

Welcoming the Child

1. Read the following two passages looking for the love of Jesus, specifically towards the child in you.

Jesus and Little Children

¹³ Then they brought little children to Jesus so that he would lay his hands on them, bless them, and pray for them.^[k] But the disciples scolded those who brought the children, saying, “Don’t bother him with this now!”

¹⁴ Jesus overheard them and said, “I want little children to come to me, so never interfere with them when they want to come, for heaven’s kingdom realm is composed of beloved ones^[l] like these! Listen to this truth: No one will enter the kingdom realm of heaven unless he becomes like one of these!”^[m] ¹⁵ Then he laid his hands on each of them and went on his way.

Matthew 19:13-15

You Know All About Me

¹ Lord, you know everything there is to know about me.

² You perceive every movement of my heart and soul,
and you understand my every thought before it even enters my mind.

³⁻⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.^[a]

With your hand of love upon my life,
you impart a blessing to me.

⁶ This is just too wonderful, deep, and incomprehensible!
Your understanding of me brings me wonder and strength.^[b]

⁷ Where could I go from your Spirit?

Where could I run and hide from your face?

⁸ If I go up to heaven, you’re there!

If I go down to the realm of the dead, you’re there too!

⁹ If I fly with wings into the shining dawn, you’re there!

If I fly into the radiant sunset, you're there waiting!^[c]
10 Wherever I go, your hand will guide me;
your strength will empower me.
11 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.
12 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.
13 You formed my innermost being, shaping my delicate inside
and my intricate outside,
and wove them all together in my mother's womb.^[d]
14 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!
15 You even formed every bone in my body
when you created me in the secret place,^[e]
carefully, skillfully shaping me^[f] from nothing to something.
16 You saw who you created me to be before I became me!^[g]
Before I'd ever seen the light of day,
the number of days you planned for me
were already recorded in your book.^[h]
17-18 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.
Psalm 139:1-18

2. Take time to look at the picture. Where are you drawn? Which child are you? Why? As that child, what do you feel in Jesus' presence? How are you experiencing Jesus? What longing are you aware of in your heart? What do you want to say to Him? Anything? Do you wish He would say something to you? If so, what? Do you wish you could be one of the other children or are you content to be the child you have chosen in the picture?



3. Write out what you would like to say to Jesus after you finish engaging with the exercise.