



## “Lead Me”

### 1. READ

**Scripture: Psalm 139:1-24 New International Version (NIV)**

- <sup>1</sup> You have searched me, LORD,  
and you know me.
- <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- <sup>3</sup> You discern my going out and my lying down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.
- <sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue  
you, LORD, know it completely.
- <sup>5</sup> You hem me in behind and before,  
and you lay your hand upon me.
- <sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too lofty for me to attain.
- <sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from your presence?
- <sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, you are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
- <sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,  
<sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me,  
your right hand will hold me fast.
- <sup>11</sup> If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me  
and the light become night around me,”  
<sup>12</sup> even the darkness will not be dark to you;  
the night will shine like the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.





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- <sup>13</sup> For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>14</sup> I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.
- <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my unformed body;  
all the days ordained for me were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.
- <sup>17</sup> How precious to me are your thoughts, <sup>[a]</sup> God!  
How vast is the sum of them!
- <sup>18</sup> Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand—  
when I awake, I am still with you.
- <sup>19</sup> If only you, God, would slay the wicked!  
Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!
- <sup>20</sup> They speak of you with evil intent;  
your adversaries misuse your name.
- <sup>21</sup> Do I not hate those who hate you, LORD,  
and abhor those who are in rebellion against you?
- <sup>22</sup> I have nothing but hatred for them;  
I count them my enemies.
- <sup>23</sup> Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
- <sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.



**Suggested Chapters to Study This Week: Psalm 139; Psalm 51; Proverbs 4:23; Luke 6:45**

## 2. REFLECT

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Our very own Rev. Kendra Smith is our first preacher for our August Preaching Series. She uses Psalm 139 this Sunday and the title “Lead Me.”

Rev. Smith helps us understand that Psalm 139 is an individual prayer to God by the Psalmist. Rev. Smith says this Psalm is a “private conversation with God, about God and their relationship.” The Psalmist is crying out to the Lord about what is on their heart, and Rev. Smith reminds us that we need to pray to God for ourselves just as the Psalmist. Rev. Smith gives us this outline of what we can find in the Psalm based on the writing:





1. God is Omniscient - All Knowing - God knows all things – God knows me. Verses 1-6
2. God is Omnipresent - Ever Present - God is everywhere – God is with me - Verses 7-12
3. God is Omnipotent – All Power - God has all power to create, uphold and sustain – God created, upholds and sustains me - Verses 13-18
4. Prayer for God’s intervention and the Psalmist’s surrender – Verse 19-24

The result of this Psalm is to bring us closer to God regardless of our past issues or current ones. Rev. Smith outlines for us the attributes of God that we can find in the scripture, and she uses this definition. “When we talk about the attributes of God, we are affirming something true about God that has been revealed in creation, Scripture, or Christ.” Holman Bible Handbook.

Verses 1-6 God is Omniscient – God is All Knowing and Rev Smith used this definition:

*“State of being all knowing, which theology ascribes to God. Though Scripture affirms God’s immeasurable understanding (Ps. 147:5), God’s omniscience is not a matter of abstract speculation. Rather, God’s knowing is a matter of personal experience. God knows us intimately (Ps. 139:1–6; Matt. 6:4, 6, 8). Such knowledge is cause for alarm for the unrighteous but for confidence for God’s saints.” – Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*

This helps us to understand that God is all Knowing means that there is nothing that God doesn’t already know. There is no part of us that God doesn’t already know and hasn’t already seen. Our problem Rev Smith states are that we cannot accurately see ourselves. It’s called Metacognition. Metacognition is the ability to step back and examine oneself objectively.” The next point Rev Smith shared was from verses 7-12, God is Omnipresent. God is ever-present, and Rev. Smith used this definition.

“God created space, and He cannot be localized. He has access to the whole of creation at all times.” God is not limited by space or time. “His existence is not measured by time. This does not mean that God is timeless but rather that He is above time or over time. We must acknowledge that He is aware of what has happened, what is happening, and what will happen at each point in time. Yet there



is no time in His action or willing. He has from all eternity known what He is doing and will do” **Holman Bible Handbook**

This helps us understand that there is no place to go and know that God isn't there. Anywhere we go, or we are, God is there entirely because God is ever-present in our lives. Rev. Smith shares that while this is great to the resource over, sometimes we don't want God close if we're honest. There are at least two examples of people not wanting to be close to God in the Bible. In Genesis 3:6-10 with Adam and Eve when they sinned against God and were hiding. Also, in Jonah, the first chapter when Jonah was trying to run from God and God's call on his life. In each story and in our lives, God is still there no matter how we try to run, and this is where the Psalmist is when he says, "Even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." Anywhere we go, God will be with us. God is also Omnipotent – All-Powerful, and Rev Smith uses this definition:

“The attribute of omnipotence refers to God's unconditioned power to do that which he wills in accordance with his nature. The Bible portrays God as the Lord of both creation and the history of creation. This is so because all that exists owes its reality, integrity, and continuity to the mighty Word of God which founds and upholds it (Ps 33:9). Consequently, there is no created power which can compete with God; his power stands over all. **Lexham Survey of Theology**

Rev Smith says, “God does whatever God wants to do in God's own power because God is all-powerful.” This is what the Psalmist is saying in verses 13 to 18, and it should be an encouragement to us because no matter what others think or say, we were a thought in God's mind before the beginning of time. Rev Smith closes with the final verses, and they show us that even in the presence of God, there is also a real sense of the existence of evil, but that evil can't defeat our God. This is why the Psalm closes with the fact that God knows the Psalmist. God is ever-present us, and learning about God and having a relationship with God is different. God wants us to have a relationship with Him, and for that to happen, we must ask Him and trust Him to lead us.





## 1. RESPOND

### **Introspective Questions**

- ï In what ways do you need God to search you?
- ï When was the last time you allowed God to lead you ?

### **Discussion Questions**

- ï What do you think those who read this Psalm years ago thought about this Psalm and how it related to their lives?
- ï How can this current society allow God to lead them in their lives, what would they have to give up?

