

## Before the Lesson

**Read the Scripture and overview below before your LIFE Group meets.**

Scripture passage: Psalm 139

From an early age humans begin searching. We are desperate to discover answers to questions such as: “Who am I?” and “Why am I here?” We ask these questions because personal identity is paramount when cultivating positive self-awareness and self-worth. In truly discovering a proper identity, however, the greater questions should be: “Who created me?” “Who is God?” and “Who am I as a result of who God is?” The fact is that we will never have a right view of ourselves until we have a right view of God.

Millions of books on the subject of identity line the shelves of libraries, songs have been penned, and counselors bombarded with clients in order to answer these questions about life. But in our songbook of life, we need not look any further than Psalm 139. In its verses we find the truth behind human design and the truth about the Designer. In it each human creation comes face to face with the providence of God, the work and wonder of His hands, and the warning of judgment that comes from an incorrect view of our Creator and His creation. Individually we are confronted with making a determination about life both here on earth and life in the future. What you believe about your life truly matters because it shapes your story, it determines your view of a deity, and it defines your destiny. What will the story of your life be, and who is writing it?

**Focus question:**  
**What or who shapes your life story?**

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## Group Discussion

**Before you dig into Psalm 139, begin by asking your LIFE Group members these opening questions:**

- When growing up did you ever ask yourself these questions: “Who am I?” and “Why am I here?” What did you discover?
- Before coming to know Christ, how would you have responded to this question: “What do you think a person’s greatest need in life is with regard to personal identity?”

**Have a group member read Psalm 139:1-14 and ask the questions below:**

- There is great significance in the opening phrase of this Psalm: “O LORD.” The name LORD (in all caps) signifies the most hallowed of all names of God, *Jehovah* or *Yahweh*. It means *self-existent, transcendent, it refers to the one who is without beginning or end and who possesses all the essentials for life, the One who is constantly revealing Himself, His ways, and His purposes.* (*The*



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*Exhaustive Dictionary of Bible Names*, Smith and Cornwall) In discovering the “origin and meaning of life,” does this particular name of God bring understanding or confirmation to you about the Creator and His creation?

- Discuss this quote by Pastor McKinley: “Until you have a right view of God you will not have a right view of you or anything else.” What makes this particularly true when answering the questions, “Who am I?” and “Why am I here?”
- In the first 14 verses, we see the “Omni” or “All” of God. Discuss these attributes of God and how they contribute to an understanding of God as the creator and sustainer of life:
  - Verses 2-6 = Omniscience (All-knowing)
  - Verses 7-12 = Omnipresence (Always-present)
  - Verses 13-14 = Omnipotence (All-powerful)

How does this knowledge of who God is shape your identity and provide significance to your life?

**Have a group member read Psalm 139:13-18 and ask the questions below:**

- Do these verses provide any clarification or confirmation to you with regard to the creator and designer of humankind?
- Consider the following cross-references about the creation of man:
  - Genesis 1:26-27
  - Job 10:8-12
  - Psalm 40:5
  - Psalm 119:73
  - Ecclesiastes 11:5

**Have a group member read Psalm 139:19-22 and ask the questions below:**

- Verses 19-22 remind us of judgment for disobedience. First, what does Micah 6:8 say regarding God’s expectation for man? Secondly, read Romans 2:6-9 and 1 Peter 4:17-19 and discuss the ultimate judgment of God. Lastly, read 1 John 2:2. What does this tell you about God and His loving-kindness toward His creation?
- In the final two verses of Psalm 139, the psalmist again turns his thoughts to “searching.” Rather than searching for significance in himself, He asks God to do the searching. He asks God to: search him, know him, and lead him. How can we apply this to our lives, not only with regard to sin and repentance, but also in regard to knowing our destiny and determining our purpose in life?

**Spend some time praying together as a LIFE Group. Pray for the sanctity of life. Ask God to turn the hearts of our country, government leaders, and officials to our one and only Creator God.**

**Joshua Code memory verse:**

*Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 3:13-14*