

**Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Sept 20, 2020**  
**Five Things You Should Know About God: God Knows Everything**  
**Pastor Temple, 10:30am**

**Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)**

- Anything to share about personal events since you last met?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

**Opening Discussion Question:** Aside from God, who would you say has known you the most and why?

**Review the Sermon (15 min)**

Please read aloud the sermon scriptures, Psalm 139:1-5 and 1 John 3:19-20 in the left column and save the right column of scriptures for later. Then discuss the questions which follow as time allows.

**Main Sermon Scriptures**

**Psalm 139:1-5**

- <sup>1</sup> You have searched me, LORD,  
and you know me.  
<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit and when I rise;  
you perceive my thoughts from afar.  
<sup>3</sup> You discern my going out and my lying  
down;  
you are familiar with all my ways.  
<sup>4</sup> Before a word is on my tongue  
you, LORD, know it completely.  
<sup>5</sup> You hem me in behind and before,  
and you lay your hand upon me.

**1 John 3:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: <sup>20</sup> If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

**Additional Scriptures:**

**Isaiah 46:10**

<sup>10</sup> I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'

**Proverbs 15:3**

The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.

**Isaiah 55:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup> "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**Romans 11:33**

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

**Isaiah 64:4**

Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- What about Psalm 139:1-5 stands out to you the most?
- How does this kind of deep knowledge of us affect the kind of relationship we can have with God?
- Pastor Temple said, “God not only knows what has happened, and is happening, and will happen, but He even knows what *could* happen under varied possible contingencies.” How does such knowledge of God lead to the wisdom of God? How do you distinguish between the two?
- Thomas Oden, who was a well studied liberal Methodist theologian of the 1900s, later in life came to exchange modern liberalism for classic Christianity he then studied in the traditional Christian consensus of the ancient early theologians of the church. Long after his retirement from teaching, Dr. Oden wrote in his three volume theological work “the wisdom of God is God’s incomparable ability to order all things in the light of good, to adjust causes to effects, and means to ends, so that the divine purposes are ensured and never finally thwarted.” How does knowing of God’s knowledge and wisdom over all of creation affect how we can approach life? With more trust? With courage? With patience? With a more humble mind?
- In Psalm 139:3, it says “You discern my going out and my lying down, you are familiar with all my ways.” Pastor Temple made note of the meaning of discern to be as though “God Himself is sifting through all our lives in the continuing process of becoming acquainted with us.” Have you ever thought of even the smallest of details of our lives, as an interactive means of relationship with God? How does knowing God’s good purposes can flow through our lives give us pause in the choices we make?
- How might 1 John 3:19-20 offer comfort to those with a troubled conscience from past choices?

### **Other Related Readings (10 min)**

- Would a volunteer please read aloud the scriptures in column 2.
- Did Isaiah 46:10 remind you of last week’s message on God is unchangeable and eternal? Why or why not? How does this scripture affirm that God is all-knowing (omniscient) as well as eternal?
- The Westminster Shorter Catechism defines God as “a Spirit, infinite, eternal and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth.” In what ways would God, as described here, be different if the word “wisdom” were removed from the definition?
- How is it significant that God not only sees everything (Proverbs 15:3), but that much of His mind and thoughts are beyond what the human mind can grasp and comprehend (Isaiah 55:8-9, Romans 11:33)?
- Would anyone care to share the story of Job and his friends who tried to make sense of his life and suffering and how God responded in the end in chapter 28? How does this story encourage a more humble human approach to the scriptures and Christian theology?
- How does knowing that there is really only one God (not many) and that He knows everything about you make you feel about Him (Isaiah 64:4)? Nervous? Loved? Scared? Self-conscious? Joyful? Something else?
- How does knowing He “acts on behalf of those who wait for him” affect your impression?

### **Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)**

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the scripture readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- Pastor Temple said “We are fearfully and wonderfully made, (psalm 139:14) that is to say, by design, my friends, the image of God is within every one of us, even if it is distorted by sin. We just have to find a way to let it out as we let God in.” How does recognizing God’s deep knowledge of us affect our willingness to confess our sins and return to following His ways?
- How does intellectual arrogance sometimes get in the way of what God really wants us to know?

- What might we need to unlearn or forget in order to know God and God's will better?
- If God's perfect will for the highest good revealed to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane involved even His suffering, what kind of expectations should Christians have about God's will for the events of their lives?
- How is the surprising life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ an example of how God's thoughts are higher than our thoughts?
- In what ways can we "wait for [the Lord]" this week? What wonders does Isaiah 64:4 inspire in you personally?
- A volunteer may conclude by leading the group in prayer about the joys and concerns shared earlier in the meeting.