**Learn in Community**

Small Group Study

**Volume Overview**

**Who is God the Father?**

*“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.” (*[*Isaiah 55:8*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is55.8)*)*

*Since people first sinned in* [*Genesis 3*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ge3)*, every generation has had to connect with our invisible God for themselves. The question is: Where do we go to do this? One of the best ways to understand God the Father is to search His Scriptures. The Bible does three things—at least!—remarkably well. It reveals who God is, who we are, and how together we can have relationship.*

*Ultimately, it’s in the person of Jesus that we see the Father most clearly. But the Father also chose to reveal who He is throughout His Word. The fullest picture of our Father comes from the array of His interactions with men and women, through which He chose to explain himself to us. We would like to have answers to so many questions about this awesome God of creation. Perhaps one of the questions at the top of the list is: Does He care about me?*

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| *First time leading* Learn *for Adults? Check out the* [Facilitator Guide](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf). |

*To access session content and videos on a computer, visit:*

[*https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads*](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads)

**Engage**

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| **QUESTION**If you could find out when you’re going to die, would you? What would be the advantages and disadvantages of knowing? |

Facing difficult times is not an easy topic to focus on. Asking ourselves if our response to difficulty might be unhealthy could be even less enjoyable. But as followers of Jesus, we need to learn to lean into our relationship with God when trouble comes. We can trust that we have a caring God even in the hardest of times.

**Watch**

As we watch this video, think about your answer to this question: Is it easy for you to believe God cares about you? Why or why not?



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| **QUESTION**Is it easy for you to believe God cares about you? Why or why not? |

**Consider What the Bible Says**

In the Old Testament story we’re about to read, Hezekiah, the king of Israel, received unwanted news from the prophet Isaiah. Hezekiah was going to die soon. He was sick. Israel was under attack from a powerful enemy, the Assyrians. And now God was sending a prophet to tell him to get his affairs in order because he wouldn’t recover from his illness.

**God Cares about Our Emotions**

Read [2 Kings 20:1–3](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ki20.1-3).

Unsurprisingly, Hezekiah broke down weeping at the news after hearing Isaiah’s message. But rather than turning away from God in frustration and fear, Hezekiah went to God in prayer. He brought his needs and emotions to the God he knew still cared for him despite his difficult circumstances.

For us, it’s helpful to remember God can handle our raw emotions. We don’t need to hide them! Hezekiah gave us an example to follow of how to pray when adversity or tragedy strikes.

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| **QUESTION**When facing difficult times, what examples of healthy and unhealthy responses have you seen modeled by others? |

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| **QUESTION**Do you think it was kind or harsh for God to reveal to Hezekiah that his life was about to end? Why? |

**God Cares about Every Area of Our Life**

Read [2 Kings 20:4–7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ki20.4-7).

Hezekiah got more than he prayed for! He cried out for healing, and God promised it would happen. God also delivered Israel from their powerful enemy, the Assyrians. When we fail to give what worries us to God ([1 Peter 5:7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Pe5.7)), we may never know how God would have responded. We’ll never know if we would have received what we prayed for—or far more than what we prayed for.

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| **QUESTION**What has kept you from praying specific prayers in the past? |

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| **QUESTION**What does this teach us about how God can use one difficulty in our life to move us to a place where He can address other things in our life? |

**God Cares about Individuals**

Read [2 Kings 20:8–11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ki20.8-11).

Doubt is a universal human trait. Did it cost Hezekiah the miracle? No, it gave Hezekiah more proof that God is not only powerful, but gracious and kind. Whether or not God responds to our prayers or changes our future with dramatic miracles, this lesson should not escape any of us. Our God cares about us.

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| **QUESTION**Hezekiah didn’t hide his distress and sadness, and he even doubted God. Why do you think this didn’t anger God and disqualify Hezekiah from receiving a miracle? |

**God Cares about Every Moment**

Earlier, we read that God was going to save Jerusalem partly for the sake of David. That same David was one of Hezekiah’s ancestors. David understood that God is not only caring, but He is also concerned with the details of our life—for our entire life. David wrote about this in [Psalm 139](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps139).

