

HONEST TO GOD

Learning to Pray from the Psalms

WEEK 4: You've Been Found

APPETIZER: Hide and Seek

So often in our culture we live in a tension – we want to be fully known, to have a place where somebody knows our name, yet we hold back and are afraid of being honest about who we are.

- Game of Spiritual “Hide and Seek.”
- The Psalms give us hope –and model for us a life that can be honest with God.

“The Psalms are prayers addressed to a known, named, identifiable You.”

~ Walter Brueggemann

DINE IN: Fully Known

Psalm 139

AN OUTLINE...

1. You know me completely (**verses 1-6**)
2. You are fully present to me (**verses 7-12**)
3. You know my whole life story (**verses 13-18**)
4. Oh, and I am really mad! (**verses 19-22**)
5. I don't want to hide from you (**verses 23-24**)

TAKE OUT: Time to Stop Hiding

This look at the Psalms reveals that...

1. God is personal and real – his name is Jesus!
2. Jesus is with me in the good, bad, and ugly.
3. Jesus understands my whole life story.
4. Jesus can take my honesty. I've been found by him already so I can come out of hiding anytime.
5. It's my choice. Jesus is waiting with arms wide open.

Five Minute Meditation:

Let's take a few minutes to reflect on what we've been hearing over these last four weeks and share honestly with God.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there be any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.”

“Lord Jesus, you stretched out your arms of love upon the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace.”

NEXT WEEK – HER STORY: Jesus, Women, and the Church

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. As we wrap up our “Honest to God” series, what is sticking with you? Any remaining questions from this message or the overall series?

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

2. Read **Psalm 139**.
 - a. What emotion come to mind when you think about the reality that God has searched you and knows you from **verses 1 to 7**? Comfort? Fear? Shame?
 - b. What might make a person attempt to flee from the Spirit? What have your own experiences of trying to run from God been like?
 - c. We can learn about God through creation, including ourselves. What does David observe about how we are made in **verses 13 to 15**? How does that change the way we perceive ourselves and others? How does this observation impact our thought life?
 - d. Read **verses 19-22** through twice. Then read **verses 23-24**. According to what we know about God through Jesus and his teaching, would you say there is something that God would find offensive about **verses 23-24**? Why or why not?
 - e. Why do you think David is willing to stop hiding with God and be honest with Him? What are some barriers you have to being fully honest with God?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

3. What has God been saying to you through this week’s teaching? Talk about next steps in your life and pray for each other.
4. How can we be a safe place for others – a place to be known and loved?