

God's Greatest Hits

Studies in Psalms



Can You Feel the Love?

Introduction to Psalms 8, 23, 121, 139

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

As Simba and Nala embraced in "The Lion King" they asked the question, "Can you feel the love to-night?" This question expresses the deep need that we all have to be loved; and amazingly this is exactly what God desires to give to all of us. In the four psalms chosen for study this week God's deep love for His creation is pictured. In Psalm 8 we see God's majesty and power exalted because of His creation of the heavens and the gentle praises that come from the cooing of babies. Surprisingly, though, God's creation of the heavens pales in comparison to His creation of man. He invested great thought as He formed man, and made him a little lower than the angels. God appointed man to be the ruler over all the works of His

hands. All of this shows how amazing God's love for mankind is. In Psalm 23, a universal favorite, God's nurture and protection of His people is magnified. We are like helpless sheep who need His shepherding to give us rest, restoration, food, guidance, protection and discipline. He surrounds us with abundance and honor even in the face of our enemies. In short He meets all our needs. Next, in Psalm 121 God's continuous, never-ending love for us is depicted. He never goes to sleep "on the job", He provides shade for us when the heat is on, and He protects and guards us in all our daily activities. This idea feeds right in to Psalm 139, the final psalm in our study. God's love for us is demonstrated in His complete knowledge of us, and



Singing God's songs helps our hearts connect with His

His never ceasing presence in our lives. He knows us better than we know ourselves, from the moment of conception to the final day He has planned for us on this earth. The vastness of His thoughts towards us is precious; there is nothing better than to ask Him to search us, know us, and remove any hurtful way in us He finds. Without a doubt our answer should be "yes" when God asks, "Can you feel the [My] love?"

Daily Study Questions for Psalm 8, 23, 121, 139

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.thehospitalchurch.com/small groups/ABFs/leader resources](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com/smallgroups/ABFs/leaderresources))

1. Read Psalm 8:1-4. Where has God shown His majesty and strength (v1, 2, 3)? What is God's greatest concern (v4) and what does that say to you?	
2. According to Ps 8:5-9 what is man's status in creation (v5), and what is his responsibility (v6-8)? How should we apply that?	
3. From Ps 23:1-3 what does God provide for us (v1, 2, 3), and why (v3c)?	

Psalm 8, 23, 121, 139 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using Ps 23:4-6 what else does God do for us (v4, 5) and how does that make you feel (v4)? What can we expect from God always (v6)?

5. From Ps 121:1-4 how does God show His love to us (v2, 3) and why can we count on Him (v2, 4)?

6. Read Ps 121:5-8. What does God provide for us (v5, 7, 8), and why is this good? How can you apply this to your life each day?

7. Looking at Ps 139:1-6 what shows how well God knows us (v1, 2-3, 4, 5). How did the psalmist react to this thought (v6)? What about you?

8. Based on Ps 139:7-12 what do we try to do sometimes (v7), and to what lengths do we go (v8-9)? How does God respond (v10-12)?

9. In Ps 139:13-18 how involved is God in our lives (v13, 15, 16, 17-18)? What response does this call for on our part (v14, 17)?

10. According to Ps 139:19-24 who deserves God's judgment (v19-21)? How do we insure that we are not among them (v23-24)? Apply that to your life.

11. Using Ps 8, 23, 121, 139 describe the length, depth, width and height of God's love for you. What are some things about Him that guarantee this?

Scripture to Remember

“The Lord will guard your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forever.”

Psalm 121:8 (NAS)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Sorry!—The Necessity of Forgiveness

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. What's your typical reaction to someone saying they're sorry? Is it different when they say "forgive me"?
2. Review the 3 reasons to forgive—grace (you've been given it), guilt (you'll need it again), grief (you hurt yourself if you don't). Which impresses you the most?
3. Discuss how to overcome the myths of forgiveness—that it can be conditional, that it minimizes the wrong, that it means reconciliation, or that it means forgetting.
4. Talk about what forgiveness means—that it is an act of the will, that it is an act of release, and that it is an act of faith. What are some ways this should impact us?
5. Why is forgiveness easier when we seek to understand first, remember the forgiveness we have received, focus on 1 person and 1 act at a time, and allow time for the process to unfold? Share with your group about someone you need to forgive.
6. Bring up anything else important to you from the message today if you have time.