



## Transparency

This document is a leadership development tool to help in your understanding of the importance of being transparent before God and others. A link for a brief overview video is available in *CBS Core Values*.

### Scripture

Psalm 139:1–7 "O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?"

### Introduction

Nothing is hidden from God. Let that phrase sink into your heart and invade your mind. Nothing is hidden from God. Our thoughts, our emotions, our actions, reactions, joy, laughter, frustrations, and everything we say and do is known to God. Nothing is hidden from him.

### Fully Known

- "Oh Lord, you have searched me and known me." You are known by God and nothing is hidden from Him.
- "You discern my thoughts from afar." God knows ALL of your thoughts and nothing is hidden from Him. You are fully known by God, transparent in front of Him in every way and He loves you just as you are. In the same way, God has called you to be a leader in Community Bible Study (CBS) and He knows every thought and every word before you speak them, but your friends and fellow leaders do not. You cannot know others and others cannot know you unless you share who you are. For some, that is not a comfortable place to be and that vulnerability brings fear. Yet, when we share who we are with one another, we are able to encourage one another and build each other up in the Lord.

### Discussion

- Are there areas of your life you want to keep hidden? God knows them already! Talk to Him, confess, and be set free.
- Do you feel comfortable being transparent with others? Why or why not?
- This year, how can you commit to being more transparent with your fellow leaders in CBS?

### Shepherd Toward Transformation

- How can you build transparency with those you lead? It's important that you lead by example.
- Think about ways that you can be transparent with your shepherd.
- Pray for opportunities to share on a deeper level with those whom you shepherd.