



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 3

July 10th & 11th, 2010

Small Group Warm-Up

In Psalm 139:13-16 we learn that God is our Creator/Designer. He made each of us with a unique personality, talents and abilities. Share three adjectives that describe your personality (laid back/high energy, spontaneous/planner, quiet/loud, etc.)

Opening Prayer

Father God, you are amazing. When we take the time to think about your incredible power and your infinite love we are overwhelmed with gratitude. The more we learn about you, the more we know we can trust you.

Discussion Questions

Begin by reading through Psalm 139 (in The Message version if possible).

This weekend we saw a video clip from the movie, *Evan Almighty*, in which Morgan Freeman played God. He showed up everywhere to convince Evan of his reality. The Bible teaches us the truth that God is everywhere; he is *omnipresent*. It's important that we learn to live with a daily awareness of his presence.

Share an example of how God's presence was evident in your life this past week.

Look back at verses 1-6, which remind us that God knows our actions, our thoughts, our words--and even our motives. God is all-knowing, or *omniscient*.

Do you ever make stupid decisions and then wonder why? List some negative thoughts or motivations and the kinds of actions they can lead to (jealousy can cause us to try to control other people, fear can keep us from trying new things, etc.).

Look back at verses 7-12, which remind us that we cannot escape God's knowledge or God's presence.

Think about the less than perfect side of yourself. The things you try to hide. This passage reminds us that it is impossible to hide from God. The good news is that God loves us in spite of our faults and the things we try to hide! Rather than hiding, we can learn to be open and honest before a God who loves us completely!

Take a few minutes to write your own prayer to God. Thank him for loving you in spite of your weaknesses, your mistakes, and your faults.

Look back at verses 13-18, which remind us that God is all-powerful, or *omnipotent*.

Is there a prayer request you have been hiding in your heart for fear that it is too big for God? It's not! Bring that request to him. He may not answer in the way we may want, but what could be better than inviting God's power to make a difference in the real challenges you are facing?

Look back at verses 23-24, our memory verse. In light of God's great love, are you willing to pray this prayer:

- Search me—shape and refine my motives.
- Test me—show me where I still have room to grow.
- Lead me—guide me into the future you want for me.

Closing Prayer

Jesus, thank you for the cross, which is the eternal symbol of your great love. Because of your sacrifice, I know I can trust you to search me, to test me, and to lead me into a great future.