

We are Important to God

God takes a personal interest in us.

Small Group Notes

Psalm 139 (niv)

...Introduction

It is characteristic of the Bible to express its great truths in the context of personal experience. Partly, this is because God is never proposed as a subject for our intellectual enquiry, but for His devotion, worship and obedience. It is also because the Bible never considers a truth 'known' until it influences the life of the learner and **Psalm 139** is a classic instance of this.

This Psalm could be said to teach God's complete knowledge of us (*vs 1-6*), His ever-present presence with us (*vs 7-12*), and His sovereignty (*vs 13-16*), and holiness (*vs 17-24*).

Therefore, we are important to God and He takes a personal interest in us. He is concerned for our total wellbeing. In fact, we are just like our Creator God – we were made in His image - (*Genesis 1:26-28; 31*)

1. **God knows us inside out and still loves us completely.**

Psalms 139:1-5

- Can we accept that God loves us completely?
- Why do we find it to accept ourselves?

(Break up in pairs and discuss the following question and try to be as open as you can. It may be good to pray for one another before coming back into the larger group.)

- Have there been events, circumstances or sin in your life that has caused you to now find it hard to accept the fact that God loves you completely despite those things happening?

2. **No matter what we do or where we go, we can never be far away from God's comforting presence.**

Psalms 139:7-12

- Even though we know that God's presence is with us all the time, how then do we actively engage Him and allow Him to comfort us?
- Prayer is the obvious way but when that prayer seemingly doesn't work what do we do then? What role does faith and practise have in this?
- Give examples where you can highlight and support the fact that God is ever present and is there for us in a tangible way.

3. God created us to enjoy us and we should have as much respect for ourselves as God has for us.

Psalms 139:13-18

- God's character goes into the creation of every person. When you feel worthless or even begin to hate yourself, remember that God's Spirit is ready and willing to work within you.
- Can you describe what attributes of God's character are created in each of us? Do you practise each of these attributes? If not, why not?

4. God knows us, but do we know God?

Psalms 139:19-24

Throughout the course of this next week, ask God to search your hearts and minds to reveal any wrong motives or wrong desires that prevent you from becoming closer in your relationship with Him.

If so, come before Him in prayer and confess your wrongs and ask Father God to forgive you – (note *1 John 1:9*)