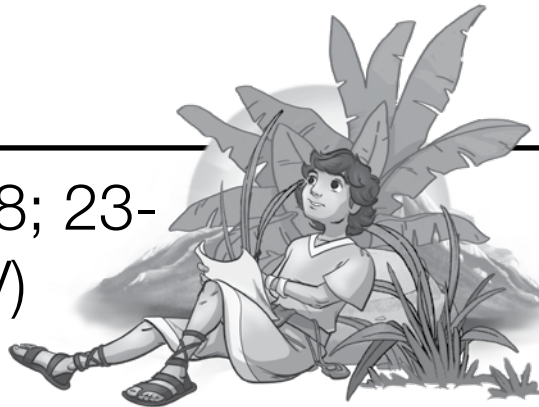


Does God Know Me?

Psalm 139:1-18; 23-24 (NLT or CEV)



Big Idea

God loves and values people.

Lesson Aim

To help the students appreciate how much God loves people.

Learning Outcomes

The students will:

- Explorers** act out things that God knows about them.
- Adventurers** identify that God made them and list things God knows about them.
- Navigators** explain that people matter to God.
- Voyagers** discuss how their view of themselves and others can reflect God's view of people.

Lesson Notes

This lesson helps students to see that even though God is the powerful creator of everything, he knows each of us inside and out. Students will explore Psalm 139, in which King David expresses his amazement at the way God made him and knows him completely. Students will be encouraged to get to know the God who made them and knows them.

Psalm 139 uses vivid imagery and questions to explore the relationship between people and their creator God. Explorers and Adventurers will have the opportunity to question what makes them special and what God knows and thinks about them. Navigators and Voyagers will have the opportunity to question if they matter to God, and how God's view of humanity should impact their view of themselves and others. Students are invited to use their imaginations to 'come to know God'. God who knows all about them, lovingly created them and is always there to protect and guide them.

This lesson is an excellent opportunity to impress upon the students that no one is a mistake and that their Creator God chose all people to be a part of his creation. It's not just about making children feel good about themselves. It's about recognising the value of each one because they are made in the image of God.

This information about God may cause different responses. Students, particularly those who see themselves as different from others around them, may question why God created them the way they are. Some students may find it frightening that God knows all about them, others may struggle to understand that God loves them when they have not experienced this in their lives. It will be your attitude to them and the way you model relating to God yourself, rather than any logical explanation, that will help them grow in this understanding.

Value

Everyone Matters

Teaching Tip

Learning students' names is an excellent way to reinforce that the students matter to you and also to God. Try selecting a few students' names to learn each week and find a reason to say their names a few times during the lesson. Play 'get to know you' games at the start of the year. Use students' names during class discussion and when selecting volunteers. Encourage students to decorate their own name tags or place cards.

Learning Outcome

Explorers will act out things that God knows about them.

Resources List

- 2 large sheets of paper and pens with pre-drawn lifesize silhouette of a boy and a girl (Question)
- Unit1_Lesson3.pdf (Explore)
- Unit1_Lesson3.ppt (Discover)
- Unit 1 Auslan Bible Verse video (Discover)
- Song: *God Knows* by Emu Music - emumusic.com (Discover)

Question

○ What I Like (2-4min)

Say: Put your hand up if you: like reading, your favourite food is ice cream, you like going to the beach, you are five years old.

Ask a few students what their favourite colour is.

Link: Do you think God knows these things about you? Let's find out more.

○ All About Us (3-5min)

Prepare a life-sized outline of two students on large sheets of paper such as butcher's paper.

Invite students to draw one feature at a time on each outline. As they draw, ask:

Does God know (*For example: what colour your hair is, shape of your ears, what you will say next?*)

Does God know all these things about everyone, including you and me?

Explore

○ Story Stations (5-7min)

Print materials from the PDF and setup six stations before class. The class will walk to each station together. At each station the students will mime actions listed below and the teacher will say the text listed.

Say: A man named David spent lots of time talking with God. He knew that God knew all about him - and all about us too. He wrote about it and we can read it in the Bible. There are six spots to visit to find out more. Let's walk quietly together.

Station	Students mime	Teacher says
Rest/work	resting, then working	God, you know when I am resting or when I am working.
Walking	walking	You notice everything I do and everywhere I go.
Talking	talking	Before I even speak a word, you know what I will say.
Up High	climbing	If I were to climb up to the highest heavens, you would be there.
Ocean	flying	Imagine if I had wings like a bird and flew across the ocean. Even then your powerful arm would guide and protect me.
Dark	hide	Imagine I said, 'I'll hide in the dark until night comes to cover me over.' But God sees in the dark and the light. <i>Optional: Turn lights off.</i>

Return to the starting area and sit down.

