



## CHILDREN BROCHURE

### MORAVIAN CHURCH – BARBADOS CONFERENCE Provincial Theme: Advance the Kingdom: S.H.I.F.T.

**S. – Seek & Submit**  
**H. – Hear & Heed**  
**I. – Imagine & Insight**  
**F. – Focus & Function**  
**T. – Totally Transformed**

## S.H.I.F.T.

**Age: 13 yrs. & Over**

December 19

Sing with me:

God is Watching over you

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rs02V1hcpOc>

Memory Verse: Psalm 139:23, 24 (New Living Translation)

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
24 Point out anything in me that offends you,  
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Scripture: Psalm 139: 7 - 12 (New Living Translation)

Read with me

7 I can never escape from your Spirit!  
I can never get away from your presence!  
8 If I go up to heaven, you are there;  
if I go down to the grave, you are there.  
9 If I ride the wings of the morning,  
if I dwell by the farthest oceans,  
10 even there your hand will guide me,  
and your strength will support me.  
11 I could ask the darkness to hide me  
and the light around me to become night—

12 but even in darkness I cannot hide from you.  
To you the night shines as bright as day.  
Darkness and light are the same to you.

### **Let us talk about it.**

Are you a twin? Or even part of a triplet? Is there anyone at all who is exactly like you? You may be the same height. You may have the same colour skin. You may wear the same size shoes, or even the same size dress or shirt. Do you have a best friend who seems to be always around you? Is there ever a time where you wonder if you cannot be alone for a while? Those are a lot of questions, but let us read the passage again. This passage is about someone from whom you cannot get away. In as much as your sister or brother or best friend is always around you, there are times you wish you can be apart from them, even if it is just a short time. But this passage starts by making the declaration ***“I can never escape from your spirit! I can never get away from your presence!”*** So who is this person from whom you cannot get away? This is God. The thing is, God is everywhere. He is with you, He is with your friend, He is with the man down the street.

God is what we call OMNIPRESENT. God is not limited to time and space. The Bible tells us God is everywhere, all the time. Only God can be everywhere at the same time. Basically, what this reading is telling us is that no matter what you do, or where you go, God is there. You cannot hide from God. Verses 11 and 12 says ***11 I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around me to become night— 12 but even in darkness I cannot hide from you.*** So not only does God see what you are doing, you cannot hide from Him. Of course, you can hide from your friend, or your sibling, or your mother, but you cannot hide from God. In Proverbs 15:3 we read The Lord is watching everywhere, keeping his eye on both the evil and the good and in Jeremiah 23:23-24. ***23 Am I a God who is only close at hand?” says the Lord. “No, I am far away at the same time. 24 Can anyone hide from me in a secret place? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?” says the Lord.***

However, although we're always in God's presence because God is everywhere, and we just said we cannot get away from God, there is still something which separates us from God. Sin is like a curtain keeping us from being completely in God's presence because He cannot have sin in His presence. So, when you do evil things, (of course, you will know the things you will not want God or anyone to see), it would be sinning. The only way we can get rid of the sin which separates us from God is to understand we are sinners and we need to be forgiven of our sin and believe that Jesus died to pay the price for our sin.

When we talk about God's holiness and how because God is Holy, He is completely separated from sin. But God knows we are very likely to do things which are wrong, so because of His great love for us, the Bible tells us God sent His Son, Jesus to take on our sin and die in our place to pay for our sin so that we could be brought back into a right relationship with God and enjoy His presence forever! 1 John 4:9 - 10, ***9God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.***

As we go into the Christmas season, I want you to think of the things you will want God to be pleased about. Remembering you cannot hide from God, neither in thoughts or actions, I will hope you will try to please God by remembering the purpose of this season. Remember that God so loved us, He does not want us out of His presence. So what did He do? He sent His Son to die for our sins and offer us salvation.

**Let us pray**

O God, I pray that I will come to know you more. Thank you, God, for keeping me in your presence, and never leaving me alone. Thank you, God, for salvation we got through your son, Jesus. Amen.

## Activity

How many words can you make with the letters in the word OMNIPRESENT?

Three letters	Four letters	Five letters

God is also described as OMNIPOTENT, OMNISCIENT

Google the definition of these words and write down these definitions.



### Moments of Advent.

#### The Christingle

Christingle, which means 'Christ Light', is a symbol of the Christian faith. The Christingle - an orange decorated with a candle, red ribbon, fruit and sweets. The orange represents the world, the red ribbon around it the blood of Christ, the fruit symbolises God's creation and the candle Jesus, the Light of the World.

#### The Christingle Story

The custom of the Christingle began in the Moravian Church and was first used as part of a Christmas Children's Festival in the Moravian Congregation in Germany on the 24th December 1747.

No one knows for certain when the word "Christingle" was first used or from what it derived, but wherever the Moravians went in the great outreach of missionary evangelism in the 18th and 19th centuries, they took with them the custom of the Christingle.

One story told about the origins of Christingle is this:

Many years ago, children were asked to take a gift to put beside the crib in church. One family had no money for gifts but were determined to take something. They found an orange which they felt would be okay, but were disappointed to find it was going mouldy at the top. However, they thought they would scoop out the bad bits and put a candle in the top and turn it into a lantern. Thinking that it looked a bit ordinary, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle. They had difficulty getting it to stay in place, so fastened it with four small sticks, on the ends of which they put a few raisins. They took their lantern to church and were afraid of the reactions of the other children.

However, the priest acknowledged their gift and told the congregation how special it was for the following reasons:

- The orange is round like the world.
- The candle stands tall and straight and gives light in the dark like the love of God.
- The red ribbon goes all around the 'world' and is a symbol of the blood Jesus shed when he died for us.
- The four sticks point in all directions and symbolize North, South, East and West - they also represent the four seasons.
- The fruit and nuts (or sometimes sweets!) represent the fruits of the earth, nurtured by the sunshine and the rain

Get an orange, a piece of red ribbon, and some dried fruit and make a Christingle. Just follow the picture at the top for directions to make a Christingle. (Use straight pins to pin the red ribbon in place.)

Solutions for last week's quizz. I hope that you got them all right.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
b	a	a	c	d	b	b	a	d	d