

Sanctity of Human Life

Value Every Life!

**Background
Study Verses:**
Psalm 139:1-24

Lesson Material:
Psalm 139:1-10,13-16,
23-24

Bible Truth
God made the world.
He controls the world.
God expects believers
to understand how
every person has value.



Edward and Maria are a Deaf couple. They wanted to **adopt** a child. They went to a country with many children who were not wanted. They found many poor and sick people. They found many unwanted children. Edward and Maria saw children picking food out of a garbage pile. They were skinny and sick. They were starving to death. No one cared enough about them to help them. Many times babies were killed before they were born. No one valued their lives.

The Deaf couple had broken hearts for the children because it looked like they were thrown away. Their hearts were also sad for elderly people they saw. No one cared about them. They were often abused.

Edward and Maria adopted a child. They showed they valued the child's life. They could not adopt an old person, but they gave food and clothing to them. They understood God says all human life is valuable.

What These Verses Tell Us

1. **Every Life Worth Knowing (Psalm 139:1-6)** - The Psalm writer, David, said God knew everything about him. God knew where he was, what he was doing, and what he was thinking.
2. **Every Life Worth Relating To (139:7-10)** - David said God's presence would always lead him.
3. **Every Life Purposeful from Beginning to End (139:13-16)** - David praised God for creating him in his mother's **womb**. God had a purpose for David's whole life.
4. **Every Life Accountable to God (139:23-24)** - David prayed for God to search his heart. He asked God to lead him in His everlasting way.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. David said, "God, you know my _____ before I think them."
2. David said, "You know _____ I do."
3. David said, "You put your _____ on me."
4. David said God made him in an _____ and _____ way.
5. David asked God to lead him on the road to _____.

Today's Lesson

Many churches set aside this Lord's day as a special day. They use the day to support the rights of unborn babies. When an unborn baby is killed it is called **abortion**. The churches use Bible teachings to describe the **sanctity** (sacredness, holiness) of human life. God creates, loves, and values all human life. As believers, we must also love and value all human life. The verses in this lesson show the great and unusual way God values every human life. This lesson helps us **focus** on the value of every human life.

1. Every Life Worth Knowing (Psalm 139:1-6)

1. Lord, you have examined me and know all about me.
2. You know when I sit down and when I get up. You know my thoughts before I think them.
3. You know where I go and where I lie down. You know everything I do.
4. Lord, even before I say a word, you already know it.
5. You are all around me—in front and in back—and have put your hand on me.
6. Your knowledge is amazing to me; it is more than I can understand.

David wrote this Psalm. It is an expression of his praise and awe at the greatness of God. God knows everyone perfectly.

Verse 1. There are over seven billion people living in the world today. No one can know all of these people at one time. We cannot know even one percent of the people living in the world today. God knows every person. David started this Psalm by saying God searched his heart. God knew everything about David.

Verses 2-3. God knows everything about us. He knows when we get up. He knows when we sit down. He knows where we go and when we lie down to sleep. He cares about the simple things in our lives.

God knows everything we do. There are things people do in secret. We cannot hide anything from Him. He knows every act we do.

God knows our thoughts. He knows them even before we think them. He knows the reason for our actions and our thoughts.

God watches over us all the time. We cannot hide anything from God. One special big word to describe God is **omniscience**. *Omniscience* means “God knows everything!”

Verses 4-5. David continued his praise to God. God knows every word we will speak. He knows every sign we will make. He knows all of this before we say and sign anything.

**GOD SHOWS US EVERY LIFE
IS WORTH KNOWING. NO
PERSON IS UNIMPORTANT.**

David said God is everywhere. He is all around us. He is in front of us and behind us. God valued David enough to put His hand on him. God has His hand on us today. His hand protects us lovingly.

Verse 6. David expressed the same feelings we have today. Deaf believers use the sign *awesome*. We look up to God and sign the word *awesome*. We sign God’s knowledge is awesome to us. It is so great our minds cannot understand His knowledge.

God shows us every life is worth knowing. No person is unimportant. All people are important to God. They must be important to believers.

God knows everything. He knows if we value human life the way He does.

2. Every Life Worth Relating To (139:7-10)

7. Where can I go to get away from your Spirit? Where can I run from you?
8. If I go up to the heavens, you are there. If I lie down in the grave, you are there.
9. If I rise with the sun in the east and settle in the west beyond the sea,
10. even there you would guide me. With your right hand you would hold me.

The word *relate* means to be connected to. **Relationship** means “the way we are connected with someone.”