Say: David was amazed at how God knew him, and cared about him. He wrote to God 'I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me. Everything you do is marvelous!' (Psalm 139:14).

Discover

○ Song: God Knows (3-4min)



Sing *God Knows* by Emu Music and try the actions together.

○ Unit 1 Bible Verse (2-3min)

Ask: According to the Bible, who made the world? (*God*) Who made you and me? (*God*)

Say: Our Bible verse for this unit says that God made the world.

Watch the *Unit 1 Auslan Bible Teaching Verse* video or repeat the rhyme from Adventurers Lesson 1.

(Also on the Unit1_Lesson3.ppt.)  

Repeat the verse a few times together.

○ God Made Me Special (2-3min)

Invite students to look at their own hands and notice things that are special about their hands such as their size and shape.

Say: God knows these special things about you, because he made you and loves you.

Ask: What are some other things that are special about you? (*Invite a few children to share.*)

Invite the children to think about something special about them during the prayer.

Pray: Dear God, something special about me you made is (*pause*). Amen.



Finish Off

Say: The Bible says that God made each of us special and knows all about us.



Question

○ How Important Are You? (2-3min)

Briefly ask the group to nominate and vote on their favourite TV/movie/sporting hero.

Say: Imagine you heard that your favourite hero was in town and you really want to see them. You talk your parent into taking you to see them. You get there and knock on the door. A huge bodyguard opens it. 'Go away, kid!' he says. 'No one here is interested in little kids like you.'

Ask: How would you feel?

Link: I wonder what God would think about someone treating you like that. Today we're going to find out how God feels about you.

○ Does God Know? (2-3min)

Ask: Have you ever wondered what God knows about us?

Invite students to put their thumbs up for yes, thumbs down for no, shake hand for don't know.

Ask: Does God know what you ate for breakfast? Does God know what school you go to? Does God know your name? Do you think you could go somewhere so far away that God wouldn't know? Did God know us before we were born?

Ask: Does anyone have any other ideas about what God might know about us? (*Invite a few students to share.*)

Explore


○ Story Stations (5-7min)

See Explorers Lesson 3.

○ Made and Known (4-6min)

Say: King David was the king of God's people 3000 years ago. He spent lots of time talking with God, and wrote down some of his prayers. King David was also a musician, so many of his prayers sound like songs or poems. We call them Psalms and they are in the Bible.

Say: Listen to what David wrote about his friendship with God.

Read the paraphrase of Psalm 139 below and either act out dramatically or illustrate with Unit1_Lesson3.ppt. 

God you know all about me.

You know when I am resting and when I'm busy.

You know everything I do and everywhere I go.

You know what I will say, even before I say it.

Wherever I go, you will always be with me. If I go as high as the tallest mountain, or down to the deepest cave, you will be there. If I went over the ocean and lived in another place, you would be there and keep me safe. If it is dark, that makes no difference. You will still know where I am.

You even knew me before I was born. You made me who I am inside my mum's tummy. It's wonderful the way you created me. You are amazing, God! I know you'll be with me for my whole life. Every morning when I wake up, I know you're there.

Ask: What was your favourite part? (*Accept responses*). What did King David want us to know about God? (*Accept responses. God knows everything about us. God is always with us. God cares for us*).

Discover

○ Hand Prayer (3-5min)

Invite the children to draw an outline of their hand on a piece of paper.

Say: Draw or write five things that God knows about you.

Pray: Thank you God that you know all these things about us. Thank you that you care about us and are always with us.

○ Unit 1 Bible Verse in Auslan (2-3min)

Play the *Unit 1 Auslan Bible Verse Video (short version)* or use *Unit 1 Auslan Bible Verse Teaching Video* if it was not used in the last lesson. Repeat the verse using the Auslan signs together.

○ Song: God Made You and Me (3-4min)

Listen to *God Made You and Me* by John Fryer.

Finish Off

Say: Does God know us? The Bible says God made us, knows us and thinks each one of us is very special.

Learning Outcome

Adventurers will identify that God made them and list things God knows about them.

Resources List

- Unit1_Lesson3.ppt (Explore)
- Unit1_Lesson3.pdf (Explore)
- Paper and pencils (Discover)
- *Unit 1 Auslan Bible Verse Video (short version)* or *Unit 1 Auslan Bible Verse Teaching Video* (Discover)
- Song: *God Made You and Me* (Discover)



Learning Outcome

Navigators will explain that people matter to God.

Resources List

- Unit1_Lesson3.pdf (Explore)
- Unit1_Lesson3.ppt (Explore)
- Psalm 139 Audio (Explore)
- Song: *My Best Friend* by The Lads (Discover)
- Unit 1 Auslan Bible Verse Teaching Video (Discover)

Question

○ Showing That Someone Matters (3-5min)

Say: There's a new baby in the house. Con, who is two, doesn't like the new baby getting so much attention. 'Mum, Con's being a real pain – again!' big sister Debbie complained. Mum said, 'Deb, Con is worried that he doesn't matter to us now we have the baby. I try to let him know I still love him, but you know how busy I am. Do you think you could help Con know he's still very important to us?'

