

07

EZEKIEL 16:20-21; 23:36-39;
PSALM 139:13-16

THROUGH GOD'S EYES



THIS WEEK'S **focus**

A change in perspective can change everything. If we are stuck looking at a situation or a problem from one angle, sometimes just coming at it from a different direction can shift everything. We often get stuck in a rut and even view people from a fixed perspective. We label people and groups by who they hang out with (“popular people”), what they have achieved (“smart people”), or even mistakes they have made (“bad people”). But if we actually took time to get to know individuals, we may see them differently. God wants us to see Him and others the way that He does. Unfortunately, we usually let the world dictate how we see because sin corrupts our view of God and His people.



CENTRAL **truth**

Sin corrupts our view of God and His people.



EXPLORE scripture

EZEKIEL 16:20-21; 23:36-39;
PSALM 139:13-16

EZEKIEL 16:20-21

20 “You even took your sons and daughters you bore to me and sacrificed them to these images as food. Wasn’t your prostitution

enough? **21** You slaughtered my children and gave them up when you passed them through the fire to the images.”

EZEKIEL 23:36-39

36 Then the LORD said to me, “Son of man, will you pass judgment against Oholah and Oholibah? Then declare their detestable practices to them. **37** For they have committed adultery, and blood is on their hands; they have committed adultery with their idols. And the children they bore to me

they have sacrificed in the fire as food for the idols. **38** They also did this to me: they defiled my sanctuary on that same day and profaned my Sabbaths. **39** On the same day they slaughtered their children for their idols, they entered my sanctuary to profane it. Yes, that is what they did inside my house.”

PSALM 139:13-16

13 For it was you who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. **14** I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well. **15** My bones were not hidden

from you when I was made in secret, when I was formed in the depths of the earth. **16** Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE PSALM 139:14

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about man?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

EZEKIEL 16:8-14

DWELL

Through metaphorical imagery, God describes how He cared for the people of Israel. Before He entered into a covenant with Israel, He describes them as being like an abandoned baby who was not even cleaned off after being born (vv. 4-6,9). He then shifts the metaphor to one of marriage—like a bride and groom pledge to care for one another at their wedding, God vowed to care for Israel and provide for them. God's desire is that His chosen people would be a beautiful nation, cherished by God and admired by anyone who saw them.



How does the metaphor of marriage and fine clothing describe the way that God cares for us?



How does it influence your daily life to know that this is how God sees you?

MEMORIZE

Use a phone or computer to record yourself reading Psalm 139:14 aloud. Listen to this recording throughout the week.

PRAY

Thank God for His lavish provision and care for His children.

day 2

EZEKIEL

16:17-22

DWELL

Continuing the metaphor, God shows how little respect Israel had for God's love. They took His gifts and His provision for granted, and instead of worshiping Him, they turned to false gods and idols. They didn't value the gifts God had provided, and they failed to value the children that He had given them—even going so far as to tragically engage in rituals of child sacrifice to these foreign gods. They were blinded by their greed and self-sufficiency, and could not see that everything they had—including their very lives and the lives of their children—were because of the high value God places on the flourishing lives of His creations.



How did the Israelites show that they didn't value what God had done for them?



What are some examples of modern idols you are tempted to serve instead of God? How might this cause you to devalue human life?

MEMORIZE

Write Psalm 139:14 on a note card and place it in a folder or binder where you will see it frequently. Read it to yourself each time you see it this week.

PRAY

Ask God to forgive you for sometimes taking His love for granted and not honoring Him.

day 3

EZEKIEL

23:36-39

DWELL

God shared a parable with Ezekiel about two sisters, Oholah and Oholibah. These sisters were rebellious and idolatrous, guilty of adultery, idol worship, and child sacrifice. Not only that, but they claimed to still give honor to God by worshiping in His sanctuary! The sisters represented the two cities of Samaria and Jerusalem (see v. 4) and this parable pointed to the sinful practices that God's people were participating in. Just as was the case for Israel, it's not enough for us to simply engage in empty acts of ritual. God's desire is for us to value the same things He values—life, faithfulness, trust, and peace.



How were the sisters defiling the sanctuary? How was their behavior hypocritical?



What are some ways you can show that you value life the way God values it?

MEMORIZE

Break Psalm 139:14 into 3–5 smaller parts and try to recite a different part to yourself from memory throughout each day.

PRAY

Pray that you would see each human life the way God sees each of us—precious, valuable, and wonderfully made.

day 4

PSALM 139:13-18

DWELL

God knows us even better than we know ourselves. He can see even the inner parts of our being that are hidden to us. Long before we were born, God knew us, and He has seen the details of our lives from beginning to end. The psalmist described God as a master craftsman or an artist, “knitting” and “forming” us as though with yarn and clay. Each of us is one of God’s masterpieces! As you go through life, you may wonder what your purpose is, or doubt that you even have one. When these doubts come in your life, remember that God knew what He was doing when He made you. You are beautifully and wonderfully made, and He has designed you to play a part in His plan that only you can play.

↑ What do these verses teach us about God as the Creator?

↪ How might these verses grow your trust in God and your reliance on Him?

MEMORIZE

Draw Psalm 139:14 on a piece of paper using colored pencils or markers, using a different color for the most important words and phrases. Hang it in your room or locker.

PRAY

Spend some time praising God for His master workmanship in creating you.

day 5

LUKE 1:39-44

DWELL

← What did Elizabeth mean that Mary and her child were blessed (v. 42)? Why did she say this?

→ What attitudes about human life do you have that either honor God’s view or contradict it? How can you grow in this way?

While she was pregnant with Jesus, Mary visited her relative Elizabeth, who was also pregnant at the time. The presence of God around Mary was so strong that even Elizabeth’s unborn child—who would grow to be John the Baptist—responded to this power with great joy. God uses even the lives of these unborn children to teach us—2000 years later—about His glory and power. Life is precious to God at every stage from conception to last breath, so we too should strive to value every human life.

MEMORIZE

Practice reciting Psalm 139:14 aloud from memory with a friend or family member. They can prompt you with the next word if you need help remembering.

PRAY

Thank God that He chose to send His Son to earth as a human so He could fully identify with us.