God relates to us in a loving and caring way. Believers have the opportunity to relate to people who have special needs. A Deaf Sunday School class visits a nursing home for elderly people each month. The Deaf members of the Sunday School class show they value elderly people.

There is another special word to describe God. God is **omnipresent**. *Omnipresent* means “God is everywhere at the same time.” God is with all of us all the time!

Verse 7. David asked two questions. In this verse David asked where he could go to get away from the Spirit. The Spirit of God is everywhere. He is always near us. He is always in us. He asked God where he could run away from Him. David answered his own questions in the next three verses.

GOD RELATES TO US IN A LOVING AND CARING WAY.

Verse 8. First, David asked if he went up to heaven, is God there? God is in heaven. Heaven is God’s home. God’s throne is in heaven. David asked if God is with him when he is buried. Of course, God is there.

Verses 9-10. David asked another question and answered it. Suppose he could go as far as the sunrise in the east. Is God there? Suppose he could go from the far distant east to the far distant west beyond the ocean. Is God there? David said of course, God is there.

In Bible times a person could not go from the end of the world on the east to the end of the world on the west. Life today is different. Janice is a sixteen-year-old Deaf girl. She went to visit her aunt in Europe. She was afraid of flying. Her father and mother prayed with her before she left. They prayed for God to take care of her and give her peace in her heart. When the plane took off, she felt a quiet and wonderful peace in her heart. She knew God was with her in the airplane.

In Jeremiah 1:5, God said before He made us in our mother’s **womb**, He was with us. He cared for us before we began our physical lives. He chose us because we are valuable to Him.

David knew God would guide him. God’s hand would hold him. God’s hand is on each of us to show us where to go and to keep us safe, if we will let Him do that. Do you have that close relationship with God?

3. Every Life Purposeful from Beginning to End (139:13-16)

13. You made my whole being; you formed me in my mother’s body.
14. I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way. What you have done is wonderful. I know this very well.

15. You saw my bones being formed as I took shape in my mother's body. When I was put together there,
16. you saw my body as it was formed. All the days planned for me were written in your book before I was one day old.

Adam and Eve were the only creatures made in God's **image**. He formed them as fully grown humans. They were never babies.

The generations after Adam and Eve were born as babies and grew to be mature humans. This thought is important because God made the first two adults. Now He makes the baby in the mother's body.

The Bible is very clear that it is wrong for a human to kill other humans. Unborn babies are humans. God values them. Elderly people are humans. God values them. God made every person for a purpose.

Verse 13. Another word to describe God is **omnipotent**. *Omnipotent* means "God is all powerful." There is nothing He cannot do.

In David's time people were amazed at the process of human life. Today we have wonderful scientific knowledge, but still do not understand exactly how a human becomes a living being. We know what happens, but we do not know how God makes us.

**GOD HAS PLANS FOR US
BEFORE WE ARE BORN.**

David was sure of one thing. He was sure God made his whole body. God made him to become a person while he was in his mother's body. There are people today who say the unborn baby (a **fetus**) is not a person. They say it is all right to kill an unborn fetus. God tells us not to kill. He means babies also.

Verses 14-15. David began to praise God. First he talked about what God did. Then he described how God worked. God made us in a wonderful way. God sees us as we are formed and grow in the womb.

David described the **miracle** of the birth of humans. He praised God for the facts he knew so well. He knew it was wonderful. He knew humans are amazingly and wonderfully made.

Verse 16. David explained the reason he was so wonderfully and amazingly made. God had plans for him before he was even one day old.

God has plans for us before we are born. Why? He values us. God has a purpose for every human life.

God expects us to value every life because he has a plan for each one.

4. Every Life Accountable to God (139:23-24)

23. God, examine me and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
24. See if there is any bad thing in me. Lead me on the road to everlasting life.

Accountable in today's lesson means "wanting God to see if we are pleasing Him." It is the idea of our responsibility to God for what we do. David closed this Psalm with a prayer. This prayer is helpful for us today.

Verses 23-24. Look back at verse 1. David said God already examined his heart. Now at the last of the Psalm, David has the same prayer. He asked the Lord to examine his heart again.

He asked the Lord to test him. He wanted to know if there was anything bad in him. David knew some things might not please God. David wanted God to carefully search his heart.

Now we see the reason David asked God to test him. David knew he could not stand before God unless his heart was pure. He knew he was **accountable** for his thoughts and actions. He prayed for God to show him the right way; the way to everlasting life.

This prayer is very important for us today. It should be our daily prayer. We are accountable to Him.

What is your attitude about the value of human life? When we realize how much God values every life, we know we need to change any wrong attitude we may have.