Ask: What could Debbie do to show Con he matters to the family, even though he's not the baby any more? (*Accept answers like read to him, play with him, praise the good things he does.*)

Ask: How do you feel when you think people don't want you around? (*Accept answers.*)

Link: Sometimes we might think we don't matter to people. We feel stupid, ignored or that we can't get anything right. But everyone matters to God. He thinks you are amazing, wonderful, worth knowing and he thinks you're worth helping to be even better.

○ Amazing Body Quiz (2-3min)

Ask the students to stand for true and sit for false (or hands up for true) as you read the following statements. (*They are all true.*)

- Babies have more bones than adults.
- Bones are about 3/4 water.
- Eyelashes help keep dirt out of our eyes.
- A sneeze can travel as fast as the wind in a cyclone.
- Everyone has a unique set of fingerprints but our tongue print is unique too.
- Children grow 20 baby teeth and then 32 permanent teeth.
- Blonde-haired people have many more hairs on their heads than redheads.
- The only bone that is fully grown when we are born is in our ear.

Pray, praising God for the amazing way he has created us. Pause during the prayer to give the students a chance to silently add something that is special about them.

Explore

○ Listening Exercise (5-7min)

Print *Psalm 139 Audio Transcript* from Unit1_Lesson3.pdf for students to work through individually or in small groups OR display from the PPT.

Say: Here's a prayer poem written by King David 3000 years ago. It's Psalm 139 in the Bible. Listen and decide what David believes God knows and thinks about him.

Play the *Psalm 139 Audio Track* while the group follows on their Bible passage sheets, underlining bits that will help them decide.

Discuss the sections the students have underlined, including King David's confidence that God created him to be who he is (vv13-14) knows him completely and has a plan for his life (v16).

○ Made and Known (4-6min)

See Adventurers Lesson 3.

Discover

○ Navigators Magazines (7-8min)

Play *My Best Friend* by The Lads as the students complete the activities.

○ Pay it Forward (3-5min)


Ask: Can you think of a time when someone said or did something that let you know that you matter to them? (*Accept responses.*)

Say: We can show others that they matter with our words and actions - because everyone matters to God.

Challenge the class to form small groups and quickly decide on one thing that each could try to do this week to let someone who isn't sure about themselves know that they do matter and are special.

Share ideas in the large group.

○ Unit 1 Bible Verse (5-8mins)

See Voyagers Lesson 3, or watch the *Unit 1 Auslan Bible Verse Teaching Video*. 

Finish Off

Say: The Bible says that everyone matters to God.

Question

○ You Were Created to Be (4-5min)

Ask: Do you ever worry about how you look in photos? Do you know someone who does? Do you know anyone who uses a filter on their photos to make themselves look better?

Say: It's not unusual for people to think a lot about how they look, and wish they looked different. But in reality no one needs to be too concerned about how they look to others because those others are too busy thinking about how they look themselves!

There's a prayer poem in the Bible by someone who said, 'I praise you because of the wonderful way you created me.' (Psalm 139:14)

Ask: Who do you think he was praising? Would you say this person was comfortable with himself? (Accept responses.)

Link: The Bible teaches that we all are unique and have been made with a purpose.

○ Song: I'm Not Just Here to Use Up Air (4-5min)

Listen to *I'm Not Just Here to Use Up Air* by Doug Horley.

Ask: What is the writer of the words wanting to say to us?

Link: The Bible teaches that we all are unique and have been made for a purpose.



Explore

○ Listening Exercise (5-7min)

See Navigators Lesson 3.

Ask: What could people your age understand about themselves based on this Psalm? What does the Psalm say about how God views us/them? (Accept responses.)

○ Find Your Own Answer (8-10min)

Cut up the *God & Me Questions* from Unit1_Lesson3.pdf or display on the PPT.


Give volunteers a question each to read aloud. In groups of 2 or 3 read the Bible passage printout from the PDF and find answers.

Discuss the answers the groups found. Then ask: What does Psalm 139 teach you about God? How does this psalm make you feel about yourself?

○ Freeze Frames (7-10min)

Use the PDF to cut the passage into individual verses.

Form small groups of students and give each group one verse each.

Play the *Psalm 139 Audio Track*, or read it aloud, and encourage students to listen for their verse. 

Instruct each group to create a freeze frame to represent their verse. (They will stand still, like a group sculpture depicting that verse).

Play the audio again with each group making their 'freeze frame' for their verses.