Read [Psalm 139:16–18](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps139.16-18).

The question is not, “Is God aware of our pain and our struggles?” He knew every moment of our life before we were even born. The question is, “Are we aware of how much He cares for us in every moment of life? And does that awareness help us enjoy the peace it can bring?”

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| **QUESTION**In [Psalm 139](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps139), David said God’s thoughts about us are precious. How can our thoughts about God become more precious? How might that change our daily life? |

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| **QUESTION**David also wrote that when he wakes up, God is with him. How can we increase our awareness of God’s daily presence in our life? |

**Did You Know?**

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| Although the righteous King Hezekiah’s healing is generally regarded as a great thing for the nation of Judah, it opened the door for a son to act unrighteously. Three years following the healing, Hezekiah fathered an heir named Manasseh. He became king at the age of twelve and reigned for fifty-five horrid years. He is considered the kingdom of Judah’s most wicked and vile king, an attribute he passed on to the citizens of the country. His wickedness surpassed even that of the pagan nations who lived there before the Israelites inhabited the land. Later in his life, Manasseh became a prisoner of the Assyrians. While in captivity, he came to realize who the Lord was. Upon his release, Manasseh tried to right the wrong he had done by attempting to restore worship to the one true God of Israel. However, his attempts were in vain as the people refused to turn their hearts back to God. As a result, God promised to judge them harshly. |

**Reflect**

**God Cares about Me**

When trouble strikes, what is your knee-jerk reaction? Hezekiah didn’t deliberate whether it was worth it to pray. Prayer was his immediate reaction. And it was the right reaction. Like Hezekiah, we need to develop a life of prayer to the point that we immediately begin to pray when trouble and confusion come.

Notice that a prerequisite for believing in the power of God, or the power of prayer, is not flawless faith. Hezekiah even questioned whether God would do what He had promised through Isaiah that he asked for a sign. But doubt didn’t disqualify Hezekiah from having his prayer heard. Neither did the rawness of the emotions Hezekiah displayed when he broke down and wept.

Because God, our Heavenly Father, cares for us we don’t have to hide our emotions, fears, and doubts from Him. We can bring them to Him in every prayer. But those prayers shouldn’t be our last resort in trouble. Instead, prayer should be our first line of defense.

**Listen to God**

Be silent for a few moments and reflect on the following questions. Respond to the one that most resonates with what God is saying to you now. Then complete the others during Day 1 of your devotion time this week.

**Personal Reflection Questions**

*Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.*

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| **QUESTION**Having perfect faith is not a prerequisite for following Jesus. But having a faith that increases, bit by bit, is necessary for our growth. How has this example from Hezekiah’s life affected your faith in God and in the power of prayer? |

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| **QUESTION**Hezekiah prayed immediately when Isaiah spoke God’s message. In your own life, do you often turn to something other than prayer when you face difficulties? What do you turn to, and how can you begin to change? |

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| **QUESTION**Often, we may turn to others before we go to God about a situation. Who is the person you usually turn to? When you go to that person, are you seeking: (1) a prayer partner, (2) wisdom or advice, (3) someone to complain to, or (4) something else? *(Be honest as you rank these in order from what you seek most to what you seek least.)* |

**Activate**

We’ll all receive difficult news in life. Many of us already have received tough news many times. How can we react more faithfully when it comes? As hard as it may be, we need to identify what we’re doing wrong and take proactive steps to change.

**Challenge**

Think through recent moments when difficulties came. How did you respond? Did you get frustrated and angry? Did anxiety take hold? Think through what you’ve done well in these moments, and what needs to get better. Finally, put a simple plan in place for what you’re going to do next time. Then practice these small things. Focus on changing how you respond to small frustrations from your spouse, kids, boss, coworkers, or others. Being faithful in small things will help you when life’s larger challenges come!

**Prayer Requests**

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| Note any requests from the group and remember to pray for them during the week. |

Before next time, continue to learn with the personal devotions.

