



A Teaching Outline

God Is Our Hiding Place

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God is our hiding place

For Christians, God is our secret immovable hiding place. He is our special fortress and whenever life overwhelms us we can always run to Him.

James 4:8

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

(4) *Let there be sorrow and deep grief* for your sins (4:9). Don't be afraid to express deep heartfelt sorrow for what you have done.

(5) *Humble yourselves before the Lord*, and he will lift you up in honor (4:10; 1 Peter 5:6).

How can you come close to God? James gives five ways:

(1) *Humble yourselves before God*. Yield to his authority and will, commit your life to him and his control, and be willing to follow him.

(2) *Resist the devil*

(3) Don't allow Satan to entice and tempt you.

(4) *Wash your hands... and purify your hearts* (that is, lead a pure life)

Be cleansed from sin, replacing your desire to sin with your desire to experience God's purity.

Seek God through prayer and keep your mind on Him because God's presence is near and you're protected.

What does the Bible say about drawing near to God?

Psalm 119:113-117

I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love. [114] Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word. [115] Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God. [116] Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope. [117] Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.

Undecided people cannot make up their minds between good and evil. But when it comes to obeying God, there is no middle ground; you must take a stand. Either you are obeying him or you are not. Either you are doing what he wants or you are undecided. Choose to obey God, and say with the writer, "I love your instructions."

Let all the godly pray while there is still time.

2. Psalm 32:6-8

For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

[7] Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

[8] I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

To confess our sin is to agree with God, acknowledging that he is right to declare what we have done as sinful and that we are wrong to desire or to do it. It means affirming our intention of forsaking that sin in order to follow God more faithfully.

God describes some people as being like horses or mules that have to be controlled by bits and bridles. Rather than letting God guide them step by step, they stubbornly leave God only one option.

If God wants to keep them useful for him, he must use discipline and punishment. God longs to guide us with love and wisdom rather than punishment. He offers to teach us the *best* way to go. Accept the advice written in God's Word and don't let your stubbornness keep you from obeying God.

Psalm 31:19-20

Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!

[20] Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

We say we have faith in God, but do we really trust him? David's words, "I entrust my spirit into your hand," convey his complete trust in God. Jesus used this phrase as he was dying on the cross—showing his absolute dependence on God the Father (Luke 23:46).

Stephen repeated these words as he was being stoned to death (Acts 7:59), confident that in death he was simply passing from God's earthly care to God's eternal care. We should commit our possessions, our families, and our vocations to God. But first and foremost, we should commit *ourselves*

Isaiah 4:6

And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.

Why is justice so important in the Bible?

(1) Justice is part of God's nature; it is the way he runs the universe.

(2) It is a natural desire in every person. Even as sinners, we all want justice for ourselves.

(3) When government and church leaders are unjust, the poor and powerless suffer. Thus, they are hindered from worshiping God.

God holds the poor in high regard. They are the ones most likely to turn to him for help and comfort.

Injustice, then, attacks God's children. When we do nothing to help the oppressed, we are, in fact, joining with the oppressor. Because we follow a just God, we must uphold justice.

Call on the Lord

Lamentations 3:55-57

I called upon thy name, O Lord, out of the low dungeon. [56] Thou hast heard my voice: hide not thine ear at my breathing, at my cry. [57] Thou drewest near in the day that I called upon thee: thou saidst, Fear not.

At one point in his ministry, Jeremiah was thrown into an empty cistern, and he was left to die in the mire at the bottom (Jeremiah 38:6-13). But God

rescued him. Jeremiah used this experience as a picture of the nation sinking into sin. If they turned to God, he would rescue them.

When the righteous call, the Lord hears them.

Psalm 34:17-19

The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. [18] The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. [19] Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

We often wish we could escape troubles—the pain of grief, loss, sorrow, and failure, or even the small daily frustrations that constantly wear us down. God promises to be "close to the brokenhearted" and to be our source of power, courage, and wisdom, helping us through our problems.

Sometimes he chooses to deliver us from those problems. When trouble strikes, don't get frustrated with God. Instead, admit that you need God's help and thank him for being by your side.

The Lord is our help.

Psalm 28:6-9

Thank the Lord! He has heard my prayer for mercy! The Lord is my strength and my shield. My heart trusted him, so I received help. My heart is triumphant; I give thanks to him with my song. The Lord is the strength of his people and a fortress for the victory of his Messiah. Save your people, and bless those who belong to you. Be their shepherd, and carry them forever.

David knew from experience what it meant to wait for the Lord. He had been anointed king at age 16 but didn't become king until he was 30.

During the interim, he had been chased through the wilderness by jealous King Saul. David had to wait on God for the fulfillment of his promise to reign. Later, after becoming king, he was chased by his son, Absalom.

Psalm 18:35-36

You have given me the shield of your salvation. Your right hand supports me. Your gentleness makes me great. You make a wide path for me to walk on so that my feet do not slip.

Psalm 54:4

Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.
10. Psalm 118:6-9 The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humans. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

Reminders

Romans 8:31-32

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

If God gave his Son for you, he isn't going to hold back the gift of salvation! If Christ gave his life for you, he isn't going to turn around and condemn you! He will not withhold anything you need to live for him. The book of Romans is more than a theological explanation of God's redeeming grace—it is a letter of comfort and confidence addressed to you.

No weapon formed against you shall succeed.

Isaiah 54:17

No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD.”

God is with you and will watch over you.

Genesis 28:15

I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

God's covenant promise to Abraham and Isaac was offered to Jacob as well. But it was not enough to be Abraham's grandson; Jacob had to establish his own personal relationship with God. God has no grandchildren; each person must have a personal relationship with him. It is not enough to hear wonderful stories about Christians in your family. You need to become part of the story yourself

Examples of God as our hiding place.

Isaiah 32:1-4

Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule in justice. Each will be like a hiding place from

The wind,

A shelter from the storm,

Like streams of water in a dry place,
Like the shade of a great rock in a weary land.
Then the eyes of those who see will not be closed,
And the ears of those who hear will give attention.
The heart of the hasty will understand and know,
And the tongue of the stammerers will hasten to speak distinctly.



Prayer to salvation.

Lord God in heaven, I come to you in the name of Jesus.

I acknowledge to you that I am a sinner, and

I am sorry for my sins and the life that I have lived;

I need your forgiveness.

I believe that your only begotten Son Jesus Christ shed His precious blood on the cross at Calvary and died for my sins, and I am now willing to turn from my sin.

Your Holy Word declares in Romans 10:9 that if we confess the Lord our God and believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead, we shall be saved.

Right now I confess Jesus as the Lord of my soul. With my heart, I believe that God raised Jesus from the dead.

This very moment I accept Jesus Christ as my own personal Savior and according to His Word, right now I am saved. Amen