



# Small Group Study Guide for January 24, 2021

*Our Savior Lutheran Church and School*

**Theme:** Life Sunday is about affirming human life as a gift from God. Christians value life based on our Creator. Human dignity and worth comes from being made in the image of God. Life is so precious to God that He became a human being in Jesus Christ, suffered, and died for us so that we might have eternal life with Him.

## **Getting Started: (sharing with each other)**

1. What is a neat trait that you inherited from your parents that makes you distinct?
2. Have you had to care for someone in your family with special needs, or who went through a difficult health concern that needed a lot of care? What motivated you to do that?

## **In the Word: Read Psalm 139:1-18**

3. Verses 1-5 describe actions of God. List what those actions are and what they say about God.
4. Verses 7-12 says that there is no place that we can go where God is not with us. This attribute of God is called “omni-presence” (present-everywhere). Why is God’s omni-presence such a comfort to believers?
5. Verses 13-16 speak of God forming us in our mother’s womb. What do these verses say about God’s attention to human beings before they are born?
6. Twice David marvels at God’s great wisdom. In which two verses is David overwhelmed by the mind of God?

### **Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)**

7. Look up **Psalm 51:5** and **Luke 1:44**. When you consider those in light of Psalm 139, how does God's Word speak of human beings who are still in the womb? (pre-born humans)
  
8. Some in our society equate human worth with human happiness. The value of a person is based on their potential to be happy. How is this different than the Christian view, which bases human worth on the image of God?
  
9. What does **John 3:16** say about how God feels about the world, and what is God's response to that feeling?
  
10. Part of a Christian's calling is to help, care for, and defend the needy (orphans, widows, sick, poor, etc.). This includes helping and caring for human beings who have not yet been born. Christians can never condone abortion based on God's Word. We are called to love and help both the pregnant mother and the unborn child. How can Christians do this in our day in a faithful and loving way?
  
11. A Christian stance on abortion is certainly not the only aspect of Bible-based teaching on human life (although it may be the most challenged in our society). A Biblical view of human life directs the way we care for people in nursing homes, people with mental and physical handicaps, people with terminal illness, people enslaved in human trafficking, and even human health initiatives such as battling the coronavirus. Do any of these tug at your heart, and would you like to see our church do more to bring help and care in Jesus' name? After you discuss with your group, feel free to send feedback to Pastor Wangelin at [pastorw@oursaviorlansing.org](mailto:pastorw@oursaviorlansing.org).

**Prayer:** Thank God for the gift of life, and for the ways God cares for us in body and soul. Ask Him to help us serve our neighbor, of all ages and stages of life, with the love and care of Christ. We especially thank God for our Savior, who took on human flesh, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and lived a perfect life in our place. Because of His death and resurrection, God loves life and gives us eternal life in Christ. Thank God!

**Next Week:** Jesus fulfills the promise given through Moses that a great prophet would arise among the people of Israel. Yet Jesus is so much more than a prophet! He is the very Son of God.

**Note:** There is a **Congregation Meeting** at 11:30 on Sunday, January 31. You may join us in person or via zoom.