

## 4-23-23 Tough Prayer

Scripture Reading: Psalm 139:1-12 & 2 Chronicles 7:14

### Discussion Questions

1. When times are hard, when relationships are difficult, when the diagnosis is poor, when the realities of life are overwhelming, may we be people who start with prayer. Are you currently a person who starts with prayer? When life is hard, where do you tend to turn to first?
2. Today's sermon is entitled "Tough Prayers." Sometimes we can pray what feels like easy prayers: "heal my friend God," "give me a job God," "God help me!" And that's not all bad, but sometimes God calls us to pray tough prayers. Prayers that sound a lot more like: "Use me!" "Search me!" "Break me!" "Send me!" These are hard prayers. Think about your own prayer life, do you tend to pray easy prayers, or do you dare to pray tough prayers?
3. All throughout scripture, from the Old Testament to the New, we see that God calls people. There are some specific tasks that God wants one of his followers to do. But we in scripture see three responses to God's call.
  - Jonah = Here I am, I'm not going. Read Jonah 3:1-3.
  - Moses = Here I am, send someone else. Read Exodus 3:10-11.
  - Isaiah = Here I am, send me. Read Isaiah 6:8.
4. One of my all time favorite hymns is called "Here I am Lord," or sometimes it's known by its other title "I the Lord of Sea and Sky." I encourage you to look up this song online, maybe on YouTube, and just listen to the words of the song. Is God speaking anything to you in this song and its lyrics?