



theme: Art & Design #4 - You Are Beautiful
materials: Paper, pencils, bibles

welcome

How well do you know each other? Go around the circle and have each person say one thing they know about each other person in the group (not secret stuff or negative stuff please!)

interact

Let everyone read Psalm 139 on their own. Ask everyone to write down any words that jump out at them from the Psalm, or phrases that really speak to them. Then share these words and phrases together, and praise God in prayer using them (or ask God for wisdom or clarity for them). Finally, have someone (or many people) read the whole Psalm out loud.

read

How does it make you feel that God knows everything about you? Comforted? Scared? Something else?
Is there anything you would hide from God if you could?
Have you ever wanted to hide yourself from God? Why? (And how?)
Is there stuff you hide from others? Why?
Have you ever wanted to hide yourself from others? Why?
What could this passage (especially verses 13-16, where it talks about God's attentive, artistic creation of a human) have to say about injustice in our world?
How can someone treat another human as a worthless object when they were created marvellously by God?
How do you feel about verses 19-22? Should we be praying like this, for God to destroy our enemies, who are also His creation?
How often do you ask God, your creator, to point out things in your life that offend Him? (as it says in verse 24)
Is it difficult to do this? Why or why not?

think

What injustices do you know about in our world that cause humans – God's special creation – to be treated like objects for profit, labour, lust or violence? Spend some time praying against these things, and ask God to help your cell see humans as He sees them.

live & pray

Go on a beautiful crusade. Try and tell as many people as you can this week that they are beautiful inside and out, that God made them wonderfully, intricately, and specially. See what kind of reactions you get.



useful resources

Movie: Life is Beautiful
Music: Integreality by Capstone (available here:
<http://www.goldusa.com/Interest/WorshipGenX/worshipgenx.html>)

leader's guide

This passage doesn't set out to specifically rail against injustice, but it is impossible to believe what it says about God's beautiful and loving creation of humans and still treat them as objects. So anywhere that people are being abused, used, bought and sold, killed (in their mother's womb or out of it) or treated as objects, it is going against the expressed love and care God has for His artistic creation.

Verses 19-22 can be quite difficult. It could be one of the cases in the Psalms where the poet is expressing his anger and frustration to God about His enemies. There are many cases where the Psalmist is fearing for his life, and is venting his fears to God in prayer form. It doesn't necessarily mean that we ought to pray like this concerning our enemies – Jesus taught us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us. But it may be helpful to put the prayers in context. If you were a little girl being sold into sex slavery, or a little boy running from a militia that wants to teach you to murder for their cause, this might be the kind of prayer you would pray. We do want to pray against the actions of these types of enemies of God.