

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

June 14, 2026

Exploring the Nature of God
“God Knows Everything”
Psalm 139:1-18
Rev. Mike Fordham

One question parents of young children are used to hearing asked a lot is, “Why?” A survey conducted in 2023 found that moms and dads field an average of eleven questions from their young children each day. The poll of 2,000 parents of kids under six found that between being asked “What?” (37%), “When?” (22%), and “Why?” (11%), parents are always on call when their kids get curious. Children most commonly ask questions to better understand the world around them, such as asking about animals, nature, current events, and home experiences. When asked about the most interesting question their child has ever asked, parents mentioned “Why is the sky so high?” and “Why can fish keep their eyes open in water?” Children’s questions may be frequent, but they aren’t always easy, as parents admit they can confidently answer an average of only 42% of their child’s questions. Poll results also reveal that 81% of parents learn just as much from their child as their child learns from them. The average parent learns something new from their child about five times per week, and four in five parents are surprised by their child’s knowledge of certain topics. What is especially amazing about the questions our children ask us is that our children think we actually know the answer to their questions. There is, in actuality, only One who knows the answers to all the questions of life and it is not Google, the internet, or A.I. As vast as all these sources of knowledge are, only God knows all, sees all, and is everywhere. As we continue in this sermon series to explore the nature of God, the Psalmist teaches us that God sees and knows everything as He is everywhere and, because of His inexhaustible love, is always with us.

PSALM 139:1-18

- 1 O Lord, you have examined my heart
and know everything about me.***
- 2 You know when I sit down or stand up.
You know my thoughts even when I’m far away.***
- 3 You see me when I travel
and when I rest at home.
You know everything I do.***
- 4 You know what I am going to say
even before I say it, Lord.***
- 5 You go before me and follow me.***

You place your hand of blessing on my head.
6 *Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too great for me to understand!*

7 *I can never escape from your Spirit!
I can never get away from your presence!*

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

9 *If I ride the wings of the morning,
if I dwell by the farthest oceans,*

10 *even there your hand will guide me,
and your strength will support me.*

11 *I could ask the darkness to hide me
and the light around me to become night—*

12 *but even in darkness I cannot hide from you.
To you the night shines as bright as day.
Darkness and light are the same to you.*

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

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

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

16 *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.*

17 *How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.
They cannot be numbered!*

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

GOD SEES AND KNOWS EVERYTHING

We first learn from David's words here in *Psalms 139* that **God Sees and Knows Everything**. I love the Psalms! When I read the Psalms, I get the sense I am reading the private devotional journal of King David and others who contributed to the Psalms. It is as if I am right there with David when He is reading the Bible or praying or meditating on God. Here in *Psalms 139*, King David is in one of those times alone with God where he is reflecting on God's infinite knowledge. Theologians call this **Omniscience** which is defined as "the state of having total knowledge, the quality of knowing everything."

David says God's knowledge is so vast and unlimited that God knows everything David does. David says God knows when he sits down and stands up, travels, and rests. God even knows what David is thinking and what is hidden deep in the depth of David's heart. God can see perfectly what no human can see, what is in our hearts. When David refers to the heart, he is obviously not talking about the physical organ in our chest but refers to the heart of who a person is in totality: our thoughts, reflections, will, desires, and intentions, who we really are. Psychologists give their best to trying to search and know the psyche of a person and even the best would never claim to fully understand someone. As the writer in *Hebrews 4:13* says, "*Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.*"

