

Small Group Study Summer Semester Week Five

Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the questions that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.

Optional Ice Breaker(s)

- a) What are the three most important values that you would want to instill in your children/future children?
- b) When you were growing up, who was the person in your life that you felt knew you "the best"? Was it a parent, a friend, a relative, a pastor, etc.?

Passage and Discussion

Read Psalm 139

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage? What is a theme, verse, or word that you find encouraging? What do you find challenging in this passage?
- b) On Sunday, Cam warned about the tendency that we have to make ourselves the main character of Scripture as we read it. What are a few examples of ways that we do that? Have you ever wrestled with that in your life? How do we remember that "the Bible is about God"?
- c) A.W. Tozer famously said, "what comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us". What do you think about this statement? How do our thoughts about God affect every part of our lives?
- d) How should our relationship with God change when we acknowledge that He is omniscient (all-knowing)? If we serve a God who "knows all and knows best", how should that change how we approach Him in prayer?
- e) How do you feel about God's complete knowledge of you, as described in verses 1-6? Do these verses make you feel uncomfortable or do they bring you comfort?
- f) What does it mean to you that God is with you everywhere you go? How have you seen Him in all seasons of your life - in both the mountains and the valleys?
- g) Even though we cannot "get away" from God, what do we sometimes do to hold Him at a distance? How can we change this kind of behaviour in our lives, in order to pursue deeper intimacy with God?
- h) On Sunday, we discussed five "omnis" of God: He is omniscient, omnipresent, omnificent, omnipotent, and omnibenevolent. How many of these words had you heard before Sunday? Which one is impacting you the most in your current season of life?

- i) If we truly understand the attributes of God that are taught in this Psalm, how should this change how we live our lives? How should we live our everyday lives if we trusted that each of these attributes about God was true? What sometimes stops us from living this way?
- j) At the end of the passage, how does David respond to these truths about God that he has written about in this Psalm? How can we adopt a similar posture of humility and vulnerability in our relationship with God?
- k) If you feel comfortable sharing, how/when do you find yourself hiding your true self from God? What would it look like for you to live openly before God?
- l) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging? Did you learn anything about the Psalms that you didn't know before?

Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)

- a) This week, continue reading through the Psalms! Over the next few weeks, we will be exploring a new Psalm each week, so continue reading them to have them in your mind as we learn them together as a church community.
- b) In our passage, we are reminded that God knows us - he knows our actions ("when I sit and when I rise"), and he knows our thoughts "from afar". Therefore, plan to set aside time this week to confess your sin to Him ("see if there is any offensive way in me"). Remember that we do not confess to earn forgiveness, but we are invited to be fully honest with our Father.

Optional Ideas for Prayer Time

- a) In this season, it is important for us to be intentionally praying for each other. This also means that we must each choose to be honest and vulnerable with our prayer requests. Take time to 'check-in' about how each person is doing, and pray for them.
- b) As a group, spend a few minutes praising God for each attribute that was taught on Sunday morning. Acknowledge and thank God for being omnibenevolent, even while He is omniscient, omnipresent, etc.