

MADE FOR SOMETHING MORE



Who are you—really?

“Identity” is a buzz word in our world—that question of what makes us who we are. The world tells us our identity is determined by a bunch of different factors, including:

- ▶ How we see ourselves,
- ▶ How we feel, and,
- ▶ What others expect us to be.

But if you’ve tried to define yourself based on those factors, you know they’re ultimately hollow; they shift around like sand, leaving us with nothing solid to hold on to.

So, we get back to the basic question: *who are we really?*

Thankfully, there is an answer: we are who God says we are! And when we come to Christ, our identity is shaped—reshaped—into the image of Christ. He brings us back to what He intended us to be in the first place.

In these six sessions, we’ll gain a deeper understanding of who we are in Christ, why we’re here in this world, and what our purpose is supposed to be. Far from how the world wants to define us, we’ll see that we were made for something more.



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Made for Something More

Session 1 ***I Am Wonderfully Made*** Psalm 139:1-6,13-18

Session 2 ***I Am a Child of the King*** Galatians 4:1-7

Session 3 ***I Am a Minister*** 2 Corinthians 3:4-12

Session 4 ***I Am a Priest*** 1 Peter 2:4-10

Session 5 ***I Am Just Passing Through*** 1 Peter 2:11-17

Session 6 ***I Am a Light*** Ephesians 5:8-14

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I AM WONDERFULLY MADE



*What is something you've made with
your own hands?*

QUESTION #1

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THE POINT

Every life counts—including mine.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

As citizens of the modern world, we love our freedom of choice. That's true whether we're choosing a restaurant, an outfit to wear, or a person to spend our life with. Nobody wants to be forced to do something. We like our freedom.

But freedom has its limits.

On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court ruled that freedom included the right to have an abortion. Many hailed this as a freedom for choice, while others criticized it as the license to take a life. The focus of this debate centers on whether or not a fetus—an unborn child—has any value.

But who assigns a person's value? Isn't it the One who created us? If you've ever made something with your own hands, you likely assigned value to that object or project. It was important and valuable to you, even if others didn't see it that way. God our Creator sees us with great value—a value others may dismiss or ignore. But every person matters. You matter. And we honor God when we value life as He does.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Psalm 139:1-6

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me! ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ³ You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

Psalm 139 shows us who God is in relation to His creation. God is more than our Creator. He's the God who knows us intimately and values us completely.

We live in a culture where we are accustomed to hiding. We disguise who we really are and what we really think. We take cover behind positions, platforms, and personalities. We conceal the parts of our lives that cause us shame or embarrass us. We hide behind social media posts and pictures, attempting to show the world the identity we want them to see.

We might be able to disguise portions of ourselves from the world around us, but in Psalm 139, David made it clear we have no masks when it comes to God and how He sees us. We can't hide from God or convince Him we are something we're really not. He has searched us and knows us.

- ▶ **God knows us better than we know ourselves.** "You discern my thoughts from afar." God doesn't plant thoughts in our minds, but He does understand what we're thinking.
- ▶ **God knows what we're going to do before we do it.** "You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways." We can never do something that catches God off guard. We can't surprise God. He's aware of all things, including our actions and attitudes each day.
- ▶ **God knows what we're going to say before we say it.** "Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether." God is all-knowing (omniscient). That truth is hard to comprehend, but nothing is outside of God's awareness and knowledge.

What emotions do you experience when you read these verses?

QUESTION #2

Just as Jesus knew Judas was going to betray Him before that betrayal even took place (see Matt. 26:23-25), God knows about our sins before we commit them. That may sound scary, and for good reason. But it also makes the fact that God loves us so much more amazing. In fact, Jesus loves us so much that He came to save us in spite of our sin. (See John 3:16; Rom. 5:8.)

Psalm 139:13-16

¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. ¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

The psalmist described us with a beautiful phrase: “fearfully and wonderfully made.” The Hebrew word translated “fearfully” expressed great reverence, awe—even fear. It reminds us of our connection to the all-powerful Creator of the universe.

