

## International Conversation Cafe

Bible Topic: Who is God? Jeremiah 9, Psalm 139

Through all of time, people have been asking questions about God. Does he exist? What is he like? What kinds of things does he do? Is there anything God can't do? Take turns in your group to read through each section, discuss the meanings of new words, and answer the questions.

### **Who is God... He is Knowable.**

God created the universe in all of its greatness and creative details. He is the Creator, but he loves people and gives us the ability to know him! He tells us about himself, but even goes beyond that. He welcomes us into a relationship, so that we personally can get to know him. Not only can we know about him, we can know him deeply. Jeremiah, the ancient prophet, writes these words in response to those who bragged about personal wealth, strength, and wisdom.

But here is what the one who brags should boast about.  
He should brag that he has understanding and knows me.  
I want him to know that I am the Lord.  
No matter what I do on earth, I am always kind, fair and right.  
And I take delight in that, announces the Lord.  
Jeremiah 9:24

*How does God describe himself?  
Is there anything you like about this verse?  
Is there anything that seems hard to believe?*

### **Who is God... He is Approachable.**

God wants us to talk to him because he cares about things that are important to us. We don't have to be perfect before we come to Him. We do not need to understand everything about God first. It is his nature to be loving and accepting when we go to him.

"The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth." (Psalms 145:18).

*Why do you think God invites us to call on him?  
In what way do you think God is near to people?  
What do you think it means to "call on him in truth?"*

## Who is God... He Knows, Understands, and Loves Us.

It is one thing to know about God and find that one can approach him. It is a startling thing to realize he knows you completely, and loves you. Here is what the poet wrote in Psalm 139.

O Lord, you have examined my heart  
and know everything about me.  
You know when I sit down or stand up.  
You know my thoughts even when I'm far away.

You see me when I travel  
and when I rest at home.  
You know everything I do.  
You know what I am going to say  
even before I say it, Lord.

You go before me and follow me.  
You place your hand of blessing on my head.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
too great for me to understand!

*Restate the author's thoughts in your own words.*

*What is the author's reaction to God's intimate knowledge of him?*

*How do you feel about God knowing all about you?*

God knows our present reality and future, but he also knows our beginning.

For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful.  
I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

*What do you think it means to be "knit together in my mother's womb?"*

*Why do you think the poet calls a mother's womb, "the secret place?"*

*What would you like to remember from these thoughts and discussions?*