

“In Pursuit of God’s Presence”

1. READ

Scripture: Psalm 91:1-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say of the LORD, “*He is* my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust.”

³ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the ^[a]fowler
And from the perilous pestilence.

⁴ He shall cover you with His feathers,
And under His wings you shall take refuge;
His truth *shall be your* shield and ^[b]buckler.

⁵ You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,
Nor of the arrow *that* flies by day,

⁶ *Nor* of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness,
Nor of the destruction *that* lays waste at noonday.

⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
And ten thousand at your right hand;
But it shall not come near you.

⁸ Only with your eyes shall you look,
And see the reward of the wicked.

⁹ Because you have made the LORD, *who is* my refuge,
Even the Most High, your dwelling place,

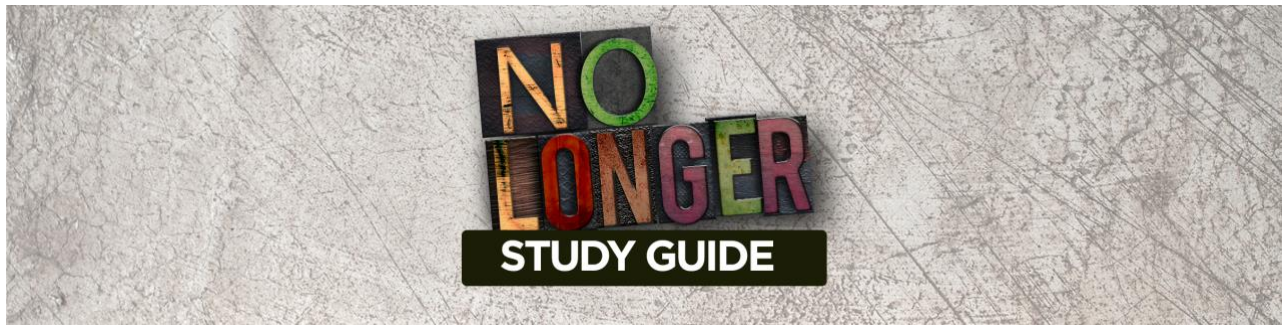
¹⁰ No evil shall befall you,
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

¹¹ For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.

¹² *In their* hands they shall ^[c]bear you up,
Lest you ^[d]dash your foot against a stone.

¹³ You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,
The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

¹⁴ “Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him;
I will ^[e]set him on high, because he has known My name.



¹⁵ He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;

I *will be* with him in trouble;

I will deliver him and honor him.

¹⁶ With ^[f]long life I will satisfy him,

And show him My salvation.”

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

⁴ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

⁴ But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:

‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’

and,

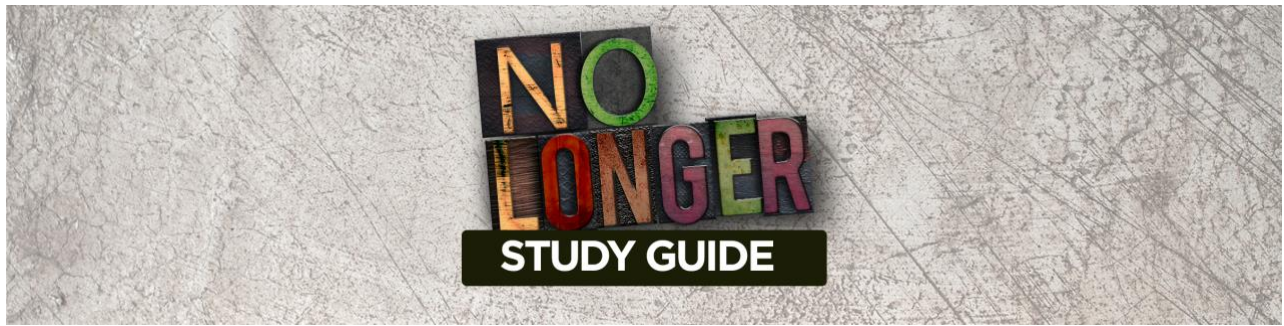
‘In *their* hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not ^[a]tempt the LORD your God.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, ^[b]“Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.



Scripture Mark 1:12-13

¹² Immediately the Spirit ^[e]drove Him into the wilderness. ¹³ And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.

Scripture Luke 4:1-13

Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit ^[a]into the wilderness, ² being ^[b]tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

³ And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”

⁴ But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, ^[c]but by every word of God.’ ”

⁵ ^[d]Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷ Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”

⁸ And Jesus answered and said to him, ^[e]“Get behind Me, Satan! ^[f]For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”

⁹ Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written:

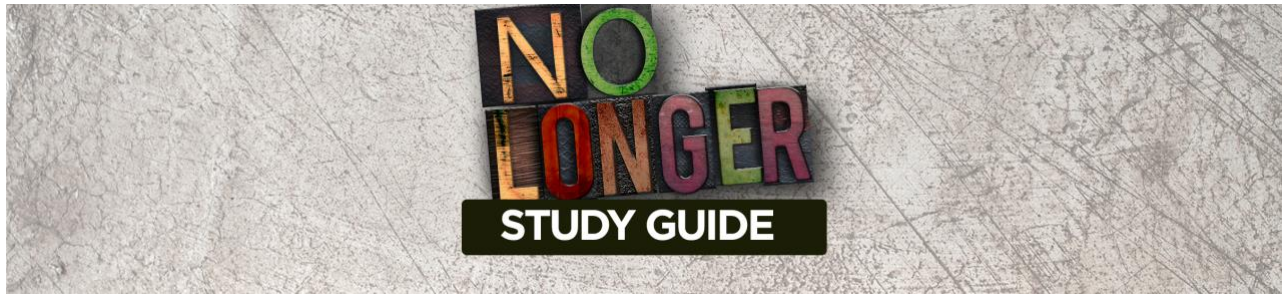
‘He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you,’

¹¹ and,

‘In *their* hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

¹² And Jesus answered and said to him, “It has been said, ‘You shall not ^[g]tempt the LORD your God.’ ”

¹³ Now when the devil had ended every ^[h]temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.



