

REDISCOVERING OUR PLACE IN GOD'S STORY



PROLOGUE DEVOTIONAL ACTIVITY

"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet none of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered." (Luke 12:6-7)

God is big! Yet the Bible tells us that we are intimately known by this transcendent God. He has been involved in our story since before we were born. But more importantly he has been dreaming and planning for how we can be involved in *HIS* story. The realization that God knows and loves each of us uniquely can have a profound effect on our relationship with him, and knowing that we play a role in his unfolding story can provide meaning and purpose for our lives. Read and pray Psalm 139 slowly, reflecting on how it speaks of God's intimate presence with us throughout life.

Psalm 139

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all of my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.

You hem me in - behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea

Even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

Even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful; I know that full well.

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, your eyes saw my unformed body.

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

How precious concerning me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them.

Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake I am still with you...

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

- 1) Spend some time meditating on this verse: "All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." What does this mean? What does this communicate to you about God's purposes for your life?
- 2) What are some areas of your life (relationships, past experiences, activities, etc.) where you most experience a sense of God's presence or where God seems most real to you? What are some areas of your life where you struggle to experience God or to see him at work?
- 3) The Scriptures teach us that God knows us better than we know ourselves. He has "knit us together" with unique gifts and abilities. What are some of the gifts, talents, passions, and interests God has given you? Spend some time thanking God for how he has made you. Write a prayer of thanksgiving in your journal.
- 4) Psalm 139 describes how there is no aspect of our lives that remains apart from the presence of God. Write a prayer asking God to reveal how he is present and active in those areas of your life where you struggle to experience him.
- 5) Write a prayer of commitment, offering your life, time, gifts, and energy to playing your unique role in God's unfolding story of redemption in our world.