

**Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides**  
**August 13th**

**Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)**

1. As a kid, what was your favorite summer activity?

**Bible Study Questions**

1. Read Psalm 139
  - What do you notice in David's prayer?
  - What impacts you about this prayer?
2. David is amazed at how deeply God knows him. How does it impact the way that you view yourself to know that God takes the time to know you that deeply?
  - Pastor Michael shared an article about director Sydney Pollock who was said to be unable to justify his existence unless he was making movies. What examples have you seen of people needing to justify their existence either by producing accomplishments that are known or through relationships?
  - How does social media contribute to our finding value through being known?
  - Why is it dangerous to find your self worth in being known either by your accomplishments or through relationships? How about the line, "I am living for my family?"
3. God sees all that we do. How does that impact your choices knowing that you always have a divine audience?
4. David is amazed at God intentionally designing him. Have you ever thought about yourself that way?
  - How does it impact the way that we honor other lives knowing that they are intentionally designed by God?
5. Reread verses 23-24. Why does David want God to search his heart?
  - Do you have a regular practice of asking God to do this?

## August 13th

### Psalm 139: Known by God

We love to tell stories about times that we encounter celebrities. There are many reasons for that, but one is that we feel more important when we are associated with someone who we deem to be important. It points back to a struggle that we have with self worth. In the aftermath of the Jewish exile, the Jews were asking this same question. Without the temple, where do they find their value? Psalm 139 was given to them as a way of answering that question.

- I. God fully knows you:** In verses 1-6, David is in awe of the depth of God's knowledge about him. God knows him even more deeply than his closest friend. God knows his deepest joys and his deepest fears. In our culture, there are many people who find their significance by being seen, either through their achievements or relationships. Without being seen, they struggle to justify their existence. Here we have the message that we are seen by the creator of the universe and therefore have value.
- II. God always sees you:** Verses 7-12 tells of God being present everywhere. God sees our pain and takes the time to notice our life.
- III. God intentionally designed you:** Verses 13-18 talk about the wonders of God's intentional design. There are no "accident babies", but everyone is designed by God. What more, he rejoices over them. On a sidenote, this passage influenced the early church to value the life of discarded babies. It should prompt us to value life also.
- IV. Our role: Remove the barriers to communion:** in verses 23-24, David asks the God who knows him, to search his heart. David recognizes that God's presence is available, but he has put up barriers through sin in his own life. He asks God to expose those sins so he can confess and run into God's arms unhindered.

### Conclusion

This prayer speaks to where we find meaning in life. Instead of accomplishments or relationships, we find value in knowing that our creator knows us, sees us, and intentionally designed us. David was in awe of this, but we know more than he did. God further added to this value by coming into this world and sacrificing his one and only son so that we could live forever with God. As a result, we have immense value. We should take David's request at the end seriously. We should be asking God if there are sin issues in our life and then regularly repenting so that we can experience the fullness of God's love.