**What We Believe**

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| **God Provides Healing**Divine healing from God is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided in the Atonement (Christ’s suffering and death for our reconciliation with God). Healing is a privilege of all believers ([Isaiah 53:4–5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is53.4-5); [Matthew 8:16–17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt8.16-17); [James 5:14–16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jas5.14-16)). |
| **The Significance of This Doctrine**The spectacular spread of the Pentecostal message and the growth in the number of Spirit-filled believers can be attributed to a great degree to God’s miraculous intervention in the lives of hurting people, those suffering from emotional, spiritual, and physical pain. Many have personally experienced God’s healing touch. Some have been restored from near death to full health. However in spite of this truth, we know that all are not healed. The Bible teaches divine healing but also declares that death is an appointed experience for everyone ([Hebrews 9:27](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Heb9.27)). Though we cannot explain why some are healed in this life while others are not, God knows all and does all things well according to His purpose. Because some are not healed does not destroy the fact that God can and does heal. And ultimately, healing will come to all believers when our current body is transformed eternally. |

**Learn on Your Own**

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| *Before you begin each devotion, pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word. Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.* |

**Day 1: God Cares about Me**

Read [2 Kings 20:1–11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ki20.1-11).

Look back over Learn in Community and complete your responses to the Personal Reflection Questions. Plan how to complete the Activate component if you haven’t already done so. If time permits, reread the Scripture too.

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| **QUESTION**What is God saying to you about how much He cares for you? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 2: God’s Care Extends to the Smallest Details**

Read [Matthew 10:29–31](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt10.29-31).

Nothing happens outside the notice of God. His watchful eye sees the tiniest moments and details of our life. Why would God bother to notice things that may seem trivial at first glance? Is it important to know when a sparrow falls from a tree, or for God to know the exact number of hairs on our head?

God cares about these things because that’s how deeply He cares for us. Think about that for a moment. Nothing about *you* is so small or trivial that your Heavenly Father does not care about it.

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| **QUESTION**How does the truth that God knows even the number of hairs on your head affect your thoughts about how deeply God cares for you? |

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| **QUESTION**Who in your life are you invested in so much that you care about even the small details of their life? How does that help you relate to God? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 3: God’s Care Sustains the Righteous**

Read [Psalm 55:16–17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps55.16-17), [22](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps55.22).

David had wicked people plotting and speaking against him. He was fighting against giving in to fear. As he looked out at Jerusalem, David couldn’t understand how he would not be overtaken by his enemies.

So, David declared truth in the midst of lies. David couldn’t sustain himself through it all. But because of God’s care for him, David knew that he would be sustained if he turned to God.

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| **QUESTION**Have you given in to fear at certain times in your life? When? |

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| **QUESTION**How can the truth that God cares keep you from fear in the future? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 4: God Wants Us to Give Our Cares to Him**

Read [1 Peter 5:6–9](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Pe5.6-9).

Many people are stuck in cycles of worry and fear. Far too often we’re unnecessarily trapped in anxiety. Why? It’s because experiencing the sustaining power and peace available to us from our caring God sometimes requires action on our part. Our role isn’t to fix every problem, change every situation, or deliver ourselves from danger or trouble. Our role is to actively and regularly give God our worries, fears, and the anxiety that comes from them.

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever been caught in a cycle of fear and worry? Why do people often hold on to worries and things that bring anxiety in life? |

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| **QUESTION**Are you ready to let go of your worries and anxieties? What are some things you need to give to God? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 5: God’s Care Is Our Future**

Read [Revelation 21:3–7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Re21.3-7).

Thankfully, Christians don’t have to wait for heaven to experience how much God cares for us. We can experience God’s care today through prayer and a growing reliance on Him. But as Christians we are also sustained now by the ultimate promise of spending eternity with the God who cares for us enough to save us.

There will come a day when He’ll wipe every tear from our eyes. Sorrow and sadness will be no more. We’ll spend forever with our God who cares for us.

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| **QUESTION**How can the promise of our future with God help us now in the present? |

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| **QUESTION**Our troubles are temporary. That doesn’t make them easy in the moment. What are some practical ways you can remind yourself of the ultimate hope waiting for those who have faith in Jesus? |