

EMBRACE *your* RACE

6 WEEK LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT COURSE

WEEK 4
KNOW YOUR PLACE

HOW TO KEEP YOUR FOCUS AND RUN IN YOUR LANE



INTRODUCTION

If you're looking to the right or to the left, comparing yourself to the runners beside you, you'll lose your place, stop progressing, and your purpose will slip through your fingertips. In this lesson, we're going to address the issue of comparison, and discuss how detrimental it can be to us successfully running our race. Then, we'll define a strategy to help you not only know your place, but to run the course marked out for you.

Proverbs 4:25-26 ampc

Let your eyes look right on [with fixed purpose], and let your gaze be straight before you. Consider well the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established and ordered aright.

KILL COMPARISON

We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. *2 Corinthians 10:12*

COMPARISON IS THE THIEF OF JOY

You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with JOY in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. *Psalms 16:11*

COMPARISON KILLS CREATIVITY

Don't be a COPY you are an ORIGINAL!

COMPARISON IS A WEAPON AGAINST YOUR PURPOSE

"We won't be distracted by comparison if we are captivated with purpose."
- Bob Goff

COMPARISON CAN LEAD TO UNHEALTHY COMPETITION & DISCONTENTMENT

Choose collaboration and celebration over competition. **Hebrews 10:24**

Choose contentment over covetousness. **Philippians 4:11-13, Luke 12:15**

Content: in a state of peaceful happiness & satisfaction

Don't look **LEFT**. Don't look **RIGHT**. Fix your eyes on **JESUS!**

KNOW YOUR SHAPE

You even formed every bone in my body when you created me in the secret place; carefully, skillfully you SHAPED me from nothing to something. You saw who you created me to be before I became me! Before I'd even seen the light of day, the number of days you planned for me were already recorded in your book.

Psalms 139:15 & 16

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

[Take Spiritual Gifts Test Here](#)

HEART

List your hobbies, ambitions, dreams, affections, and what you care about most:

ABILITIES

List your natural abilities, talents, and what you do that produces the most:

PERSONALITY

[Take Personality Test Here](#)

EXPERIENCES

List at least five life experiences that have SHAPED you into who you are today:

READ AND REFLECT ON THIS PASSAGE THIS WEEK:

PSALMS 139 TPT

Lord, you know everything there is to know about me.
You perceive every movement of my heart and soul, and you understand my every thought before it even enters my mind.
You are so intimately aware of me, Lord.
You read my heart like an open book and you know all the words I'm about to speak before I even start a sentence!
You know every step I will take before my journey even begins.
You've gone into my future to prepare the way, and in kindness you follow behind me to spare me from the harm of my past.
You have laid your hand on me!
This is just too wonderful, deep, and incomprehensible!
Your understanding of me brings me wonder and strength.
Where could I go from your Spirit?
Where could I run and hide from your face?
If I go up to heaven, you're there!
If I go down to the realm of the dead, you're there too!
If I fly with wings into the shining dawn, you're there!

NOTES

READ & REFLECT: PSALMS 139

If I fly into the radiant sunset, you're there waiting!
Wherever I go, your hand will guide me;
your strength will empower me.
It's impossible to disappear from you
or to ask the darkness to hide me,
for your presence is everywhere, bringing light
into my night.
There is no such thing as darkness with you.
The night, to you, is as bright as the day;
there's no difference between the two.
You formed my innermost being, shaping my
delicate inside and my intricate outside,
and wove them all together in my mother's
womb.
I thank you, God, for making me so mysteriously
complex!
Everything you do is marvelously breathtaking.
It simply amazes me to think about it!
How thoroughly you know me, Lord!
You even formed every bone in my body
when you created me in the secret place;
carefully, skillfully you shaped me from nothing
to something.
You saw who you created me to be before I
became me!
Before I'd ever seen the light of day,
the number of days you planned for me
were already recorded in your book.

NOTES

READ & REFLECT: PSALMS 139

Every single moment you are thinking of me!
How precious and wonderful to consider
that you cherish me constantly in your every
thought!

O God, your desires toward me are more
than the grains of sand on every shore!
When I awake each morning, you're still with me.
O God, come and slay these bloodthirsty,
murderous men!

For I cry out, "Depart from me, you wicked ones!"
See how they blaspheme your sacred name
and lift up themselves against you, but all in vain!
Lord, can't you see how I despise those who
despise you?

For I grieve when I see them rise up against you.
I have nothing but complete hatred and disgust
for them.

Your enemies shall be my enemies!
God, I invite your searching gaze into my heart.
Examine me through and through;
find out everything that may be hidden within
me.

Put me to the test and sift through all my anxious
cares.

See if there is any path of pain I'm walking on,
and lead me back to your glorious, everlasting
way—
the path that brings me back to you.

NOTES

READ & REFLECT: PSALMS 139

- Now that the words are familiar to you, please read it again, listening with the ear of your heart for one of the following:
 - 1) a word or phrase, a detail or a special moment that stands out to you,
 - 2) Where you find yourself in the passage.Try not to choose this yourself. Let the Spirit bring it to you.
- Now read it a third time, slowly. As you do, reflect on that word or phrase. Ask yourself why it resonated with you. Then ask God, how does this connect with my life today? What do I need to know or be or do?
- After reading the passage one last time, talk to God about what you think the Spirit might have said to you or what came to you. Pray in whatever way you are led.
- Then, do as you are led. You may wish to wait on God--to simply be with God.

(Note: this exercise is adapted from Dallas Willard's book Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God)