



# home groups

*Discussion Guide*



## Learning To Be Truly Known

*Psalm 139*

### Ice Breaker

*(5 minutes)*

#### **Discuss**

- We're halfway through Lent. Give an update on your experience. Are you still fasting? Has it helped you draw closer to God?

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### Lesson Review

*(30 minutes)*

Andy said there are three questions that every heart asks of God:

- Do you value me?
- Will you stay with me?
- Can you love me?

Psalm 139 delivers answers to each of these questions through David's understanding.

## Do You Value Me?

This is the question every child asks when they shout, “Look at me, Mom!” Andy said that desire to be known and noticed doesn’t go away when we reach adulthood; we just change the way we ask.

### Discuss

- How are you asking this? How and by whom are you hoping to be noticed?

## Read Psalm 139:1-6 and John 10:14

### Discuss

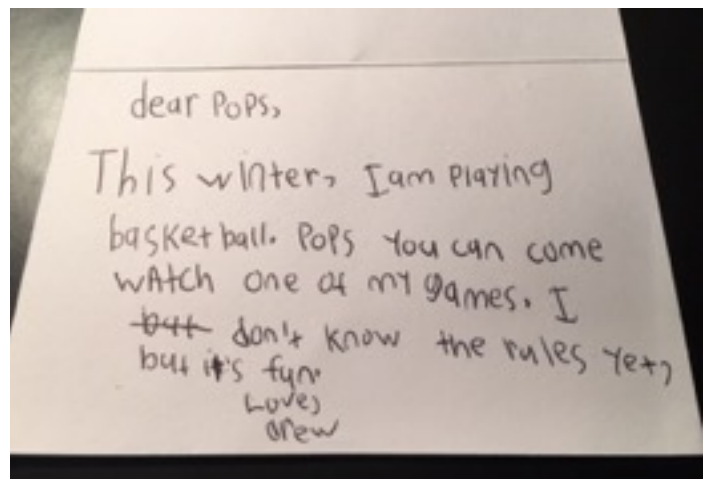
- Based on these verses, what is God’s answer to our question, “Do you value me?”

## Will You Stay With Me?

Andy read a note he received from his grandson Drew. Drew was about to face a new challenge – playing on a basketball team. He was unsure, didn’t completely understand the rules. He was risking loss and embarrassment and injury. And so he wanted the presence of someone he trusted and looked up to. Drew’s situation is a metaphor for ours.

### Discuss

- What court are you stepping onto?



## Read Psalm 139:7-12 and Deuteronomy 31:8

### Discuss

- Based on these verses, what is God’s answer to our question, “Will you stay with me?”

## Can You Love Me?

We are tempted to question God's love for us when we realize how sinful or broken we are. Andy used the example of Ethel Waters, who struggled with her identity as the product of the rape of her 13-year-old mother. Ethel was tempted to think of herself as a mistake or a victim or a curse. But she took comfort from Psalm 139, and she went on to sing beautifully and famously about God's love.

*I sing because I'm happy;*

*I sing because I'm free;*

*His eye is on the sparrow*

*And I know He watches me.*



### Read Psalm 139:13-18 and Ephesians 2:10

#### Discuss

- Based on these verses, what is God's answer to our question, "Can you love me?"

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## Application

*(25 minutes)*

In the final line of this song, David requests of God, "Lead me in the way everlasting." Andy said that we stray from the everlasting way when we fail to believe God's answers to our questions — when we flag in our confidence that he values us, stays with us, and love us. Conversely, the everlasting way is believing the truths of Psalm 139 — having our deepest questions answered by the love of God.

*“My deepest awareness of myself is that I am deeply loved by Jesus Christ and I have done nothing to earn it or deserve it. . . I have been seized by the power of a great affection.”*

*– Brennan Manning, The Ragamuffin Gospel*

### **Discuss**

- What is your deepest identity? Do you identify most deeply as a woman? Or an American? Or a Republican? Or a father? Or a heterosexual? Or a Texan? Or a socialist? Do you identify most deeply with your occupation? Or your hobbies? Or your tribe? Or are your deepest questions answered by the truth that you are deeply loved by Jesus?
- The opposite of God’s answers above would be that he overlooks you instead of valuing you, abandons you rather than staying with you, and dislikes you rather than loving you. Which of these three lies are easiest for you to believe?

### **Read 1 John 4:19**

Close by praying for everyone in your group to be seized by “the power of a great affection” – that all in your group would love well because he first loved us.