



THEME

Honest Attempts @ Following Jesus > **God with Us**

ANCHORED TO TRUTH

John 17:20-24, Luke 15:17-24, **Psalm 139:1-18**, **Acts 17:22-27**, Matthew 1:19-25

CONVERSATION

1. Do we see our boundaries & limitations as challenges to push past? (Acts 17:26-27)
 - a. Do you think it's possible God placed these limitations on us in part so we'd reach toward him?
2. What are your thoughts on this quote & the idea that God is transcendent > exists beyond space + time?
"The first gulp from the glass of natural sciences will make you an atheist but at the bottom of the glass God is waiting for you." - Werner Heisenberg, Father of Quantum Physics
3. Is it easier for you to accept/understand a God that's **transcendent** or **immanent** (intimate & indescribably close)?
4. Check out **Psalm 139:1-18**

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!

5. If we're honest, is there something a little unsettling about God knowing us so well > even knowing our thoughts?
 - a. What's more incredible to you > that God created the universe or that he knows our thoughts & still loves us?
6. Is there a time you felt particularly close to God?
 - a. What did that feel like?
 - b. Why do you think you were able to be that close?
 - c. Why are those moments (being really close to God) so rare & hard to find?

RESPOND:

> Identify 1 reason it's tough for you to accept that God desires to be close to you? Or, if it's easier, 1 reason you find yourself trying to keep him at a distance.

- If you're OK with it > could you share that reason with the group so we can pray for one another?

> Could you take time this week (I know you're busy) to get away, even for just a little bit, to spend time with God, the God who wants to be close?

- Are there some ways you could make this time with God meaningful + different > more than an assignment?