



PRAYING THE PSALMS – PSALM 139 (VS. 5-7)
I AM NOT A MYSTERY TO GOD
Women's Discipleship Group
Terri McFaddin
Series #4 Lesson #3

Scripture Focus: *You have hedged me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it. (Psalm 139:5-7)*

Key Word: Hedged: (Hebrew – Zur) Shut up or enclose, encircle – a fortified area as an aggressive military strategy to defeat a city or nation.

Opening Statement:

The Hebrew word “zur” is a military term in which a company of soldiers surrounded an important person so that the enemy could not attack him or her. In many ways the idea of being “shut up, enclosed with a hand upon you,” may not sound too inviting. In some ways gives the impression of being trapped or not being able to do as you please. Even though many adults would fit into this category, this is generally the mind-set of a whining baby or a young child who is confined to a crib, playpen or fenced yard. “Why can’t I get out of here and do my own thing?” The parent, however sees the “fortified area,” as a place of refuge and safety that will keep the child from wandering away and is protected from harm. Singer, songwriter, Fred Hammond put it this way: “*Jesus, be a fence all around me every day...I need your protection as I travel along the way.*”

David, the psalmist, saw God’s encampment as *knowledge that was too wonderful*. He recognized that the Lord was dealing with what was “before” him, which might include the transitions and challenges that he would face. The Lord was also “behind” him, watching his back and protecting him from the unknown events of life and the secret plots of the enemy. As long as God’s hand was upon him, David was not only receiving direction, but also protection from harm and danger.

OBSERVATION:

1. Look for other scriptures in the Bible where the “hand of the Lord” was upon a certain person.

2. Look for 2 other passages in the psalms where David describes the works of the Lord as *wonderful*.

INTERPRETATION:

1. Explain the statement: "*It is high, I cannot attain it.*"

2. Search the scriptures and determine the difference between our thoughts and the thoughts of God.

PERSONALIZATION:

Describe a personal experience that let you know that the Lord was hedging you in with His divine protection?

APPLICATION:

Make a personal commitment to note the times when hindrances in your life turn out to be a "hedging in" by the Lord.