



**Big Idea Of The Series:** Psalm 139 is well-known devotionally. Psalm 139:14, “I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made,” is emblazoned on T-shirts, coffee mugs, and social media memes. The psalm’s ubiquitous nature and conventional usage can hide its deeply important statements on the nature and goodness of God. This series will explore David’s understanding of his God, our God, with particular attention to four of the classical attributes of God: omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence, and omnibenevolence. The goal is to both teach correct theological points regarding these incommunicable attributes of God (attributes which He alone possesses) and to help people understand why these attributes matter for their lives. Ultimately, our goal is to discover our all-knowing, always-present, all-powerful, and all-good God, who is always for us and never against us.

## **Week 2 - Waking Up To God’s Presence**

**Text:** Psalm 139:7-12

**Topic(s):** Attributes of God, Omnipresence, “Waking Up”, Reassurance, Wonder & Awe

**Big Idea of the Message:** God is fully present everywhere, every time, for all of time - in, around and through everything. If we would “wake up from our slumber” and discover His all encompassing presence, we would know that we are never alone and we could find comfort, peace and rest in His constant, all-encompassing being.

### **Setting the stage:**

**Leaders:** Please read aloud to your group Psalm 139:7-12.

**As a group:** Understand that God’s omnipresence is not limited to these verses written by David, but is instead a foundational attribute of His being, evidenced continually throughout time by many of the writers of the

Scriptures. As a group, take turns reading aloud the following verses in order to understand the pervasiveness of this revelation:

#### God is Omnipresent - Old Testament Evidence

“Am I only a God nearby,” declares the Lord, “and not a God far away? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?” declares the Lord. “Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the Lord. (*Jeremiah 23:23-24*)

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain You, how much less this house which I have built!” (*1 Kings 8:27*)

“For His eyes are upon the ways of a man, And He sees all his steps.” (*Job 34:21*)

“The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high, who stoops down to look on the heavens and the earth?” (*Psalms 113:4-6*)

“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.” (*Proverbs 15:3*)

#### God is Omnipresent – The New Testament Evidence

"But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (*Matthew 6:6*)

For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." (*Matthew 18:20*)

“The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;” (*Acts 17:24*)

“He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” (*Colossians 1:17*)

“For he himself has said, ‘I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.’” (*Hebrews 13:5*)

### **Questions For Group Discussion:**

1. (*Read for group*) When we say that God is **omnipresent**, we are saying that God is all-present. God is capable of being everywhere fully, completely and wholly at the same time for all of time and in every time. It means his divine presence encompasses the whole of the universe. There is no location where he does not inhabit. God is not only omnipresent, God is also **immanent**. When we say that God is immanent, we mean that God is personable and relatable to those made in His image, while remaining completely distinct and unique from all of His creation. It means that God is not a distant deity (as imagined by the deist) who only sits on His heavenly throne with no interaction, nor is God one with creation (as imagined by pantheists) who believe that creation itself is God. Instead, He is a personal God who created people in His image to be in personal relationship with Him.

**How does the extent of God’s omnipresence make you feel about Him? Honestly, does it feel invasive to you? Why do you think it feels that way, what causes that feeling?**

2. In his talk, John described realizing that Caroline was more interested in his presence than his presents. **To date, what has characterized your relationship with God - a desire for His presence or His presents.**

3. Jacob, upon awakening from his dream, declared that, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” **Have you had that experience,**

**that awareness moment - where suddenly God made His presence known?**

**4.** Upon awakening from his dream, Jacob declared that a place which was just a common, side-of-the-road pit stop to be “none other than the house of God, this is the gate of heaven.” **Do you have that place where you experience God more than any other place? Where do you go to meet Him?**

**5.** John spent a lot of time in his talk trying to get us to wrap our minds around the concept of God’s omnipresence through the revelation of science - both in regards to space/time and quantum physics. **Neils Bohr said these revelations caused him outrage. How do they make you feel? What do they cause you to think?**

**6.** Martin Hanford is the creator and illustrator of the "Where's Waldo" series of children's books. Most of you know the series - essentially Hanford draws crowd scenes and hides our protagonist, Waldo, in ever-increasingly difficult ways somewhere on every page for children to find. When asked why, Hanford replied, "so children can learn to be aware of what’s going on around them. I’d like them to see wonder in places it might not have occurred to them.” **Where have you seen wonder in places that might not have occurred to you?**

**7.** Paul commanded the Ephesians, “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” (*Eph 5:14*) **In regards to God’s omnipresence, how do we do that? How can you practice the presence of God?**

**8.** If you have kids - heck if you were a kid - you might be familiar with the children’s classic, “The Runaway Bunny.” Take a moment to re-familiarize yourself with it:

*Once there was a little bunny who wanted to run away. So he said to his mother, "I am running away." "If you run away," said his mother, "I will run after you. For you are my little bunny."*

*"If you run after me," said the little bunny, "I will become a fish in a trout stream and I will swim away from you." "If you become a fish in a trout stream," said his mother, "I will become a fisherman and I will fish for you."*

*"If you become a fisherman," said the little bunny, "I will become a rock on the mountain, high above you." "If you become a rock on the mountain high above me," said his mother, "I will become a mountain climber, and I will climb to where you are."*

*"If you become a mountain climber," said the little bunny, "I will be a crocus in a hidden garden." "If you become a crocus in a hidden garden," said his mother, "I will be a gardener. And I will find you."*

*"If you are a gardener and find me," said the little bunny, "I will be a bird and fly away from you." "If you become a bird and fly away from me," said his mother, "I will be a tree that you come home to."*

*"If you become a tree," said the little bunny, "I will become a little sailboat, and I will sail away from you." "If you become a sailboat and sail away from me," said his mother, "I will become the wind and blow you where I want you to go."*

*"If you become the wind and blow me," said the little bunny, "I will join a circus and fly away on a flying trapeze." "If you go flying on a flying trapeze," said his mother, "I will be a tightrope walker, and I will walk across the air to you."*

*"If you become a tightrope walker and walk across the air," said the bunny, "I will become a little boy and run into a house." "If you become a little boy and run into a house," said the mother bunny, "I will become your mother and catch you in my arms and hug you."*

*“Shucks,” said the bunny, “I might just as well stay where I am and be your little bunny.” And so he did. “Have a carrot,” said the mother bunny.”*

**What theological truth did the bunny discover? What conclusion did he draw? How now was he going to live? In light of God’s omnipresence, what conclusion have you drawn? How now could - should - you live?**