Suggested Chapters to Study This Week: Psalm 91

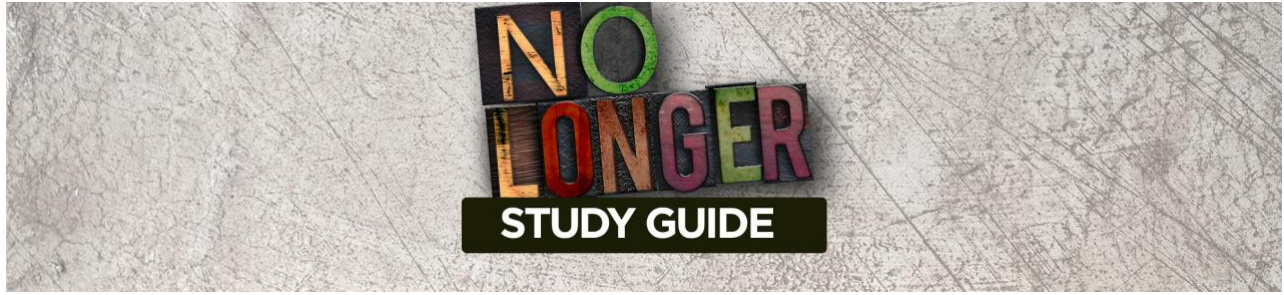
2. REFLECT

[Click the image to go to our YouTube page for more content!]



Rev. Dr. Nicole Massie Martin preaches to us this week as we celebrate Jesus. Her title is “In Pursuit of God’s Presence.” In Dr. Martin’s introduction, she reminds us of the world we live in and how so many things are uncertain. Safety and family have been challenged by the current society. Dr. Martin shares that as children, we often created or looked for a “hideout” when we felt uncertain or unsafe.” This hideout was our place of refuge. It was safe. As adults, we know that we can’t build a hiding place anymore.

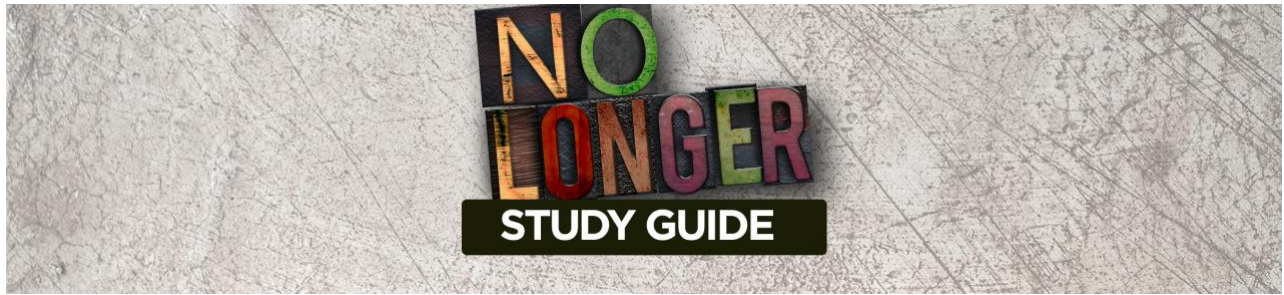
Some adults build safety in things that aren’t healthy and only last for a little while. Dr. Martin reminds us that our true safety, hideout, and refuge are in God’s Presence. Regardless of what it looks like and what other people might say in God’s Presence is where we find God’s Safety. This is why Psalm 91 is important because it is proof of God’s safety for us. Dt. Martin shares with us Psalm 91 and some words that remind us of who God is in our lives. The Psalm gives us proof of God’s safety and God’s rest. We should not only feel safe in God but also experience God’s rest.



Dr. Martin shares these points from Psalm 91 on how we can find safety in God's Presence in this dangerous world.

- We can find safety in God's Presence when we declare His **Word**. (Verse 2)
- We can find safety in God's Presence when we stand on God's **worth**. (Verses 3 – 13)
 - Reference here to Jesus being tempted by the devil.
 - Dr. Martin reminds us that we should focus on who God is, because who God is, is more important than what God does.
- We can find safety in God's Presence by our **worship** of God. (Verse 14 – 15)

Dr. Martin leaves us understanding that God is our safety, and we need to worship Him amid trouble. At that moment, we will be moving our problems from our face to His feet.



3. RESPOND

Introspective Questions

- ï How can you pursue God's Presence differently this week?
- ï What represents God's safety for you today?

Discussion Questions

- ï What parts of this verse stand out to you most as actions you can take this week to strengthen your relationship with God?
- ï Share an experience this year when shifted away from distractions and moved toward God's Presence?