

Psalm 139:1-14

God: HE > i

Scripture: Psalm 139:1-14

Memory Verse: Psalm 139:14a *“I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made”*

Lesson Focus: This is yet another Psalm that teaches us some astonishing things about God. Leveraging the logo from the Hawaiian T-shirt company (HE>i), we hope the Lord will be exalted in this lesson in the eyes of the kids and that by seeing how great He really is they would respond with greater faith and obedience.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Memory Verse, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Greater Than/Less Than Sheet, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th. Craft for 1st and 2nd: HE>i Picture

Starter Activity: Greater Than / Less Than Challenge (<, >)

To get the lesson started, consider having a few fun greater than / less than challenges ready. One option would be to have them prepared on the white board and have volunteers come up one at a time and fill in the right answer into the blank space (<, >, or =). Below are a few ideas:

- 1) Simple number puzzles: $5 _ 2$
- 2) More advanced math puzzles: $5+6 _ 8+1$
- 3) Bring in a deck of cards and put a few of them up and ask the kids for the answer
- 4) Bring in two clear jars of candy and have them compare the two
 - Have them compare first, then share some, and then have them compare again
- 5) Sports Teams: San Francisco 49ers $_$ Kansas City Chiefs
- 6) Superheroes (to get their opinion): Superman $_$ Ironman

Feel free to come up with your own ideas, but be sure to conclude the game with our lesson theme: **HE > i** (**Teachers:** Consider writing this on the board and sharing a little bit about the [Hawaii t-shirt company](#) that came up with this logo) *

Q: In what ways is God greater than us? (have some discussion on this)

We have been in the Psalms the last several weeks. You could say “**HE > i**” has been a common theme in almost every Psalm we have looked at. In fact, you could say this theme really summarizes what the ENTIRE BIBLE is about: The greatness of God and then how we respond to God’s greatness.

Let’s open our Bibles and see how much God really is greater than us in Psalm 139 now!

Bible Study:

This is another Psalm of David. David was a great man, one of the greatest of all of the Bible, and yet we are going to see how small he considers himself compared to God!

Psalm 139:1: David starts by expressing how God has searched him and known him.

Q: What is something that you might search for? Maybe a lost stuffed animal or toy. If you lost this, wouldn't you turn your house upside-down until you found it? *

In the same way, God "searches" and knows every little nook and cranny inside of us. **1 Samuel 16:7** says that man only sees the outside, but God sees the HEART, the inside.

Psalm 139:2-3: God doesn't see just see our inside, but also our outside!

Q: Where are some places that you have been "sitting down" today?

A: Breakfast table, the car ride to church, on the couch watching Disney+, maybe.

Q: What are some of the thoughts that you have had in your heart and mind today? *

Are you aware that God sees and knows it all? Your habits, your dreams, your attitudes, as well as everything that you have ever done your in whole life: God knows it all!

Teachers: At this point and at several others throughout the lesson redraw the "**HE > i**" with the "HE" a little bit bigger and the "i" a little bit smaller.

Psalm 139:4: God knows what we are going to say even before we say it! AND He knows why we are saying it.

Q: Who knows what Siri is? A: This is the "know-it-all" voice assistant on Apple devices. You ask your phone a question, and the Siri app responds. They are pretty smart and know a lot of stuff. But do they know the words you are going to say before you even say them? No! But God does! *

Psalm 139:5-6: David sort of throws up his hands in v. 6 and expresses how God is so much greater than he can even imagine! *

These first six verses of this Psalm beautifully express that God knows who you REALLY are! * In fact, He knows you better than you know yourself! (**Teachers:** Consider enlarging the "HE" and shrinking the "i" once again)

Psalm 139:7: David now transitions into thinking about God's presence and he wonders where he can flee or hide from God.

Q: Who likes to play "hide and seek"? Do you think there is anywhere that you can actually hide from God?

There is a famous character from the Bible named Jonah who learned this the hard way. God told Jonah to go to a people he did not like and tell them to turn from their sin and turn to God. But he decided to go the opposite direction and hide from God on a boat. Q: Who knows what happened next? A: God had him thrown from the ship and he was swallowed by a huge fish! After three days, the fish spit him out and he finally then obeyed God. You will NEVER win at “hide and seek” with God! *

Psalm 139:8-9: It doesn't matter how high you go, how low you go, or how far away you go, God will be there. God is present everywhere!

