

Beyond Sunday

6.7.2026

God Is Near — *Philippians 4:4–9* — Mark Turney

Gather

These questions help build connections with others as you share personal experiences.

1. Describe a time when someone's presence brought you peace or confidence during a stressful situation. What made their presence reassuring?
2. When life feels overwhelming, what is your natural tendency: try to control things, withdraw, seek help, distract yourself, or something else?

Grow

These questions guide your group through Scripture from Sunday's sermon, sharing observations that lead to greater understanding of Scripture and God's work in our lives.

Read Philippians 4:4–9 together.

1. What stands out to you in this passage?

- Is there a word, phrase, or command that especially catches your attention?
- Why do you think Paul repeats the command to rejoice?

2. Paul says, "Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near." (v. 5)

- Why does Paul's reminder that "the Lord is near" lead to a calm, gracious, and steady spirit?
- What would a visibly non-anxious Christian presence look like in today's culture?

3. What does Paul mean when he says, "Do not be anxious about anything" (v. 6)?

- How is this different from pretending everything is okay?
- What examples from Scripture show that faithful believers still experienced fear, grief, or anxiety?
- According to Paul, what should we do when anxiety comes?

4. Look closely at verse 6.

"By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

- What role does prayer play in reminding us that God is near?
- Why do you think Paul includes thanksgiving before the answer arrives?
- Which of these practices—prayer, petition, or thanksgiving—comes most naturally to you? Which is most difficult?

5. Read verses 7–9.

- What is the difference between the peace of God and the absence of problems?
- How do our thought patterns affect our awareness of God's presence?
- What are some things in our culture that encourage fear, outrage, and anxiety?
- What practices help you focus on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable?

Give / Go

These questions help us apply the sermon and respond through life change.

1. Where in your life are you most tempted to live as though everything depends on you?
2. What is one anxiety, burden, or situation you need to intentionally hand over to God this week through prayer?
3. What is one practical step you can take this week to "practice the presence of God" in your daily life? (Examples: setting aside time for prayer, limiting doom-scrolling, memorizing Philippians 4:5, journaling gratitude, or sharing honestly with another believer.)

Prayer

Prayer Direction:

Spend time naming the fears, anxieties, and burdens that group members are carrying. After each person shares, pause and pray together, entrusting those concerns to God.

Scripture Prayer:

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." — 1 Peter 5:7

Going Deeper

If you're interested in exploring the themes of this week a bit deeper, check out one of these resources:

Book

- [The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry](#) by John Mark Comer

Song

- Listen to the song [Be Still My Soul](#) and reflect on the lyrics.
 - What stands out in relation to your current life?
 - What comforts do you hear in this song?

Practice

- The "Daily Examen"
 - At the end of each day, spend 5–10 minutes asking:
 1. Where did I experience God's presence today?
 2. Where did anxiety or fear take over?
 3. How is God inviting me to trust Him tomorrow?