You and I were made by God, in the image of God, for the purpose of glorifying God. People are created as either male or female, in all shapes and sizes, with different appearances, and a wide variety of ethnicities. But God didn't create us to look like Him physically. He created us to be like Him spiritually. And that is remarkable!

In addition, we are “wonderfully made.” God created every person walking the face of the earth as a unique individual, distinct and set apart. That doesn't mean we're born perfect according to the world's standards, but the world's standards are ultimately unimportant. We can rest assured that—no matter what flaws, ailments, or challenges we may have—God loves us. He has a purpose for us.



IN THE BEGINNING

Read Genesis 1:26-28 below, which describes God's original creation of human beings. Use the space to the right of the text to record your thoughts on what makes people valuable based on these verses.

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

When my wife and I found out she was pregnant with our first child, we couldn't wait to become parents. The anticipation was almost unbearable. When that day finally arrived, we discovered an entirely new kind of love. From that very first moment, we loved our daughter—deeply. Yet, no matter how much we love her, God's love for her will always be far greater. And even though we loved her from the first moment we laid eyes on her, it's amazing to realize God's love goes back even further than that.

Some people believe life begins the day a child is born, but Psalm 139 paints a different picture. Before the parts of your body were completely formed, you were already a person in the eyes of God.

- ▶ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you" (Jer. 1:5).
- ▶ "The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name" (Isa. 49:1).

There's no greater value than being known and loved by God. The amazing message of the Bible is that God knew us and loved us before we were ever born!

Psalm 139:17-18

¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.

I was a huge baseball fan growing up, and my favorite player was George Brett. One day our family was checking into a hotel a few hours before a game, and who did I see standing in the lobby? George Brett!

Where in our culture do we see life being devalued or disrespected?

QUESTION #3

How does this passage support the truth that our lives count?

QUESTION #4

Leaving my parents, I walked up and said: “Mr. Brett, I’m a huge fan. Congratulations on 3,000 hits and 300 home runs and being the only player to win the batting title in three different decades...” I was showing off, but in the middle of reciting everything I knew about him, George Brett simply walked away. I never even got to ask for his autograph. I was devastated!

My dad consoled me and tried to explain, saying, “I know you love George Brett and know a lot about him, but you’ve got to realize: George Brett doesn’t know you.”

One-sided relationships rarely work out. For that reason, our relationship with God was always designed to be two-sided.

God knows us. He knows everything about us and He loves us. In the same way, He wants us to know Him. God has pursued us from the beginning, and He wants us to pursue Him. That idea can be overwhelming—getting to know God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. After all, God is totally beyond our comprehension. Yet David viewed that knowledge as “precious.” He used a word that literally means “heavy” or “costly.” David saw the thoughts of God as weighty and highly valuable.

Verse 18 mentions waking up, which is quite possibly a reference to waking from death. Earlier, David marveled at God’s knowledge about him from the very conception of his life. And now David noted that even at the end—“I awake”—he would still be with God. This statement implies an eternal relationship. When we look to God with worship and awe because He knows and values us, our response is to enter into a relationship with Him.

By trusting God, we can say with David, “I awake, and I am still with you.”

What actions can we take that reflect our belief in the value of all human life?

QUESTION #5

LIVE IT OUT

Your life matters. How will you ensure that truth makes a difference in your life this week? Consider these options:

- ▶ **Pray for life.** Pray that the eyes of our lawmakers, judges, and political leaders will be opened to the fact that every life was created by God—every life counts.
- ▶ **Memorize.** Commit Psalm 139:13-14 to memory. Let these verses take hold in your mind and heart so that they impact how you see yourself *and* how you see those around you.
- ▶ **Volunteer.** Commit an hour a week to serve at a local Christian pregnancy center, retirement home, or ministry to those with special needs. Help others see the truth in Psalm 139 that every life—including theirs—matters.



Freedom is a valuable principle. But human beings are precious. Every human life is wonderfully made by God in the image of God, which makes every human life remarkable.

My thoughts

Share with others how you will live out this study: **#BSFLmore**