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# Where is my Father? A Tale of Two Sons

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# **Defining Presence**

- In one sense, God is generally present in creation (Psalm 19; Acts 14:15–17).
- In another sense, we can have a more personal relationship with him (Psalm 23; 46).
- He marks a close presence by his abiding Spirit (Acts 2:38; Romans 8:16).

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#### Listen to Wisdom

- "Hear, my son, your father's instruction..." (Proverbs 1:8) .
- "My son, if you receive my words" (Proverbs 2:1-5).
- "Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight... When I was a son with my father, he taught me and said to me" (Proverbs 4:1-4).
- "My son, keep your father's commandment... When you walk, they will lead you" (Proverbs 6:20–22).

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### **Examples of Presence**

- Abraham, the friend of God (James 2:22-23)
- Moses, spoke face to face with God as a friend (Exodus 33:11)
- David and his Shepherd Lord (Psalm 23)
- **Jesus** refers to God as the Father over a hundred times in John.

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## **Practical Advice**

- 1. Don't overcomplicate it.
- 2. When his word is in our heart, God's wisdom is present in our lives. **Read scripture**.
- 3. When he name is on our lips, God's presence is declared in our lives. **Worship God**.
- 4. When we show his compassion to those among us, God's presence is transferred to others. **Love your neighbor**.