What About You?

Do you truly believe God values you?

Can you ask Him to examine your heart to see if you value all human life?

Do you do anything to show you value all life?

Are you able to explain the reason you believe God values all human life? Are you willing to speak out against people who say it is all right to kill unborn babies or elderly people?

Applying the Lesson

Make a list of ways you can assist people to show you value them.

1. I will show I value elderly people by _____

_____.

2. I will show I value unborn babies by _____

_____.

3. I will show I value people who have special needs by _____

_____.

A verse to remember: "God, examine me and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any bad thing in me. Lead me on the road to everlasting life" (Psalm 139:23-24).

Value Every Life!

Background Study Outline

1. **God Knows Me Perfectly (Psalm 139:1-6)**
2. **God Is Present Wherever I Am (139:7-12)**
3. **God Plans My Beginning and End (139:13-16)**
4. **God's Ways Are to Be Mine (139:17-24)**

Lesson Material

1. **Every Life Worth Knowing (Psalm 139:1-6)**
2. **Every Life Worth Relating To (139:7-10)**
3. **Every Life Purposeful from Beginning to End (139:13-16)**
4. **Every Life Accountable to God (139:23-24)**

Bible Truth

**God made the world.
He controls the world.
God expects believers
to understand how every
person has value.**

Dig Deeper!

Jeremiah's Testimony (Psalm 139:1, Jeremiah 1:5-10)

Jeremiah lived about 300 years after David. Both of them, however, spoke strongly about the value of every life. Possibly, Jeremiah knew what David wrote in Psalm 139. David said, "You saw my bones being formed as I took shape in my mother's body. When I was put together there, you saw my body as it was formed. All the days planned for me were written in your book before I was one day old" (Psalm 139:15-16). Jeremiah the prophet began his work in 627 B.C. He didn't volunteer. God called him (Jeremiah 1:5). God told Jeremiah He knew him before he was born and appointed him to be a prophet. Jeremiah realized God knew what he would become while he was still in his mother's body! Both David and Jeremiah understood how God saw them as a living person while they were still in their mother's body. David and Jeremiah did not have medical degrees. They did not understand much about how the human body worked. Our children in high school know far more about physiology than these Old Testament men. The Holy Spirit will help us understand if we are willing to listen as God speaks to us through His Word.

STEP ONE – OVERVIEW

- Ask someone ahead of time to discuss Jeremiah's testimony from "Dig Deeper."
- This is the Sanctity of Human Life lesson for this quarter. We lay aside the Gospel of John for this important lesson. The title of today's lesson is "Value Every Life."
- Use the "Scripture searching" method for this lesson. Ask the class to look at each passage and find the words in the verses to fit the section title.

STEP TWO – EVERY LIFE WORTH KNOWING (PSALM 139:1-6)

- **Make the lesson come alive!** Bring a wig to class. Pull it out of a paper bag and ask the class to guess how many hairs are on it. Respond with, "I don't know and I don't care, but I do know something about my hair and your hair!" Ask someone to look up Matthew 10:30 and sign it for the class. ("God even knows how many hairs are on your head.") Who cares? God cares.
- Write on the board this number: 14,000,000,000,000. Does anyone know how many that is? (14 trillion) Well, there are more than seven billion people on earth. If each one has an average of two thousand hairs, then God knows all about the fourteen trillion hairs on their heads. Ridiculous? Yes, but it shows how much more God must care about each real person.

STEP THREE – EVERY LIFE WORTH RELATING TO (139:7-10)

- Because God values life, we need to value life, and develop a right relationship with the people we meet. We need to introduce them to God.

STEP FOUR – EVERY LIFE PURPOSEFUL FROM BEGINNING TO END (139:13-16)

- When we think about the way a tiny baby is formed and grows, we ask, "How?" But we must also ask, "Why?" What is God's purpose for me? For that new baby? For that elderly person whose mind no longer works the right way?
- What is the answer to those questions of, "Why?" (For God's glory. Be prepared for someone to ask, "Why did God make me Deaf?")

STEP FIVE - EVERY LIFE ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD (139:23-24)

- Ask someone to sign these two verses. They are good verses to remember.
- Ask, "If God graded your heart and thoughts, what would your grade be?" Would you get an "A?" Maybe an "A minus?" If we will ask God, He will grade us, and then we can know what we need to do to improve our grade.

STEP SIX - CONCLUSION

- **So What?** Ask class members what they have learned. Does this lesson have meaning for them today? Encourage discussion of the issue of abortion in your city.