

Sermon Discussion Guide

“The Old Has Gone” Series

Part 4: Known and Loved (Psalm 139:1–6; John 10:11–15)

Icebreaker Questions: (*Option #1*): What’s your favorite smell? (*Option #2*): What’s one thing you’ll defend no matter how unpopular it is? (e.g., Taco Bell, pineapple on pizza, brussel sprouts, The Star Wars prequels, watching golf, Androids, socks with sandals, etc.)

Prayer: Take a few moments at the beginning of your group time to pray for God’s presence and blessing on your discussion. At the end of your gathering, pray for one another and ask God to use your time together to strengthen your faith and make you more like Jesus.

Read: Psalm 139:1–6; John 10:11–15

Big Idea: The greatest possible comfort is knowing that you are fully known and fully loved by God. Through faith in Christ, we can rest knowing that this is true (and always will be true) of us.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the most encouraging, convicting, confusing, or thought-provoking part of the sermon or Scripture reading to you this week, and why?
2. Read Psalm 139:1–6.
 - a. Why do you think David emphasizes God’s knowledge in mundane things like sitting, rising, thinking, going out, lying down, etc., instead of major life events? What comfort can this give us?
 - b. Which aspect of God’s knowledge of you from Psalm 139 is most encouraging or hope-giving to you in this season, and why? (Point to specific verses, if you can.)
 - c. How does God’s intimate knowledge of you impact the way you live, think, worship, or interact with God or others?
3. Why is it comforting that God knows your *sin*? How is this comforting (not terrifying)?
4. Why is it comforting that God knows your *suffering*? How has this encouraged you?
5. Read John 10:11–15.
 - a. How does this passage expand on Psalm 139 and/or deepen our understanding of God’s knowledge and love for us?
 - b. Why do you think Jesus compares himself to a shepherd? In what ways have you felt him shepherd you in this season of your life?
 - i. Why do you think Jesus compares us to sheep? How have you felt this?
 - c. What do you think Jesus is saying in v. 15 when he compares our relationship to him with his relationship to the Father? How can this be?
6. Where do you see the gospel in today’s passage? How does today’s text and discussion make Jesus/the gospel more precious to you?
7. What is one specific way you would like to apply today’s Scripture passage or small group discussion this next week?

Scripture Reading

Psalm 139:1–6 (NIV)

- 1 You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.
- 2 You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
- 3 You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
- 4 Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.
- 5 You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.

John 10:11–15 (NIV)

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.