

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Sanctity of Life – Sermon 1/23/22

Before you get started with this week’s questions, please spend time in prayer. If you don’t get through the questions because you spent the majority of your time in prayer... that is a success!!!

- Pray for all the women within our church that have had an abortion or have participated in an abortion at some level. Pray that these women have true saving faith and that they find rest in God’s grace and forgiveness.
 - **Psalm 103:12** As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.
- Pray for the women in our community that are facing unplanned pregnancy. Pray also for the men that are the fathers of the unplanned children.
- Pray for our church body, that we would be a light in a dark culture and that we would speak truth boldly and lovingly. Pray that our priority would be the gospel and not politics.
- Pray for the leaders of our nation to see abortion for what it truly is and to make laws that protect the unborn. Especially pray for the judges on the Supreme Court as they look over cases that may overturn Roe v. Wade.

Sermon Questions

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

3 Points of Sunday’s Sermon

- **I. God is omniscient (all-knowing)**
- **II. God is omnipresent (everywhere)**
- **III. God is omnipotent – (all-powerful)**

I. God is omniscient

- **Read Psalm 139:1-6**
- **Read and discuss** the following quote.
 - *Any small thoughts that we may have of God are [completely] transcended by this psalm; yet for all its height and depth it remains intensely personal from first to last. – Derek Kidner*
 - In what ways do you see the personal nature of this Psalm in verses 1-6?
- How does verse 4 imply that God knows us better than we know ourselves? Is that scary or comforting to you? (Explain your answer)
- What does verse 6 mean? Read Job 42:1-6 to help answer this question.

II. God is omnipresent

- **Read Psalm 139:7-12**
- Why do you think David contemplates God's omnipresence in the face of danger? How does God's presence bring comfort?
- What do you think verses 11 & 12 are saying?

III. God is omnipotent

- **Read Psalm 139:13-17**
- Who is being glorified in verses 13-14? Man or God?
- **Read Genesis 1:26-27** and compare it to how God made everything else in creation (Gen. 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24)
 - *"It should be noted that a divine counsel or deliberation preceded the creation of man: "Let us make man..." this again brings out the uniqueness of man's creation. In connection with no other creature is such a divine counsel mentioned." – John H. Sailhamer*
- From where does man get his worth? **Read Gen. 9:6** to help answer this question.
- **Read and discuss** the following quote.

- *The reason that murder is said to be such a horrendous crime, so horrendous that it must be punished by death, is that the man who has been murdered is someone who imaged God, reflected God, was like God, and represented God. Therefore, when one kills a human being, not only does he take that person's life, but he hurts God himself-the God who was reflected in that individual. To touch the image of God is to touch God himself; to kill the image of God is to do violence against God himself. – Albert Mohler*
- If man doesn't get his value and dignity from imaging God, where does he get his value and dignity? Discuss how our secular society tries to answer this question.
- Read the following verses and discuss what they tell us about God's perspective on the unborn.
 - Jeremiah 1:5
 - Psalm 22:10
 - Psalm 139:13
 - Psalm 51:5
 - Judges 13:7
 - Isaiah 49:1
 - Exodus 21:22-23
- The definition of murder is "the **intentional** killing of an **innocent** human." By this definition, why should abortion be considered murder? Why isn't capital punishment murder?
- **Read and Discuss** Psalm 139:15-16.
 - What does David mean when he says, "when I was being made in secret" in verse 15?
 - What is David talking about when he says, "Your eyes saw my unformed substance" in verse 16?
- Read Psalm 51:5 in light of Psalm 139. How was God's grace evident in David's life?

Final prayer on Psalm 139 – *In three directions have you beset me, O God. You are behind me, you are before me, you are in contact with me. In all these relations I need you every day. I want rest for my threefold self – rest in you. Beset my dark past with your presence; take up its clouds and turn them into sunshine. Beset my shadowy future with your glory; reveal the rainbow of your promise to the eye of faith. Beset my arduous present with the sense of your nearness; let me feel laid on me the pressure of your hand. – George Matheson 1842-1906*