Computers use a graphic card called a GPU. Do you know how many calculations just one of those GPU's or graphics cards in a computer video game performs every second? In 1996, 100 million calculations a second is what was required to run the video game Mario 64. In 2011 you needed 100 billion calculations a second for a computer to run the video game Minecraft. In order to run the most realistic video games in 2024, it required a graphics card that can perform around 36 trillion calculations a second. This is an incredibly large number, so let's take a second to try to conceptualize it. Imagine doing a long multiplication problem, such as a 7-digit number times an 8-digit number, once every second. Now let's say that everyone on our planet does a similar type of calculation, but with different numbers. To reach the equivalent computational power of one graphics card in 2024 with its 36 trillion calculations a second, we would need about 4,400 Earths filled with people, all working at the same time and completing one calculation each every second. It's rather mind-boggling to think that one device, one graphics card can manage all those calculations. Now, when we move from video games to the world of Artificial Intelligence, we are now talking about performing 5 quadrillion calculations per second (a 5 followed by 15 zeros). In 2024, a medium sized AI will be trained using at least 8 GPUs. Very large models can use hundreds or even thousands of GPUs. In 2024, Elon Musk showcased Tesla's ambitious new AI training supercluster named Cortex in Austin, Texas. The supercluster is made up of an array of 100,000 GPUs, each one performing 5 quadrillion calculations a second, using as much power as a small city. *While artificial intelligence has made remarkable strides, it cannot compare to God's omniscience which far surpasses any human creation. God sees all, knows all, and understands the intricacies of every life.* No wonder David says in *Psalms 139:6* when he meditates on God's unlimited knowledge, "*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!*"

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING IN THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Not only does David reflect on the fact that God knows everything even down to what is in our hearts, He says that God's unlimited knowledge includes the fact that **God Knows Everything in the Past, Present and Future**. David says God knows what David is going to say even before he says it. Not only does David say that God was

creating David in his mother's womb, but David also says in *Psalm 139:16*, "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." God knows everything about our lives before we are born, every day is already logged in God's book of the history of our lives. God knows everything about everything that **has** occurred, **is** occurring, and that **will** occur until the end of time. God says in *Isaiah 46:9-10*, "⁹ Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me. ¹⁰ Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish." As A. W. Tozer, in his book, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, wrote, "He knows instantly and with a fullness of perfection that includes every possible item of knowledge concerning everything that exists or could have existed anywhere in the universe at any time in the past or that may exist in the centuries or ages yet unborn...."

How is God able to know everything in the past, present, and future? It is possible because not only is God omniscient, or all knowing, God is also, **Omnipresent**, or everywhere at the same time in the past, present, and future. David recognizes God's presence as being everywhere as he says no matter where he goes, he cannot escape God's presence. David says no matter where he is, whether it is being formed in his mother's womb, in heaven, in the grave, on the wings of the morning, at the farthest ocean, and even the darkest darkness God is there.

In one of Missy and my travels, we drove by a remote tourist attraction that draws thousands of visitors a year located in the southwestern region of the United States. It is a six-hour drive from the nearest airport and thirty-three miles from the nearest town. It claims no majestic rock formations or redwoods. Resting in an unremarkable landscape, its focal point is nothing more than a small brass disc, roughly three inches in diameter—a government survey marker designating the point at which four different state boundaries meet: Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. Tourists pose for photographs on all fours—feet in two states, hands in two more—faces beaming with delight of being able to boast that they are in four places at once. We were in such a hurry to get to our next destination that we didn't even stop to look at it. The tourist fascination with The Four Corners Monument reveals something about us human beings: we cannot be in more than one place at one time. We can move from one place to the next, but we cannot occupy two places simultaneously. Yet God, who is spirit, is able to be everywhere fully present. God, unbound by a body, is not limited to one place. God is not merely big, He is uncontainable, able to be present everywhere. Not only is God able to be everywhere at the same time but He is everywhere at the same time in the past, present, and future. Again, no wonder David says in *Psalm 139:6* when he meditates on God's unlimited knowledge and presence in the past, present, and the future that, "*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!*"

GOD'S LOVING CARE OF US

As David reflects on God knowing everything and also being everywhere in the past, present, and future, David is in awe of **God's Loving Care of Us**. David is awestruck

that the Creator of the ends of the universe, who knows all, sees all, and is everywhere at the same time, cares about and loves little old you and me. David says that as I reflect on all this about God I am blown away by the fact that I am loved by God. God was lovingly and carefully creating every detail of our body in our mother's womb. God is guiding and strengthening us no matter where we go. Even when we try to hide and run away from God, God does not give up on us but is always with us, caring, guiding, protecting, providing for and wanting a relationship with us. I love how David says with all this in mind in *Psalm 139:17-18a*, "¹⁷How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! ¹⁸I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand!" David finds great comfort and delight that God knows every detail in our lives.