Discover

○ Discussion (4-6min)

Display Psalm 139 (selected verses - see PPT or PDF).

Invite students to share their thoughts about the psalm or invite the students to discuss their responses in small groups and report back to the class.

Ask: What does this Psalm show us about God and people? How would you respond if someone said, 'God doesn't care about me'? If each person is made by God and valued by God who knows all about them, what does that say about how we should treat other people? How should we think of ourselves?

○ Unit 1 Bible Verse (5-8mins)

Ask the students if anyone can recall the Unit 1 Bible Verse.

Ask: How does this verse relate to the psalm we explored today? (Accept responses.)

Challenge the students, individually or in small groups, to create a poster showing others that people matter to God. Encourage them to incorporate the Unit 1 Bible Verse and ideas from Psalm 139 into their poster. Keep these for the next session.

○ Amazing Body Quiz (2-3min)

See Navigators Lesson 3.

Finish Off

Say: The Bible says that God has made each of us unique and with a purpose. We matter to God, no matter what!

Learning Outcome

Voyagers will discuss how their view of themselves and others can reflect God's view of people.

Resources List

- Song: *I'm Not Just Here to Use Up Air* by Doug Horley. Available from: <https://www.elevationkids.com/song/im-not-just-here-to-use-up-air> (Question)
- Unit1_Lesson3.ppt (Question, Explore and Discover)
- Unit1_Lesson3.pdf (Question, Explore and Discover)
- *Psalm 139* audio track (Explore)
- Paper and pencils (Discover)



Unit 1 Lesson 3 Does God Know Me?

Learning Outcome

Students will explain that people matter to God.

Resources List

- Unit1_Lesson3.ppt (Explore)
- Unit1_Lesson3.pdf (Explore)
- Psalm 139 Audio Track (Explore)
- Song: My Best Friend (Discover)
- Unit 1 Auslan Bible Verse Video (verse only) (Discover)

Question

○ Showing That Someone Matters (3-5min)

Say: There's a new baby in the house. Con, who is two, doesn't like the new baby getting so much attention. 'Mum, Con's being a real pain – again!' big sister Debbie complained. Mum said, 'Deb, Con is worried that he doesn't matter to us now we have the baby. I try to let him know I still love him, but you know how busy I am. Do you think you could help Con know he's still very important to us?'

Ask: What could Debbie do to show Con he matters to the family, even though he's not the baby any more? (*Accept answers like read to him, play with him, praise the good things he does*).

Ask: How do you feel when you think people don't want you around? (*Accept answers*)

Link: Sometimes we might think we don't matter to people. We feel stupid, or that we can't get anything right, or ignored. Everyone matters to God. He thinks you are amazing, wonderful, worth knowing and thinks you're worth helping to be even better.

○ Does God Know? (2-3min)

Ask: Have you ever wondered what God knows about us?

Invite students to put their thumbs up for yes, thumbs down for no, shake hand for don't know.

Ask: Does God know what you ate for breakfast? Does God know what school you go to? Does God know your name? Do you think you could go somewhere so far away that God wouldn't know? Did God know us before we were born?



Ask: Does anyone have any other ideas about what God might know about us? (*Invite a few students to share*).

Explore

○ Made and Known (4-6min)

Say: King David was the king of God's people 3000 years ago. He spent lots of time talking with God, and wrote down some of his prayers. King David was also a musician, so many of his prayers sound like songs or poems. We call them Psalms and they are in the Bible.

Say: Listen to what David wrote about his friendship with God.


Read the paraphrase of Psalm 139 from the PDF or use Unit1_Lesson3.ppt.  

Ask: What did King David want us to know about God? (*Accept responses. God knows everything about us. God is always with us. God cares for us*).

○ Freeze Frames (7-10min)

Use the PDF to cut the passage into individual verses.

Ask for volunteer pairs or groups of three students and give each pair/group one verse each.

Play the *Psalm 139 Audio Track*, or read it aloud, and encourage students to listen for their verse. 

Instruct each pair to create a freeze frame to represent their verse. (*They will stand still like a group sculpture depicting that verse*).

Play the audio again with each pair making their 'freeze frame' for their verses.

Discover

○ Song: My Best Friend (3-5min)

Listen to *My Best Friend* by The Lads.

○ Pay it Forward (3-5min)

Ask: Can you think of a time when someone said or did something that let you know that you matter to them? (*Accept responses*.)

Say: We can show others that they matter with our words and actions - because everyone matters to God.

Challenge the class to decide on one thing they could try to do this week to let someone who isn't sure about themselves know that they do matter and are special. Share ideas.

○ Unit 1 Bible Verse (5-8mins)

Watch the *Unit 1 Auslan Bible Verse Video (verse only)* and practise the signs.

Finish Off

Say: The Bible says that everyone matters to God.

