

Hagar was glad. She obeyed God.

 She went back to her mistress, and God took care of her.

 It made Hagar "happy" to know that God saw her.

 She had been so sad, and she had thought she was all alone.

But God saw her "all the time."

 It should make "us" happy to think that God is everywhere, that He sees us, and that we are never alone.

When you go to bed at night, God is there.

 The room may be dark, but you do not have to be afraid.

 When you walk to school or drive to work alone, you are not "really" alone. God is there!

He is with you!!

 Doesn't it make you "happy" to know He is everywhere.

- It should make us "careful", too, to think that God is everywhere.
- When you are playing, God is there.
- He sees what you do. He hears what you say.
- If we "remember" that, we will be very careful to say and do only what pleases Him.

- It should make us "wonder" to think that God is everywhere.
- You can be in only one place at a time.
- If you are at home, you are not in school.
- If you are here, in this church, you are not outdoors.
- But GOD is everywhere.

 Look up at the big wide sky. Look up at the stars. Look all around you.

Think, "God is everywhere! Everywhere!"

How wonderful God is!

LET'S PRAY:

- God, it makes us happy to think that You are always with us.
- What a joy to know that You always see us.
- Help us to remember that You are very near.

In our times of distress and trouble, YOU are there!!

Lord, thank You for being with us!!

• In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

How can God be everywhere?

Why should it make us happy to know He is always everywhere?

What does "God is with us!" mean to you?

- What did Job go through and how did God turn things for good?
- What other Bible examples can you think of when something difficult was happening and God turned it for God?
- Can you give an example of a terrible situation you went through but God worked everything out for good?

MEMORY VERSE

"Do not I fill heaven and earth?" says the Lord.

(Jeremiah 23:24)

SUGGESTED READING

- Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
- Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.
- For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

- In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him.
- The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.
- Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; (Psalm 95:1-6)

A POEM

None is like God, who reign above, So great, so pure, so high; None is like God, whose name is love, And who is always nigh. In all the earth there is no spot **Excluded from His care**; We cannot go where God is not, For He is everywhere.

ANOTHER STUDY: Genesis 21:8-21

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The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. (Gen.21:8)

 Abraham continued to rejoice in the CHILD OF THE PROMISE.

 Isaac had brought "laughter". He was the "CHILD OF THE PROMISE".

"His son by the slave woman was born in the ordinary way; but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a promise." (Galatians 4:23)

But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac." (Genesis 21:9-10)

Isn't it amazing how Sarah had "asked"
 Abraham to take Hagar and have a child.

 Yet years later, here she is "asking" her husband to get rid of them.

 We can learn from this not to "get ahead of God" or we may end up in regret.

The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring." (Gen.21:11-13)

 Notice how God answers Abraham's distress with a promise.

God answers the faithful person with a promise.

Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba. (Genesis 21:14)

- This is a picture of what is going to happen in Genesis 22 when Abraham will take Isaac early in the morning as well to be sacrificed.
- Abraham was a faithful man who went through very difficult times. Imagine, taking "two" sons away.
- Yet, God was glorified through Abraham.
 And Abraham was blessed!!

When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went off and sat down nearby, about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there nearby, she began to sob.

(Genesis 21:15-16)

 Nothing can be more difficult then for a parent to have a child die.

 Here we see Hagar sobbing but "not asking God to help".

God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation." (Genesis 21:17-18)

 God hears the little child crying. And God was moved to act upon the child's behalf.

God talks to Hagar and gives her instructions.

Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. (Genesis 21:19)

- God "opened her eyes".
- Hagar, even in this terrible time, was enveloped by some very precious hidden resources.
- She didn't realize it, but God was there and He had just what they needed to help her.
- She was so overcome by her grief that she could not see the resources that were right there before her eyes.
- Have you ever been there?

God had a plan in all of this. The pain and suffering was part of God's plan.

- i) The "picture" we have here is that Ishmael represented the efforts of the flesh and he had to go, so the son of faith, Isaac, might obtain his rightful place.
- ii) And the efforts of our own flesh not trusting God (Ishmael) have to go so that the Life in the Spirit (Isaac) can have the rightful place in our life.

 iii) The same is true in your life and mine. God has a plan and sometimes it involves us walking through some hard places. He knows what He is doing. Until you walk through the valley, you cannot appreciate the mountain top.

(see Isa. 55:8-9; Rom. 8:28; 2 Cor. 4:17) (Psa. 37:23.)

 Hagar didn't know it, but God had been there the whole time.

(Heb. 13:5; Matt. 28:20, Deut. 31:8; 1 Sam.

12:22; Isa. 41:10; 43:2.)

 God heard, was concerned about her problem, and spoke words of peace. God knows our problems (Job 23:10), God cares about our problems (Hebrews 4:15-16), and God can speak peace to your heart (John 14:27; Phil. 4:7)

 God may not make you a great nation, but He will take care of you (Matt. 6:25-34; Phil. 4:19; Psa. 37:25)

 God opened her eyes and showed her what had been right in front of her all along!

- We are blinded to His provisions by our problems. God can open our eyes and show us that He has everything we could ever need.
- God has what you need, if you will come to Him, you can have that provision! The provision is "the miracles and power of our God". He has more and can do more than you can imagine (Eph. 3:20)

Finally, let's go to Galatians 4:28-31: "Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. But what does the Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son." Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman. (Galatians 4:28-31)

 Let's stop walking in of the "carnal nature" that "enslaves us".

 Let's walk in who we are as God's children and be "FREE".

LET'S PRAY: