

“Your Own Wonderland!”

Psalm 139

May 13, 2018

Series: “Prayers of the Bible and How They Shape Our Lives”

Rev. Dr. Henry Hansen

THE BIG IDEA

This message focused on God’s omnipresence, omniscience, and near presence – his “everywhereness.” The Psalmist declares the great comfort of knowing that God is with us even in the depths, holding our lives in his hand. As we think through God’s everywhereness, we can engage in deeper wonder toward him and see how the world around us reflects his beauty and points us to his goodness and glory. The resurrection of Christ reveals the answer to the prayer in the final verse: “Lead me in the way everlasting.” Jesus brings comfort and hope because he conquered the grave. Each of us needs to evaluate whether we see the everywhere presence of God as an “inescapable threat” or an “indescribable comfort.”¹

GETTING STARTED

1. Share something that as a child brought wonder and joy to your life – a toy, experience, person, place.
2. What were the different ways a “wonderland” was illustrated in the message? How does our faith enliven us to wonder?

LEARNING & LIVING OUT SCRIPTURE

Together, read Psalm 139.

3. Review the Psalm and consider the many qualities of God highlighted there. What are they?
4. The phrase “such knowledge is too wonderful for me” can be more literally translated as “such knowledge - too much is this wonder for me!” What do each of these translations communicate to you?
5. The Psalmist underscores the doctrine of God’s perfections. He declares God is omnipresent (everywhere), omniscient (all knowing), and omnipotent (all powerful). The Psalmist has experienced this from both a head (intellectual) and heart (emotional) level. Why is that important? Which one do you lean toward more readily?

¹ This idea of this tension originated with Tim Keller, which Henry referenced during the message.

6. Verses 19-20 appear to break from the form of the passage. How do you understand this? What did Henry lift up about this aspect of the Scripture?
7. What do you make of verses 13-16? (Especially consider the first two verses there in light of Mother's Day!)
8. How about the idea that all of our days are "ordained?" Think through that for a moment and what that means for the meaning and purpose of every day of your life.
9. In your own life, does God's everywhere-ness seem more like an inescapable threat or indescribable comfort? Share your experience of each if you are comfortable doing so.

LIVING OUT "REAL LIFE"

10. If you were to write your own Psalm of Wonder, what would yours look like? What might find its way in there based on your personal experience?
11. What activities most awaken the wonder in you? Name at least one spiritual practice (worship, prayer, Scripture, service, and so on).

THE "EXTRA-MILE"

12. Do one of the following: write a Psalm of Wonder of your own or pray wonder intentionally this week to awaken the wonder in you.

SHARING & PRAYER REQUESTS

Together, take a few moments to pray the qualities of God that awaken the most wonder in you. Praise God for his great qualities and speak them straight from your heart.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<http://www.hopeheals.com/>

https://www.amazon.com/Hope-Heals-Story-Overwhelming-Overcoming/dp/0310344549/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1526268035&sr=8-1&keywords=hope+heals