In your classrooms, there are Compassion kids that our church supports in Mexico and Uganda. Guess what? God is present with them and knows everything there is to know about them, thousands of miles away, just as He is present with us right now! Wow! (**Teachers:** Consider enlarging the “HE” and shrinking the “i” once again)

Sometimes we get the wrong idea that we have to go to a church building like this one to be with God. But is that really true? NO! This is why you can pray to God everywhere and anywhere and He hears you and is with you. *

Psalm 139:10: If you are a believer in God, then no matter where you are, not only is God there, but He is there to lead you, hold you, and help you. This is TREMENDOUSLY comforting. For you know that this great God is on your side! *

Psalm 139:11-12: So if you can't hide from God by going far, far away, maybe you can hide from God by going into a really, really dark place? NOPE!

In **Jeremiah 23:24**, God says, “*Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him? Do I not fill heaven and earth?*”

Psalm 139:13: So we have thus far learned that God is all-knowing and ever-present. But here we learn something a little more personal and special about us: GOD MADE YOU.

When you were still in your mother's belly, God formed you and wove you together into a person. He chose your hair color, your eye color, your skin color, and everything that is unique to you! * And as David thinks about this, read how he responds in the next verse:

Psalm 139:14a: He PRAISES God for how he is made!

Q: Do you see yourself the way David saw himself? You should! *

Psalm 139:14b: David then looks out and sees everyone else that the Lord has made and He sees them as marvelous works of God too!

Boys and Girls: Look around at the other kids in your class. God made each one of them just as special and marvelous as He made you! This is why we treat other people the same way we want them to treat us: with love and respect!

Key Point: Throughout these verses I hope that your understanding of God's greatness has grown and grown and grown.

But I want to share one more point of God's greatness with you: His love and grace. Even though God made each of us marvelous and special, each of us has sinned which separates us from this great God.

Teachers: Consider closing the lesson with one last "greater than / less than" challenge: "God's love ___ My sin" Ask the kids which is greater!

Romans 5:8 says "*that God proved His love to us in that while we were yet sinners, Jesus Christ died for us.*"

Even though we are infinitely small compared to God, He still desired that we would be restored to Him and with Him. But this is only made possible by us believing in Jesus Christ and so walking in Him.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son?

If not, make today the day!

If yes, walk with your great God this week! Praise Him like David praised Him!

Bring It Home

Lesson Theme: God: HE > i

Scripture: Psalm 139:1-14

Memory Verse: Psalm 139:14a *“I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made”*

Teachers/Parents: You may have seen the “HE>i” logo before on cars or clothing. This is logo that a Christian Hawaiian T-shirt company uses on their products and communicates a great truth: God is greater than us! We referenced this logo throughout our lesson today. Read **John 3:30** which is the company’s inspiration for their logo. How can you make this verse and this logo actual in your life?

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read **Psalm 139:1-3**. David expresses here how God knows him inside out. How does the idea of Someone knowing you inside and out make you feel?
- 2) In our culture, when we don’t know something, we have developed the habit of just “googling it”. Google knows a lot of information, but do you think Google is any match for God?
- 3) Read **Proverbs 15:3**. God’s eye is ALWAYS upon us! How might knowing that every moment of your life is in the sight of God change how you go about your day?
- 4) Read **Psalm 139:7-10**. Have someone in the family then recite what these verses mean in their own words. Based on these verses, is there anywhere in the whole universe you can hide from God?
- 5) Read **Psalm 139:13-14**. When David reflects or thinks about how God made him just the way he is, how does he respond in v. 14?
- 6) Do you see yourself as a marvelous work of God? Do you see other people also as marvelous works of God and worthy of our respect? Why or why not?
- 7) When you consider that God knows us inside and out (**Psalm 139:1-6**), you also realize that God knows our sins and every instance in which we have turned our backs on Him. Yet what is so amazing is that despite Him being fully aware of our sin, God would still send His Son to rescue us and restore us to Himself! Review **Psalm 103:10-12** from a few weeks ago. How are these verses so much more amazing considering how God “has searched us and known us”, even all of our secret sins?