****C3 Questions

*C3 exists to glorify God and edify the body by knowing and delighting in the Father through the joy and love of the Spirit and unity in the Son.*

Red Text = Tips and guides to help use the questions

Blue Text = Sample Answers

Green Text = Additional questions to ask

Got Milk?

The realities of Psalms 139:1-18 can be both comforting and convicting. What is your reaction to reading this Psalm? Why?

Does it seem like David was comforted or convicted by what he observed about God?

Where’s the Beef?

Psalm 139 reveals three major characteristics of God. His omniscience, His omnipresence, and His sovereignty. Look up the definitions for these attributes of God and write down all the ways these attributes are revealed in this Psalm.

* What was David struggling to understand in V6 and why?
* God's omniscience is His knowledge of all things. God knows everything.
  + God knows everything we do (V2-3)
  + God knows our thoughts (V2)
  + God knows all our words (V4)
  + God knows our DNA and essence (V16)
  + God knows our future (V16)
  + God's thoughts are innumerable (V17-18)
  + By the way, if you assume a grain of sand has an average size and you calculate how many grains are in a teaspoon and then multiply by all the beaches and deserts in the world, the Earth has roughly (and we're speaking very roughly here) 7.5 x 1018 grains of sand, or seven quintillion, five hundred quadrillion grains. <https://www.npr.org/sections/krulwich/2012/09/17/161096233/which-is-greater-the-number-of-sand-grains-on-earth-or-stars-in-the-sky>
* God's omnipresence means that the presence of God is everywhere at all-times.
  + God is in heaven (V8)
  + God is in the grace (V8)
  + God is in the sky (V9)
  + God is in the depths of the sea (V9)
  + God is in the light and the dark (V11-12)
  + God is in the womb (V13)
* God's sovereignty means He "so reigns" in such a way that he does whatever pleases him. God has the power and will to do everything he wants. He is absolutely in control.
  + God reigns over light and dark (V12)
  + God reigns over babies in the womb (V13)
  + God reigns and plans every single day of our lives before they come to pass (V16)
* What other characteristics of God do we see in this Psalm? (Omnipotence, wrath, etc)

How should this revelation of God in Psalm 139 make the promises of God (like Rom 8:28, Isa 41:10, and 2 Cor 9:8) more precious to you?

* Very simply, God has the power, knowledge, and capacity to do everything that he has promised to do. The promises of God cannot fail because God is omniscient, omnipresent, and sovereign over all things. The reality of who God is should make the rock solid reality of His promises precious to us.
* How does this vision of God in Psalm 139 confirm and uphold all of the promises listed in the question above?
* What is your favorite promise of God?
* How does Psalm 139 help make that promise more sure and more precious to you?

David reacts to seeing God's greatness in three ways in V17-18, V19-22, and V23-24. What are these three reactions? Why does David react this way to seeing God's glory? And should we respond in the same way? (Hint: remember the two kinds of hate)

* First, in V17-18, David reacts to seeing God's greatness with praise and delight in who God is. David talks about how precious the thoughts of God are to him. He is treasuring and loving God based on the revelation of God in V1-16. V6 shows that David is absolutely astonished at who God is and he stand in awe of God.
* What is the definition of hate we talked about?
  + Hate is an intense disapproval or a willing to oppose or destroy
* What are the two kinds of hate we talked about?
  + Hate can be an intense disapproval or loathing of something
    - *I hate cilantro. It brings me deep displeasure.*
  + Hate can mean a desire or willing to oppose or destroy something
    - *I hate cilantro. So I will oppose it in my food.*
* Second, in V19-22, David speaks about hating those people or actions that oppose God. Wickedness is opposite of godliness and the wicked cannot be near God (Ps 5:5-6). The wicked oppose God. On top of that, they devalue and despise the character (name) of God in V20. Therefore, because David is so in awe of God (V6) and God is so precious to him (V17), he intensely disapproves of the wicked (hates) and asks God to oppose them (V19). It is because David loves God and is so amazed at His glory that he in strongly inclined against anything that opposed God.
* Third, David desired to be holy like the God he was amazed by was Holy. He hated his own sin and asked God to reveal it to him. He wanted to become like the object of his worship - God. The overflow of his hatred of the sin in others (V19-22) naturally led to a hatred of Davids own sin (V23-24) and a request that God would reveal it to him so he could be holy.
* Of course, we should respond to God in praise. We should imitate David in loving and treasuring God. But we should be very careful in how we follow David in the second way. Jesus clearly commands us to love our enemies (Matt 5:33-38), and Paul tells us to bless (seek the good of) those who persecute you (Rom 12:14). But at the same time, we are called to hate sin (Romans 12:9, Ps 97:10, & Ps 119:104). We are called to intensely disapprove of sin and when possible seek to oppose or destroy it. In fact, if we actually love God who is good and holy, we must hate what is opposite of God (ungodliness). So we should hate sin and sinners in that we intensely disapprove of their ungodliness, but we should not seek to destroy the wicked. We should seek Best for them. Judgement is God's preoperative.
* Is everything the Bible reveals meant for us to use as an example?

Satisfied?

How do these truths help me see God more clearly?

How do they help me savor God in my heart and mind?

How do they help me show God in my words and actions?