

Resonate

BIBLE STUDY

**“GOD’S GREATEST HITS:
ALWAYS ON MY MIND”**

This week we will learn about the attribute of God called omniscience. Not only will we come to understand what this means but also realize how this impacts our personal lives.



Today's Scripture:
Psalm 139:1-6

The Word

Ken Jennings surprised the nation as he won 74 consecutive games on the show Jeopardy. However, in the Ultimate Tournament of Champions, Jennings only came in second place to another former winner named Brad Rutter. This made Rutter the biggest financial winner in game show history, with Jennings following close behind. Ken Jennings, despite all of his Jeopardy wins, did not know the answer to every question (or should I say the question for every answer since it is Jeopardy).

Why were we amazed by the victories of Ken Jennings yet we are often not in awe of the omniscience of God? Omniscience is defined in the dictionary as “one having total knowledge.” Only the Lord qualifies. He is an expert on every topic matter. Jeopardy would be an easy task. He has all knowledge. That means he does not learn anything new. God knew about computers, jet planes, and ipods when Adam and Eve were trying to learn how to sew fig leaves together in the Garden of Eden. How awesome is the mind of God.

What does the omniscience of God have to do with us on a personal level? God, who is aware of the placement of every star in the universe, knows you. Read Psalm 139:1-6.

¹ O LORD, you have searched me 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 know it completely, O LORD. ⁵ You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

Verse 1: To be known by an omniscient God makes sense. He would have to know us for He knows everything. But what makes this truth so wonderful is the first part of the verse, “O Lord, You have searched me...” It is like an artist looking at His masterpiece. It may not be finished yet but He sees what it will be. He smiles enjoying the process of making every detail perfect. It is His obsession. That is how God views you. He knows

you for He created you. He searches you because he enjoys being continually involved in your life. To be known by God is not to have someone just know the facts of who you are: eye color, height, weight, age (you cannot lie to God about this one). He goes beyond the facts and into the details of feelings, personality, likes and dislikes, experiences, dreams, and fears. Every part of who you are is known by God. He sees what you hide from everyone else and hears what you do not say aloud. That is the God who searches you.

Verse 2-4: Every action and even the motivation behind the action is known by God. Each thought is heard by God. Nothing is hidden from Him. He even knows how you will react to situations, your nervous tendencies, the sound of your laugh. He is familiar with all your ways.

Verse 5: God created you. Because you are His masterpiece, He keeps His hand on you. Even when you are not holding His hand, He holds onto you. Isn't that comforting? God, who knows our frailties and weaknesses, our sins and rebellion; holds onto us like we are His prize. That is an amazing truth.

Verse 6: We cannot grasp the omniscience of God but we can allow this truth to grasp us. We can trust an all-knowing God with our lives since there is so much we do not know. He will lead us into becoming the masterpiece He designed us to be.

Application

Take time to praise the Lord for His omniscience. Thank God for knowing you completely.

How does it feel to be known completely by God?

How will understanding the omniscience of God change your life?

DAY 2

Today's Scripture:

Jeremiah 1:1,4-6

The Word

God is omniscient. Before time began, He knew about time. The Lord also knew when He would create time. God knew when, how, and where to form the universe. Before the earth came into existence, He knew every person who would be born, every attribute they would have, everything they would do and say, and ultimately when and how they would die. God knows everything.

Thinking through the attribute of God's omniscience can leave one feeling lost in the crowd of generations of people also known by God. The personal connection can seem severed by all the facts. Yet, in the midst of the crowd, God knows you by name. The Lord has a special plan for you designed especially for you by the Creator Himself. One example of this truth is found in the Old Testament book of the Bible called Jeremiah.

¹ *The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin...*

⁴ *The word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*

Verse 1, 4-5: Jeremiah was an ordinary guy. He was the son of "one of the priests." He was not the main leader, just one of the group. He did not stand out in a crowd. We can discern from a later verse in this same book of the Bible that he was not a man of courage or strength.

⁶ *"Ah, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child."*

Verse 6: Big baby. That is what Jeremiah was. He did not have much confidence in himself so I doubt others had it for him either. Yet, God chose Jeremiah to be a prophet, a spokesman for the Lord Himself. Jeremiah was not chosen for his skills or experience. Instead, he was chosen before he was born. God set Him apart for His purpose. Before time began, God looked through the generations and said, "I pick Jeremiah to be a prophet for My team."

That is what Jeremiah became, a prophet. However, Jeremiah had a responsibility. Before this moment in time, Jeremiah did not know God had called him to be a prophet. Jeremiah was faithful in staying connected with the Lord. He was in a place of readiness to receive the Word of God.

We must stay connected to God in order to be ready to receive the parts of His knowledge that the Lord chooses to share with us. Because God is omniscient, we who

know so little must listen to His direction in our lives. We are responsible to be ready to respond to the omniscience of God.

Application

Pray and ask God how you can be ready to receive God's Word into your life.

Do you believe that God created you for a purpose? If so, do you know what that purpose is at this point of your life?

How can you be ready to receive God's Word for your life?

How does understanding God's omniscience affect our plans for our lives?



Today's Scripture:
Isaiah 29:13-16

The Word

¹³ *The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.*

¹⁴ *Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish."*

¹⁵ *Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the LORD, who do their work in darkness and think, You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "He did not make me"? Can the pot say of the potter, "He knows nothing"?*

These verses warn us of what could happen if we no longer live in the awe and wonder of the omniscience of God. We push aside the fact that He sees us and in our rebellion we continue in our sin. Often we no longer are bothered by the separation from the Lord. We can even go through the motions of spiritual actions and have no remorse in our hearts.

