

# THE VISITATION

## WATCHING

**ICEBREAKER:** Recall a time in your life when you “got away” with something rather substantial. Being careful not to potentially embarrass anyone, or to revel in past sinful behavior, evaluate the amount of effort you took in order to hide what you had done?

*The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Come, follow me.” Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter’s hometown. Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, “We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.” “Nazareth!” exclaimed Nathanael. “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” “Come and see for yourself,” Philip replied. As they approached, Jesus said, “Now here is a genuine son of Israel—a man of complete integrity.” “How do you know about me?” Nathanael asked. Jesus replied, “I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you.” Then Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God—the King of Israel!” Jesus asked him, “Do you believe this just because I told you I had seen you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this.” JOHN 1:43-50 NLT*

### 1. GOD WATCHES EVERYTHING I DO

*For God watches how people live; he sees everything they do. JOB 34:21 NLT*

*The LORD looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. PSALM 33:13 NASB*

*Mark well that GOD doesn’t miss a move you make; he’s aware of every step you take. PROVERBS 5:21 THE MESSAGE*

**DISCUSSION:** In what way is your behavior curbed knowing that God is always watching your every step? How often do you consciously take notice of the fact that God is paying very close attention to you? How is your behavior more affected knowing that others are watching? How does it make you feel knowing that God sees all that you do?

### 2. GOD IS WATCHING ME BECAUSE HE CARES FOR ME

*Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, "You are a God who sees"; for she said, "Have I even remained alive here after seeing Him?"* GENESIS 16:13  
NASB

*What is the price of five sparrows—two copper coins? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.* LUKE 12:6-7 NLT

*Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.* 1 PETER 5:7 NLT

**DISCUSSION:** What are some practical ways in which God is showing you that He cares for you? In what way are you responding to His care?

### **3. GOD WATCHES ME FOR FUTURE ACCOUNTABILITY**

*What sorrow awaits those who try to hide their plans from the LORD, who do their evil deeds in the dark! "The LORD can't see us," they say. "He doesn't know what's going on!" How foolish can you be?...* ISAIAH 29:15-16 NLT

*He sees through vain pretensions, spots evil a long way off— no one pulls the wool over his eyes!* Job 11:11 THE MESSAGE

*Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God.* ROMANS 14:12 NLT

**PRAYER PROJECT:** Take 5-7 minutes and get alone with God. Knowing that God cares for you and examine your heart, with Him, by asking, "What is an area of my life that God sees in which I have been unwilling to talk about?" Take some time to talk to God about it. In what area are you not having an authentic relationship with God?

**NOTE TO LEADERS:** *Some of your group participants may feel the need to make a personal confession. Be willing to hear their confession and above all pray with them offering forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ.*

### **4. GOD WATCHES SO HE CAN REWARD ME WHEN I DO THE RIGHT THING!**

*Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.* MATTHEW 6:4 NLT

*Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God... So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. GALATIANS 6:7-9 NLT*

**DISCUSSION:** In what way is God working in your life where you can see Him clearly rewarding you for your obedience? How does that make you feel toward Him? In what way is that forming you in the image of Jesus Christ?