Have you ever played the game, "Whac-a-mole"? It is a classic 1970s arcade game where players use a mallet to bop mechanical moles as they randomly pop up from holes. Some people perceive God as someone who is playing the game of Whac-a-mole with us. They think that God has a club in His hand and is watching our every move to make sure that we stay in line and if we don't, He will whack us over the head when He catches us getting out of line. David finds great comfort in knowing that God never gives up on Him, continues to pursue Him and guides and strengthens Him. God does all this because of His unlimited love for us.

I really had a hard time adjusting when I my daughter, our firstborn left us in Central Florida to come to college here three and a half hours away at FSU in 2007. I hated that I did not get to be there at school and see her everyday activities. I wanted to know every detail about what was happening in her life, not because I didn't trust her, or wanted to catch her doing something wrong, but simply because I love her and want only what is best for her. I wanted to be a part of every detail of her life. That's my daughter! It took some adjustment on my part because that was not necessarily her same feeling of sharing every detail of her life with me. Do know what my solution was? Facebook! Facebook was fairly new at that time, and I discovered she would occasionally chronicle events of her college life online. That was the reason I first joined Facebook, for the express purpose of getting an occasional glimpse of what was happening in her life. David wrote in another Psalm, in *Psalm 8:3-8*, "*When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers—the moon and the stars you set in place—⁴what are mere mortals that you should think about them, ⁵human beings that you should care for them? ⁶Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. ⁷You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority—the flocks and the herds and all the wild animals, ⁸the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents.*" David marveled at God's love and trust that He placed in us. God knows each one of us by name and knows everything about us, more than we even know ourselves, and yet He loves us just as we are. God made you and me to be the objects of His love. Again, no wonder David says in *Psalm 139:6* when he meditates on God's unlimited knowledge about and presence in the past, present, and the future that and that God

loves us in the midst of it all that, *“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!”*

As a matter of fact, God loved us so much that He came personally into this world to be with us and He did so by miraculously becoming one of us through Jesus. All this He did because He loves us with an everlasting, unconditional love.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES: (Books marked with * are available to be checked-out in the Asbury Discipleship Resource Center)

- *The Holy Bible* (Several FREE copies are available in the DRC)
- *The God Who Is There*, Francis Schaeffer
- *The Reason for God*, Tim Keller
- *Creation Regained*, Albert M. Wolters
- *The Knowledge of the Holy*, A. W. Tozer
- *Knowing God*, J. I. Packer

Icebreaker Questions

1. As a child, what was a question you asked your parents that they couldn't answer—or one that made them laugh?
2. If you could instantly know the answer to one mystery about the world, history, or your own life, what would you want to know?

Sermon Discussion Questions

1. David says that God knows everything about him, even his thoughts and words before he speaks them (Psalm 139:1-4). How does that truth make you feel: comforted, challenged, convicted, encouraged, or something else? Why?
2. The sermon emphasized that God's knowledge is infinitely greater than even the most advanced artificial intelligence. What are some limitations of human knowledge that remind us of our dependence upon God?
3. David declares that there is nowhere he can go to escape God's presence (Psalm 139:7-12). How can God's constant presence be a source of comfort during difficult seasons of life?
4. Psalm 139 teaches that God knew us before we were born and has been involved in every stage of our lives. Looking back, where have you seen God's hand guiding, protecting, or strengthening you even when you didn't recognize it at the time?
5. Some people view God as waiting to punish mistakes, while David sees God as a loving Father who pursues and cares for His children. What practical difference does it make in our daily walk when we view God through the lens of His love rather than fear?
6. What impacted you most from the sermon? How might you apply this week's sermon to your life?
7. How might this group pray for you this week?