

Small Group Discussion Guide — September 27, 2020

- Series: Gospel Truth - Good News for Everyone
 - Sermon: You Are Personally Known and Loved
 - Scripture: Psalm 139: 1-18
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FOLLOW-UP FROM THE SUMMER:

Did you notice any ways this week that you tend to “drink water from the ocean,” or satisfy your internal thirst with short-term solutions? How did last week’s message cause you to think differently about those habits?

CONNECT:

1. What one thing stood out for you from this weekend’s service?
2. Who would you say knew you the BEST as you were growing up? Who knows you the best now?

ENGAGE:

1. Read Psalm 139: 1-12.
 - What do verses 1-4 suggest about anything we could try to hide from God?
 - What do you think about a God who knows us so well, and still loves us so perfectly? How hard a truth is this for you to take in, and why?
 - What do verses 11 and 12 say about God’s ability to transform even the most hopeless situations?
2. Read verses 13-18.
 - Compare what those who lived in David’s time knew about childbirth, to what we know today. Have our advancements added to or taken away from the awe David describes here?
 - Verse 16 speaks about God’s intentionality in our creation, development, birth, and life after birth. How does considering this truth challenge you to respond to God?

APPLY:

1. How does it feel to know that God knows every strand of your DNA? Is that a comforting thought? Surprising? How does it change the way you speak to God and live your life?
2. Think of a time you have felt anonymous, unknown, and possibly meaningless. Why do you think this feeling is so devastating to us? Has this feeling of loneliness been magnified during this season of COVID? How can you reframe those feelings, considering that God knows you so intimately, and that he loves you fully?
3. As you begin to make progress in understanding the depths of God’s love and grace toward you, name some ways this understanding may affect others in your life.

PRAY:

Dear Lord, you know us completely, and love us fully. As we live out this week, help us grow in our understanding of your love. Draw us closer to you, and let your love flow through us to the others you have put in our lives, as we seek to understand, rather than to be understood. Thank you Lord for your unending grace, Amen.

GOING DEEPER:

1. David broke this scripture up into three sections. Consider these questions for each section:
 - Verses 1-4 describe an *omniscient* God. How does the idea of a “library” God compare with a God who knows everything about us?
 - Verses 5-12 describe an *omnipresent* God, who tells us we are never alone. What does it mean to you that there is no darkness for God? How does his presence bring us into light?
 - Vv. 13-18 describe an *omnipotent* God. Consider the loneliness pandemic David discussed. As you go through this week, reflect upon God’s authority in your life. How do these verses cause you to reframe your circumstances? How are you finding comfort in His power?
2. Read Genesis 16: 11, 13-14. What does “the God who sees me” mean to you? What do you want Him to see, if you have the total assurance that He will love you anyway?
3. What are some ways you individually and your group can seek to understand and listen to someone who desires to be known and loved? How can you welcome in new people, when the time is right?

SUPPORTING VERSES

Friendly reminder: Download one of the Bible apps on your phone or tablet to have quick access to the many different versions of scripture available.

- Matthew 10:30
- Romans 8:1
- Genesis 16: 11, 13-14
- 1 Corinthians 13:12

QUOTES

“In comparison with this big world, the human heart is only a small thing, but though the world is so large, it is utterly unable to satisfy this tiny heart.”

Sadhu Sundar Singh

“Men and women who don’t listen usually do too much and do much of it the wrong way.”

Eugene H. Peterson ([A Month of Sundays](#))

“One look at your face is all I need to learn my name.”

Andrew Peterson