

PSALMS

A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families For the week of August 13, 2023

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Warm Up

- Tell the group something about yourself that they would not otherwise know.

Psalm 139

Known

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

¹O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
²You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
³You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

- **What does God know?**

⁵You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.
⁷Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
⁹If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.

- **Where is God? *Sheol* is a poetic term in the Old Testament referring to a dark wasteland associated with death. What is your reaction to God's presence being associated with the place of death?**
- **Reflect on places and situations this week in which you have found yourself. Were you aware of God in any of them? How so?**

¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
¹²even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.
¹³For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully
made.
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.

- **What does God see? What words illustrate God's attention and care in forming us?**
- **What might have provoked David to say, "Surely the darkness will cover me"?**
- **In verse 14, the Hebrew word for "fearfully" connotes a sense of awe. The Hebrew for "wonderful" connotes being marked out or distinguished. How do these words inform the way you see yourself? How you see others?**

¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ If I would count them, they are more than the sand.

I awake, and I am still with you.

- **Why are these thoughts precious to David? What is your personal response to these verses?**

¹⁹ Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God!
O men of blood, depart from me!

²⁰ They speak against you with malicious intent;
your enemies take your name in vain.

²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?

And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?

²² I hate them with complete hatred;

I count them my enemies.

- **Why would meditating on God's knowledge and presence ignite David's zeal against God's enemies?**

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart!

Try me and know my thoughts!

²⁴ And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!

- **Why does David ask God to search him if God has already searched him—and to know him if God has already known him?**

- **How does Psalm 139 ultimately point us to Jesus Christ?**

- **Does this Psalm raise any questions for you that you would like to ask the group and bring to the Lord in prayer?**

- **Read the Psalm together again, and use it as a guide for a time of prayer.**

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene,
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