

## Week 1 Prayer Guide



### **BECOMING WHO GOD CALLS US TO BE (1)**

It's a strange thing but sometimes we don't know ourselves all that well. Other people know things about us that are hidden to us. Or WE try to hide things about ourselves from other people. Churches do this too. We are inside of a congregation, we sometimes don't see things about the ways that we do things that are evident to outsiders. And of course, we don't want to ever air our dirty laundry.

But we ask God for guidance. Is it just possible that for us to receive that guidance that we need to see ourselves much more fully than we do right now? It is possible that the God who already knows everything about us has possible paths for our good and His glory that go beyond what we imagine today?

That's why our first prayer emphasis comes from an incredible Psalm as it reminds us of who God is, who WE are, and then how we need to respond if we truly want God's leading in our lives. (*Scripture from New Living Translation.*)

### **Psalm 139**

#### **Day 1**

**Read:** First read the whole Psalm, then the verses below.

<sup>1</sup> *O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.*

<sup>2</sup> *You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.*

<sup>3</sup> *You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do.*

<sup>4</sup> *You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord.*

<sup>5</sup> *You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head.*

<sup>6</sup> *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!*

#### **Think/Meditate:**

- How does God knowing everything about you make you feel?
- Why do you feel that way? What's going on inside of you?
- Think about the greatness of God- the creator, the one who knows all. Wonder at this.

**Pray:** Dear God, help me to recapture a sense of wonder at who you are.

#### **Day 2**

**Read:** The verses below.

<sup>7</sup> *I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence!*

<sup>8</sup> *If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there.*

<sup>9</sup> *If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans,*

<sup>10</sup> *even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me.*

<sup>11</sup> *I could ask the darkness to hide me, & the light around me to become night—*

<sup>12</sup> *but even in darkness I can't hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are the same to you.*

#### **Think/Meditate:**

- When have I tried to hide from God? What was it?
- Am I trying to hide anything today? What is it?
- Am I willing to be open with God?

**Pray About:** Dear God, help me to be honest with myself so I can be honest with you.

## Day 3

**Read:** The verses below.

<sup>13</sup> *You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.*

<sup>14</sup> *Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.*

<sup>15</sup> *You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.*

<sup>16</sup> *You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book.*

*Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.*

**Think/Meditate:**

- God made me for a purpose. Can I accept that?
- God made his Church for a purpose. Can I accept that?
- Am I willing to be open with God?

**Pray About:** Dear God, help me to see the beauty and the purpose for which you have formed my life and the life of the church. Remove any cynicism. Calm my doubt. Help me wonder at your plan.

## Day 4

**Read:** The verses below.

<sup>17</sup> *How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They can't be numbered!*

<sup>18</sup> *I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!*

<sup>23</sup> *Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.*

<sup>24</sup> *Point out anything in me that offends you,  
and lead me along the path of everlasting life.*

**Think/Meditate:**

- God thinks about me, he doesn't forget me and he knows me in this moment. Can I accept that?
- Am I open to God searching my heart? Am I willing to listen to what he teaches me.
- Am I willing to change- even if I don't understand why?

**Pray About:** Dear God, teach me through your Holy Spirit. Give me insight into my motivations. Guide me daily and help me to be open to your leading.

## Other Days & Continuing

**Memorize vs. 23 and 24.**

**Incorporate them into your personal prayer life.**

*Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
Point out anything in me that offends you,  
and lead me along the path of everlasting life. AMEN*

**Then pray them for our church.**

*Search us O God, and know our hearts;  
test us and know our anxious thoughts.  
Point out anything in us that offends you,  
and lead us along the path of everlasting life. AMEN*