

Created and Known By God

(15–20 minutes, easy set-up)

Use this outline and the Biblical Commentary to prepare to share the truths of this passage with learners. Encourage learners to take notes on their copies of the Learner Worksheet as you teach. The underlined words in the Master Teacher Outline correspond to the blanks on the worksheet.

Introduction: If someone knows you intimately, would you believe they loved you? The psalmist David acknowledged that God knew him intimately and personally. Today's passage leads us to explore how well God knows us and ponder the thought that this great knowledge is covered in love.

1. The love of God is seen through His intimate knowledge of us (Psalm 139:1-6).

- The psalmist cried out to God, acknowledging God's knowledge of his life and ways (vv. 1-3).
- David was overwhelmed with the great truth that, because of God's Love for Us, God knew him intimately (vv. 4-6).

Illustration: Puritan theologian Matthew Henry wrote, "David here lays down this great doctrine, 'That the God with whom we have to do has a perfect knowledge of us, and that all the motions and actions both of our inward and of our outward man are naked and open before him'" (Henry, p. 618). Such knowledge is awe-inspiring.

2. The love of God is felt through His constant presence in our lives (Psalm 139:7-12).

- The psalmist, through a series of questions, asked where he might go to escape the ever-reaching presence of God (vv. 7-12).
- The psalmist realized that there was no place in the entire universe, on land or sea, in heaven or in hell, where he could flee from God's presence (vv. 7-12).

Illustration: "This infinite God is intimately aware of every individual on the planet. In the midst of over six billion persons on the earth, God knows each and every one perfectly . . . He is present everywhere, personally involved at even the most minute level . . . How can a God so immense be so immanent? Such is the mind-boggling yet soul-comforting reality about our infinite yet intimate God" (Lawson, pp.332-333).

3. The love of God is ultimately understood through His creation of us (Psalm 139:13-16).

- David's contemplation of God as omniscient and omnipresent led him to reflect on the beginning of his own life (v.13).
- David could not contain his praise of how wonderful God was in his life (v. 14).
- David further acknowledged that nothing can be hidden from God, and thus saw God's hand in all of his life (vv. 14-16).

Illustration: Christian writer George MacDonald said, "I would rather be what God chose to make me than the most glorious creature that I could think of; for to have been thought about, born in God's thought, and then made by God, is the dearest, grandest and most precious thing in all thinking."

Conclusion: The psalmist David challenged us to consider how much God knows about us. David wrote that there is nowhere we can go that God's Spirit is not there. God knows what we will face in life, even before we experience it. This Psalm truly leads us to declare with David, "Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain" (Ps. 139:6, NIV). It challenges us to consider how much we are loved by God.