

# PRACTICING GOD'S PRESENCE

GENESIS 40:1-23

Sunday, May 11, 2025 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

## Practicing the **PRESENCE** of God

**Definition:** *Learning to live aware of being in the presence of God all the time.*

Deuteronomy 4:39; Jeremiah 23:24; Acts 17:28; Psalm 139:7; Colossians 1:16-17

enables us to **SERVE** while we **ENDURE**, (40:1-7)

**faithful** v. 4 Colossians 3:23-24



**eyes up** v. 5-8 Hebrews 12:1-2

**DISCERN** what's what, (40:8-22)



**humble dependence** v. 8 Proverbs 3:5-6

**divine clarity** v. 12-22 Isaiah 55:8-9

and know we're not **FORGOTTEN** (even when it feels like it). (40:23)

**people forget** v. 23 Psalm 37:5

**God remembers** 1 Peter 5:6; Exodus 2:25



Text us at **833-271-8805**.  
— Text **APP** to get our app.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, "**Pray for...**" followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.



## Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

**What is this?** — Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

## Welcome to Life Group!

### Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, take some time to catch up with each other as you gather.

If it helps, here's a question to discuss and get you going. Have everyone answer:

*What are some small, everyday moments (taking a walk, drinking coffee, laying your head on the pillow at night) that regularly cause you to think of God or notice his presence?*

## Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

**Use this guide for further personal and group study this week.** For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

- Read Genesis 40:1-23.** (Consider reading it from a translation like the NIV or a paraphrase like the Message to get a different feel of the narrative.) Then take some time to review your message notes. Looking back, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you this week? *Discuss it with your group before moving on.*
- Joseph served faithfully in prison, attending to the cupbearer and baker despite his own suffering (**Gen 40:4**). How have you seen God's presence help you serve others during personal challenges? Share a specific example and discuss how practicing God's presence (e.g., praying or focusing on Him) made a difference.
  - If you were to rate yourself on a scale of 1-10, where would you land on how often you live aware of God's presence? 1 = totally unaware, 10 = constantly aware. How could you grow more aware?
- Read Philippians 2:3-4 and Galatians 6:2.** Joseph noticed the prisoners' distress and responded with compassion (**Gen. 40:5-7**).
  - How do these scriptures challenge us to keep our "eyes up" and look to others' needs during our own difficulties?
  - Compare and contrast their teachings with Joseph's actions, and discuss one practical way you can show compassion this week, even if you're facing trials.

PART

3

**We are sent** to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

*(Study Guide continues on back panel...)*

# WELCOME TO WAWASEE!

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

If you call Wawasee Bible “home”, we challenge you to pursue **three things**:

1. Gather



Show up *regularly* and gather with us for worship.

2. Grow



Don't just show up, *grow up* spiritually and connect in a growth ministry like Life Groups.

3. Go!



Go and serve somewhere. Contribute as much *or more than* you consume!

## WORD FIND IN THE WORD

Find the words from a passage related to this week’s message.

### Word Find: Isaiah 55:8-11 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

<sup>8</sup> For my **thoughts** are not your **thoughts**, **neither** are your ways my ways, **declares** the **LORD**. <sup>9</sup>For as the **heavens** are **higher** than the **earth**, so are my ways **higher** than your ways and my **thoughts** than your **thoughts**. <sup>10</sup>“For as the **rain** and the **snow** **come** down from **heaven** and do not **return there** but **water** the **earth**, **making** it **bring forth** and **sprout**, **giving seed** to the **sower** and **bread** to the **eater**, <sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that **goes** out from my **mouth**; it shall not **return** to me **empty**, but it shall **accomplish** that which I **purpose**, and shall **succeed** in the **thing** for which I **sent** it.

C	O	M	E	E	E	S	A	I	V	S	H	K
R	M	E	M	P	T	Y	H	O	H	E	I	O
K	M	E	A	R	T	H	B	R	I	N	G	W
S	T	A	K	Y	H	K	F	O	R	T	H	A
O	S	T	I	F	I	N	U	P	O	T	E	T
W	P	E	N	S	N	S	C	U	D	H	R	E
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R	E	S	I	C	O	R	O	P	C	U	T	A
S	G	N	V	C	E	O	U	O	L	G	U	I
M	B	O	I	E	S	U	T	S	A	H	R	N
S	R	W	N	E	I	T	H	E	R	T	N	L
E	E	D	G	D	T	H	E	R	E	S	G	O
E	A	C	C	O	M	P	L	I	S	H	A	R
D	D	B	T	B	H	E	A	V	E	N	I	D

## life groups Study Guide (continued)

4. Joseph relied on God for dream interpretations. What are some challenges you face in discerning God’s will in confusing situations?
- How can practicing God’s presence (e.g., prayer, meditation on Scripture) help you seek his guidance, as Joseph did?
  - How can being in relationship with other Christians help? Do you rely on them or just “go it alone”?
5. **Read Proverbs 3:5–6 and Isaiah 55:8–9.** Joseph humbly trusted God’s wisdom for discernment (**Gen 40:8**), not his own. How do these passages encourage us to rely on God’s understanding over our own when facing uncertainty?
- Discuss a time when trusting God’s higher ways, despite not understanding, brought clarity or peace.
6. The cupbearer forgot Joseph, yet God remembered him (Gen 40:23; 41:46). Share a time when you felt overlooked or forgotten by others. Do you struggle to feel seen by others and/or by God at times? How can you remind yourself of what’s true (i.e. **Exodus 2:25**)?

### Taking it Home

7. Joseph waited two years after the cupbearer’s forgetfulness before God’s plan unfolded (**Gen 40:23; 41:1, 46**). How does Joseph’s story encourage you to wait patiently for God’s timing?
- Discuss how habits like praying for others, thanking God for creation, or memorizing Scripture can strengthen your trust in God’s faithfulness during delays.
  - What is one spiritual habit you can start to develop that would most help you learn to practice the presence of God?  
(Visit <https://www.practicingtheway.org/resources> for some ideas and help in this!)

As you close, take time to pray for each other.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at [wawaseebible.com/beliefs](http://wawaseebible.com/beliefs). Learn more about the EFCA at [efca.org](http://efca.org).

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# REDEMPTION RISING

Sunday, May 25, 2025

## PART 3

# PRACTICING GOD’S PRESENCE

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**We’re Glad You’re Here Today!**

Scan QR code for our **App** with **Bulletin, Connect Card, & more.**  
<https://wawasee.today>