

C3 Leaders Questions  
S2021-WEEK 4  
2/21/21

**Getting Started with a Warm-Up:**

- The Bible tells us that God is *omnipotent* (having unlimited power). Explain why some people have a difficulty believing this to be entirely true? Here are evidence from Scripture:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” (Genesis 1:1, NLT)

“He replied, “What is impossible for people is possible with God.” (Luke 18:27, NLT)

“I am the Lord, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me?” (Jeremiah 32:27, NLT)

- Have you personally experienced God’s omnipotence in your life? Or observed it in the life of someone else?
- Read Genesis chapter 7, the story of Noah and the ark during the Great Flood. How does this amazing story affect your understanding of His unlimited power?

**Getting Down to Business:**

The following questions are following this format: Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer (SOAP).

1) **Scripture/Observation:** Read Psalm 139:17-24. (Below is an excerpt from the Bible Panorama commentary that you can access by following the link after the excerpt.)

- A. Explain what the psalmist is saying about God in vv. 17-18 (Hint: David is overwhelmed with the truth of God’s omniscience - all knowing).
- B. Why do you think the psalmist seems to shift his attention to talk about the wicked in vv. 19-22? (He seems to be so aware that God knows all and is all present that he is wondering how God could allow the wicked to exist.) So, *why* doesn’t God destroy the wicked? (Hint: If God is all knowing, then why does He allow the wicked to live?)
- C. How do you reconcile Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 5:43-48 (“Teaching about Love for Enemies”) with what the psalmist is saying in vv. 21-22?

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- D. Why does the psalmist ask God to search him so thoroughly? (Hint: Who was the psalmist talking about in vv. 19-22? Who is the psalmist loyal to?)

The Bible Panorama Commentary

V 17–18: OUTNUMBERED - God's gracious and precious thoughts towards David, and towards all His people, outnumber the very grains of sand.

V 19–22: OUTRAGED - David is so taken with the majesty and holiness of God that, by comparison, he hates the enemies of God. He is outraged by their rebellion.

V 23–24: OPEN - In perhaps the most open prayer in the Bible, David invites God to search him, know his heart, try him, deal with his anxieties, search out his wickedness, and lead him in His everlasting way. He wants to be as different as he can be from God's enemies who make him so angry. Only repentance and wholehearted faith can produce such a prayer in a child of God.

(<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+139&version=NIV>)

- 2) **Application:** How should a better understanding of God's providence help us view those who are far from God?

- 3) **Prayer:** As you pray, acknowledge that God not only knows everything but is providentially directing everything including those who are far from Him.