

How God Works

Small Group Materials for May 27, 2012

New Hope Christian Church, Inc.
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The Knowing God Knows Your Name and Where You Live

God's amazing ability to know our names, to keep us separately understood and identified, marks His greatness and grandeur.

We want to know if we are important to God.

Key Scripture Passages: 1 Chronicles 1-9; Matthew 10:29-31; Psalms 139:11-14a; Jeremiah 29:11; Matthew 10:29-31; Luke 12:7

When you think of God what is your vision?

A God far off and distant?—Deist comments

A God close by and personal?—Influencing everything

Abba

Father

Son—Jesus, Jesus Christ, Christ Jesus

Spirit—Holy Spirit, the Spirit, Holy Ghost



Would it comfort you or disturb you to know that God is close? Would it be "Yea!" Or would it be "Oh, Ooo!"

Would you rather God kept His distance?

Dinner invitation—Abraham;

Burning bush—Moses;

At worship in the Temple worship—Isaiah;

Traveling a road headed toward the city of Damascus—Paul.

Personally: I can only imagine...

Do you agree? If God's Word is true, then each human being is of vital importance to God—there are no exceptions.

⇒ Wounded

⇒ Deceived

⇒ Frozen chosen

⇒ The confused

⇒ The disturbed

⇒ The addict

⇒ The depressed

⇒ The spiritually fallen

⇒ The immoral

⇒ All sinners and saints

⇒ Each are important to Him

⇒ Kings

⇒ Warriors

⇒ Thieves

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Writing about the opening chapters of 1 Chronicles Eugene Peterson, master poet, writer and paraphraser (if I may mint this new title), explains: "Names launch this story, hundreds and hundreds of names, page after page of names, *personal* names. There is no true story telling without names, and this immersion in names calls attention to the individual, the unique, the personal, which is inherent in all spirituality." *Taken from the Introduction 1-2 Chronicles, in The Message.*



- ◆ **First, God works through individuals and families.**
- ◆ **Second, God watches individuals and families.**
- ◆ **Third, God sees individuals and families as generationally connected.**
- ◆ **Fourth, with God, there are no small places or unimportant people.**

We believe, on the basis of the passages studied in this session, God pays attention to the details and each life has value—from the weakest to the strongest, from the century old-man, to the most newly conceived child, we believe God has so designated human beings as His creation.

Our Lord Jesus, gave particular attention to the weakest among us. To the powerless, the injured, the sick, the poor, the spiritually troubled, Jesus gave particular attention—thus, firmly connecting such things that may appear to be meaningless, lists of names, to the forefront in a demonstration that God care for people.

Therefore, especially little ones like the so-called Micropreemies: The World's Tiniest Babies have a special place in our lives.

On Monday, December 12, Time reporter Bonnie Rochman reported that some of the [world's smallest preterm babies](#) are doing just fine. Born in 2004 at Loyola University Medical Center weighing in a 9.2 oz., currently holds the record as the world's smallest baby.

"Rumaisa unseated the previous title-holder, Madeline Mann, born 15 years earlier at 9.9 oz, also at Loyola." "Amazingly, both micropreemies have reached appropriate developmental milestones in both motor and language skills.

Rumaisa is a first-grader, and Madeline is an honors student at Augustana College in Rockland, IL." While a full-term pregnancy lasts 40 weeks, the limit of viability is generally considered to be 23 weeks. Babies born at 23 weeks and younger have a 20% survival rate.

Babies born just one month later have a 90% chance of surviving, with only a 5% chance of suffering complications. While medical advancements have increased the chance of survival for micropreemies, these statistics remind us of the sanctity and fragility of life.