

LESSON AIM: To acknowledge God's greatness, remembering that God is personally concerned about each one of us.

KEY SCRIPTURES: Psalm 139

REVIEW QUESTIONS: (*Ok, who remembers from last week's lesson...*)

- 1) Who remembers what the word "omniscient" means?
- 2) What about omnipresent?
- 3) Can someone explain last week's Bible verse in their own words?

I. INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered what God thinks of you? Is it hard for you to believe He loves you as much as the Bible says He does? God is so big and He sometimes seems so distant--but what is He really like? Do you really know Him? You've heard His instructions, but do you know anything about His emotions or His character?

One of the most wonderful revelations of the Bible is that God is our Father. What do you think of when you hear the word "Father"? Every person seems to have a different idea of what God is like, because they unconsciously tend to attach the feelings and impressions that they have of their own earthly father to their concept of their Heavenly Father. Each person's own experience with human authority is usually transferred over to how they relate to God. Good experiences bring us closer to knowing and understanding God, just as bad experiences create distorted pictures of our Father's love for us.

God reveals Himself in the Bible as a gentle, forgiving Father, intimately involved with each and every detail of our lives. He is exactly what a father should be: a protector, a provider, and a warm and tender dad that loves us!

God's Affection

You are the apple of His eye! What does that mean? You are super special! He loves you, but he doesn't like the sin that gets into our life and makes life messy. When my son was a little boy, one day he got into some dry wall mud and covered himself head to toe in the thick, sticky, messy mud! We hosed him off and gave him a bath so he was all clean; so too, God washes away that dirty, sticky mud of sin and makes us clean!

God also continues to think about us even when we are fast asleep. Another night when my son was young, he had jumped into bed but hit his head and we had to go to the emergency room to get stitches. After the many hours at the hospital and many hours later when he was back home and asleep, I still agonized over his pain and the ordeal that he went through! God is always thinking about us; in the good times and in the bad times too. He was there when you spoke your first word, took your first step, and when you got that award at school. Even if your parents haven't always been there, God was always there!

God's Acceptance

In the world we live in, acceptance is always conditional. When we do well, look good, or wear the right clothes and shoes, than we are accepted. But that is not how God is. The Kingdom of God (that we can live in even now) is a kingdom of unconditional love! We can come to Him just the way we are, and He loves us exactly the way we are!

II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

A. David realized that God is omniscient—He knows every aspect of our lives (v. 1-6). [Explain that the word “omni” means “ALL”]

1. God knows everything you do and everything you think about (v. 1-4).

[“Afar off” refers not to space but to time. It means that God knows your thoughts even before you even think them.]

2. God knows where you are at all times (v. 5).

If you are a Christian, you should find it comforting to know that God is omniscient. He knows about every detail of your life. The Bible says, (read Psalm 1:6a). He knows the things you plan to do each day (for example, tests at school, doctor appointments, sports activities, chores at home, etc). The things that will happen in your life are never a surprise to Him (accidents, special gifts, family changes—new brothers and sisters, moving, divorce, parents remarrying, etc). Day and night God is aware of everything that happens to you. He knows what is in your heart, so He understands why you do certain things. God knows what words you are going to say before you even say them. How wonderful to know that your omniscient God is personally concerned about you!

3. When David thought about God's omniscience, he was amazed (perhaps a little fearful) and admitted that it is too wonderful for humans to understand (v. 6).

B. David realized that God is omnipresent—God is everywhere at all times (v. 7-12).

1. There is no place you can go to hide from God (v. 7-10).

Perhaps there were times when David wanted to hide from God because he didn't want God to know about his sin. David knew that he could never hide from God. Maybe you, too, have wished that there was somewhere you could go so God wouldn't know where you are. That way you could do what you wanted without God finding out. But God always sees the sinful things you and I do. The Bible says all of us go our own way instead of God's way, and that is sin (Isaiah 53:6). God loves you and you are very special to Him. He wants to give you eternal life with Him in heaven someday. David was also very special to God. He was realizing that no matter where he went he couldn't hide from God.

2. Even the darkness cannot hide you from God—you are never beyond His care (v. 11-12).

We Christians can be comforted to know that God is omnipresent—He is with us wherever we go. Even in the darkest times of your life, when nothing seems to be going right, God is right there with you. In fact, the Lord Jesus lives in you. In the Bible Jesus promised, (read Hebrews 13:5b). What are some difficult times when you can remember that God is with you? (Discuss—hard times at home and school, being alone, natural disasters, and so on.) Thank God that He is omnipresent and that He is personally concerned about you.

C. David realized that God is omnipotent—He has all power in heaven and earth (v. 13-18).

1. By His power God created you in a special way (v. 13-16).

[These verses give evidence to the truth that life begins at conception, and in fact that the 'person' being conceived already existed in the mind of God.]

2. By His power God controls all the events in your life (v. 16).

If you are a Christian, be comforted to know that God is omnipotent—He is all-powerful. Since there is nothing in the universe that is beyond God's control, He can use His power in your life. His power can control you on the inside (that is, help you keep your temper under control, be patient, be content with what you have, speak up for God). God's power controls the circumstances around you. He can accomplish his plans for you. If you are willing to follow God's direction in your life, He will use His power to work out the details (in schooling, future occupation, marriage, and so on). The Bible says, (read Psalm 147:5). Because God is personally concerned about you, He will use His omnipotence to do what is best for you.

3. David praised God for His omnipotence and for His loving thoughts toward him (v. 17-18).

III. CLIMAX

Understanding that our great God was personally concerned about him, David asked God to control his life (v. 23-24).

IV. ENDING

Challenge:

This week will you remember that God is personally concerned about you? You can praise Him for His greatness—He is omniscient (He knows every aspect of your life). The Bible says, (read Psalm 48:1). *(Have children say sentence prayers of praise to God specifically for the three attributes taught in this lesson.)*

MEMORY VERSE

**“How precious also are Your thoughts towards me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!”**

Psalm 139:17