

Sermon-Based Questions
August 18, 2019
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Look Up: The Book of Psalms
Intimacy: Psalm 139

Introduction (choose 1):

1. What does it take to really get to know a person?
2. How does it feel when someone takes the time to really get to know you?
3. Share one thing this group does NOT know about you.

Understanding (choose 4-6):

1. *Read Psalm 139:1-6.* David is acknowledging God's omniscience – God's complete knowledge of everything about him. How does David feel about this? How does this make you feel?
2. What are some advantages to God knowing everything about you?
3. Verse 7 reminds us that we have an ever-present God. There is no escaping Him. What are some reasons why a person might want to get away from God? Can you give some examples from the Bible of people who tried to run away, and what was the outcome?
4. *Read Psalm 139:16.* God has ordained your life. You are his creation, part of his plan. How does this impact the direction and choices you make each day?
5. Pastor Dave mentions the issue of human worth. We can often find ourselves looking for our worth and value in other things, besides God. What happens when we do that? Our value must come from the truth that every human being was personally and purposefully created by a loving God. Read *Genesis 1:27*. How does this statement reflect everyone's value?
6. Jesus says, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (*Matthew 5:44*). When we have been hurt by someone, what is our first natural response? What are the benefits for praying for those who have hurt us?
7. We are fully known and fully loved by God. We experience this only as we come to the Cross of Christ. Share with the group how it feels to be fully exposed and yet fully loved. In what ways is this freeing? How is this reflected in our daily lives?

Application:

1. David prayed boldly in verses 23-24. He asked God to search him and test him. It takes a humble heart to invite God to show us our weaknesses and our sins. As you pray in the week ahead, follow David's example in praying boldly. Ask God to search your heart and reveal any "offensive ways."
2. Pray Psalm 139 for someone else in your life. When you come to the words, "me" "my" or "I" insert the name of someone on your heart. It could even be for your enemies.

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Lectio Divina

- **Opening Prayer:** Ask God for insight into His Word, for open hearts and minds, for hunger to know Him better, and for an attitude of learning from one another.
- **Reading:** Have someone from your group read the passage aloud. It is best to print out a copy for each group member so they can read along, make notes, or go back as needed.
- **Meditation:** Spend *an entire minute in complete silence*, contemplating what was just read. Feel free to re-read the passage quietly to yourself or jot down thoughts/highlight what stuck out to you.
- **Sharing:** At the leader's signal, invite group members to share their insights for about 5 minutes.
- **Repeat:** After the 5 minutes are over, repeat the process 2 more times using the same passage. Listen/read like you haven't heard this passage before. If there are longer moments of silence, the leader can prompt discussion with the following questions:
 1. What did you hear and what seems important?
 2. What is the Holy Spirit impressing on you?
 3. What does it make you think of from your life?

Psalm 139:1-6

- ¹ "You have searched me, LORD,
and you know me.
- ² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- ³ You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
- ⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you, LORD, know it completely.
- ⁵ You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.
- ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain."

Psalm 139:13-16

- ¹³ "For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
- ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book

before one of them came to be.”

Psalms 139:23-24

²³ Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.