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Wonderfully Made

Psalm 139

A craftsman in medieval times would work for months on a special piece that displayed his finest artistic skill. Finally, when the work was finished, he would present it to the craftsmen's guild in hopes of achieving the rank of master. The work was called his masterpiece.

GROUP DISCUSSION. Describe a piece of art or other handcrafted item you really love.

What qualities must be present in a true masterpiece?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. What qualities of a masterpiece do you see in yourself?

In Psalm 139 we see God the master craftsman lovingly at work on his masterpiece. The psalm can have a profound impact on the way we view ourselves. *Read Psalm 139.*

1. How does this psalm personalize the facts that God knows everything (vv. 1-6), is present everywhere (vv. 7-12), created everything (vv. 13-18) and is perfectly holy (vv. 19-24)?

2. According to the psalmist, what specific things does the Lord know about us (vv. 1-6)?

3. How do you respond to the fact that God constantly attends to your every thought, word and action?

4. The psalmist declares that God's knowledge of him is wonderful (v. 6). Yet why do you think he feels an urge to flee from God's presence (vv. 7-12)?

5. How do you hide your true self from God? When do you hide your true self from others?

6. What words are used to describe God's activity and artistry in making us (vv. 13-16)?

7. Do you think of yourself as God's artwork, his masterpiece? Why or why not?

8. David declares that God's thoughts toward us outnumber all the grains of sand (vv. 17-18). In what sense are God's constant thoughts "precious" to you?

9. What encouragement does this psalm offer those who view themselves as worthless?

10. How does this psalm help you to feel more loved and valued by God?

11. After reflecting on what he has written, why do you think the psalmist invites God to search him, know him and test him (vv. 23-24)?

Take time to thank God for the fact that you are “fearfully and wonderfully made.”

Now or Later

Put verses 23-24 in your own words and express them to God in prayer.