

LESSON 38

# GOD KNOWS!

## *Psalm 139*

*To the choirmaster. A psalm of David.*

<sup>1</sup>O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

<sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
    you discern my thoughts from afar.

<sup>3</sup>You search out my path and my lying down  
    and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>Even before a word is on my tongue,  
    behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

<sup>5</sup>You hem me in, behind and before,  
    and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
    it is high; I cannot attain it.

<sup>7</sup>Where shall I go from your Spirit?  
    Or where shall I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup>If I ascend to heaven, you are there!  
    If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

<sup>9</sup>If I take the wings of the morning  
    and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

<sup>10</sup>even there your hand shall lead me,  
    and your right hand shall hold me.

<sup>11</sup>If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
    and the light about me be night,”

<sup>12</sup>even the darkness is not dark to you;  
    the night is bright as the day,  
    for darkness is as light with you.

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## **WELCOME:** *Fixing Our Focus*

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List down five different categories, such as color, subject in school, letter, number, animals, etc. Have a member think of one item per category and the rest of the group will try to guess what the member has thought of. Take turns until everyone has had a chance to have their thoughts guessed. Was anybody able to correctly guess perfectly? Of course not! Only God knows what we are thinking of.

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## **WORSHIP:** *Adoring Our God*

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Suggested songs:

*At the Cross* by Reuben Morgan and Darlene Zschech  
*He Leadeth Me* by Joseph Gilmore

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## **WORD:** *Understanding the Word*

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*Lesson Aim:* Members will define what kind of life is acceptable to an all-knowing God.

### **Introduction**

GCF's building complex has about 240 CCTV cameras. That is more than what Barangay San Antonio, the barangay where our building is located, has! With all those cameras, won't you feel safe that every possible spot is under constant watch? However, there are "blind spots" in our building's surveillance system. There are no cameras in the bathrooms—for obvious reasons, of course!

God, on the other hand, has no blind spots. He sees all things. He is everywhere. His omniscience and omnipresence could be a cause for either alarm or safety. Let's study how David felt about this.

*Leader:* Lead in reading Psalm 139:1-12 aloud together. Then read the paragraph on the "Key Verse."

*Key Verse:* Since God knows and sees all things, David humbly prays "Search me, O God and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts" (v. 23). This is a key response to the God who knows.

**Psalm 139:1-12. Theme:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. David was amazed at the things that God knew about him. What are these things? What do these things teach us about God (*vv. 1-6*)?
  2. In your opinion, how did David gain this kind of knowledge about the nature of God?
  3. In verse 7, David says “your Spirit” and “your presence.” What does this say about his understanding of God?
  4. Read verses 7-12. Explain your understanding of the following metaphors:
    - “If I ascend to heaven”
    - “If I made my bed in Sheol”
    - “If I take the wings of the morning”
    - “dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea”
  5. Write a summary statement of what verses 7-12 teach about God.

*In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 1-12.*

**Psalm 139:13-18. Theme:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Read verses 13-18 together.*

<sup>13</sup>For you formed my inward parts;  
    you knitted me together in my mother's womb.  
<sup>14</sup>I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
    my soul knows it very well.  
<sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
    intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
<sup>16</sup>Your eyes saw my unformed substance;  
in your book were written, every one of them,  
    the days that were formed for me,  
when as yet there was none of them.

<sup>17</sup>How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

<sup>18</sup>If I would count them, they are more than the sand.

I awake, and I am still with you.

6. What do we learn about God and about human life based on verse 13?
  7. Explain what being “fearfully and wonderfully made” (*v. 14*) means.
  8. What do we learn about God in verses 15-16?
  9. If you were in David’s shoes, would you feel and think that your life is pre-determined – that you are just living each day according to what God has written in his book? Explain your answer (*v. 16*).

10. What is David's response to God's thoughts of him? Was he alarmed? Explain your answer (*vv. 17-18*).

*In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 13-18.*

**Psalm 139:19-24. Theme:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Read verses 19-24 together.*

- <sup>19</sup>Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God!  
    O men of blood, depart from me!
- <sup>20</sup>They speak against you with malicious intent;  
    your enemies take your name in vain.
- <sup>21</sup>Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord?  
    And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?
- <sup>22</sup>I hate them with complete hatred;  
    I count them my enemies.
- <sup>23</sup>Search me, O God, and know my heart!  
    Try me and know my thoughts!
- <sup>24</sup>And see if there be any grievous way in me,  
    and lead me in the way everlasting!

11. What could be the reasons for David's abrupt shift in focus: from wonder and worship to hatred for those who hate God?
12. Why is it important for David to allow God to search his heart and test his thoughts? Isn't personal examination not sufficient? Explain your answer (*v. 23*).
13. Why did David ask God to lead him “in the way everlasting”? How is this prayer related to everything he said about the nature of God in this psalm (*v. 24*)?

*In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 19-24.*

### **Questions for Adults**

1. David marveled at the fact that God is all-knowing. How about you? How do you feel about God knowing all your thoughts, words and actions? Explain your answer.
2. If God knows all things and is everywhere, how then should we live?
3. One of pagan Greek philosophy's main goals is "man, know yourself." It teaches that the knowledge of the self is only attained by a dialog between a man and his soul. Critique this philosophy in light of verses 23-24.
4. Individually and as a group, pray back this psalm to God. You could start by saying something like:

*O Lord, search me and know my heart...*

5. Pray for GCF (Prayer requests supplied by the Leader).

### **Questions for the Youth**

1. In this psalm, we learned that God is all-knowing. He knows every detail of our lives. How would this knowledge affect the way you live your life?
2. This psalm also shows that God intricately made you and thinks about you a lot. How would this change the way you see God and his involvement in your life?
3. According to Jeremiah 17:9-10, our hearts are deceitful above all things and only God can show us the truth. This echoes what the psalmist declared in verses 23-24. Commit to make it a habit to ask God to search your heart and make you sensitive to the Holy Spirit so that you can live a life pleasing to God.

### **Questions for Children**

1. What are the things that God know about us? Is there anything in our life that we can hide from God? How do you feel knowing that God knows all the details of your life?
2. In this psalm, we learn that God had carefully made each and every one of us, and that all his works—including you—are wonderful. How does it make you feel knowing that God lovingly and carefully made you, and that he continues to think about you?
3. The psalmist ended the psalm asking God to search his heart for hidden sins and to lead him in God's way. Pray a similar prayer to God right now.