Verse 13: We can sing the worship songs, we can bow our heads for prayer, we can even speak “God talk” and still be living in sin. Our secret rebellion may not be perceived by anyone around us. They may even consider us “spiritual”. Yet, God knows. He sees the empty worship and He is not pleased.

Verse 14: God will go to great depths to show us our foolishness. We will realize our “wisdom” and “intelligence” was nothing but a deception of ourselves. We can never hide our evil from God. Everything we have covered up will be exposed for what it is and then it will suddenly be taken from us.

Verse 15: If we then continue on our paths of sin, we will have to work harder to cover our evil. More sins will be committed: lying, manipulation, cheating, and other sins; all to hide our rebellious ways.

Verse 16: Sadly, we eventually believe that we have fooled everyone, including God. We forget that we are His creation and that He knows us better than we know ourselves. And instead of running to God for knowledge and truth, we trust ourselves into foolishness.

We must live in the awareness of the omniscience of God. This will keep us honest and humble before Him. Also, it gives us the only true perspective on our lives. God is all-knowing so He can lead us into decisions which will benefit us. On our own we walk towards sin and destruction. We must rely on Him.

Application

Confess your pride in your own “knowledge”. Ask our omniscient God for His wisdom to guide you in every aspect of your life.

How can we deceive ourselves?

When we are living in sin, what causes us to hide from God?

How can we protect ourselves from exalting our knowledge above God's?

DAY 4

Today's Scripture:

1 Samuel 1: 1-7, 10-11, 20; 2:3

The Word

Have you ever been tormented? Maybe it was an obnoxious boss, or a nagging sibling, possibly a demanding friend. Did you feel that the pain would go on and on and never end? A woman in the Bible experienced emotional pain by an enemy. Strangely enough, the enemy was her husband's other wife.

¹ There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. ² He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. ³ Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the LORD Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the LORD. ⁴ Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵ But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb. ⁶ And because the LORD had closed her womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. ⁷ This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat.

In Hannah's day having a child meant a woman was blessed by God. In other words, to not have children was considered a curse. Hannah already felt pain by her situation so the provoking by Peninnah just added to the torment. Hannah took her broken heart to the Lord.

¹⁰ In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the LORD. ¹¹ And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

God heard her prayer and answered her request.

²⁰ So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him."

Hannah remembered her vow to the Lord. She took her son, Samuel, to Eli the priest. She dedicated the boy to the Lord so that he could serve in the temple. Then, she begins to pray. In the middle of her prayer she says:

³ *"Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the LORD is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed."*

Verse 3: Peninnah had been proud of all her children and had tormented Hannah for having none. In the midst of that former pain was the comfort, "...the Lord is a God who knows". The Lord knew that Hannah was suffering because of Peninnah.

Are you hurting? God knows. Are you fed up? God knows. Is your heart broken? God knows. He sees your pain and He knows who or what is causing it. You are not alone. There is Someone else who knows. In His timing, He will deal with the situation. For now, find comfort in the fact that God knows.

Application

If you are going through a difficult time, pour out your heart to God. It will help you to share your pain with Him. He will listen to you.

How does the attribute of God's omniscience help us during difficult times?

If God already knows, why do we need to tell Him about our situation?

Are you suffering through a difficult time right now? Write a prayer to God about it.

DAY 5

Today's Scripture:

Jeremiah 33:1-3, Proverbs 3:19-20, James 1:5, Colossians 1:9

The Word

¹ While Jeremiah was still confined in the courtyard of the guard, the word of the LORD came to him a second time: ² "This is what the LORD says, he who made the earth, the LORD who formed it and established it—the LORD is his name: ³ 'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.

Verse 1: We met Jeremiah earlier this week. He was a prophet chosen by God. Not everyone appreciated the Word of God being proclaimed in the land of Israel. The king of Judah, Zedekiah, had Jeremiah imprisoned. This was not the best of times for the prophet. However, he was not alone. The God who knew Jeremiah's situation, spoke the Word to him.

Verse 2: The Lord is the creator of the earth. He is powerful and creative. God formed everything we see and put it all in its proper place. Not one detail was overlooked.

¹⁹ By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place;
²⁰ by his knowledge the deeps were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew.

Verse 19-20: The omniscience of God allowed Him to create the universe! If He can handle all of that, then surely His knowledge can benefit us. However, we need to learn how to access it.

Verse 3: In verse 3 of Jeremiah chapter 33, we learn how to gain access to the knowledge of God. We must ask for it. The Lord is willing to share with you. He is not a know-it-all who laughs at your ignorance. God wants you to be filled with His knowledge. This truth is plainly shown in James 1:5.

⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

All we have to do is ask. God is willing to answer our request not only for ourselves but for others as well.

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. (Colossians 1:9)

We have access to the omniscience of God. He is willing to share His knowledge with us. In order to receive this, though, we must be willing to ask and then to listen to His answer.

Application

It is awesome to know we serve an omniscient God, but it is also amazing that He is willing to share knowledge with us. Often we do not take the time to ask God to give us His wisdom. Confess this in your own life and ask God to teach you how to stop and ask for His wisdom.

What do you think about the fact that you could receive the knowledge of God?

When have you asked for God's wisdom?

How will you apply yourself to receive knowledge?

Who can you pray for to receive more of the knowledge of God?