

THE BLESSINGS OF LOVING GOD'S WORD

Psalm 119:97-104

Mem

- ⁹⁷Oh how I love your law!
It is my meditation all the day.
- ⁹⁸Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is ever with me.
- ⁹⁹I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your testimonies are my meditation.
- ¹⁰⁰I understand more than the aged,
for I keep your precepts.
- ¹⁰¹I hold back my feet from every evil way,
in order to keep your word.
- ¹⁰²I do not turn aside from your rules,
for you have taught me.
- ¹⁰³How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
- ¹⁰⁴Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.

WELCOME: *Fixing Our Focus*

Share to the group a time when God's Word helped or encouraged you. What was your situation or circumstance then, and how did God's Word help you in that context?

WORSHIP: *Adoring Our God*

Suggested songs:

Ancient Words by Lynn DeShazo (Michael W. Smith)
Wonderful Words of Life by Philip P. Bliss

WORD: *Understanding the Word*

Lesson Aim: Members will develop a love for God's Word and living in accordance to it.

Introduction

Have you tried downloading and playing a puzzle game on your phone? Most puzzle games start out simple. They give you a few simple rules on how you can solve the puzzles presented. As you continue to solve puzzles, the game gradually starts to introduce more rules, making the game more complex. It becomes more and more difficult to solve the puzzles unless you have complete mastery over all the rules presented thus far.

The same goes for our life of faith. God has presented us with a set of rules found in the Bible. The more closely we follow God's commands, the more we are able to please God with our lives, the more our lives become in tune with God.

Leader: Lead in reading Psalm 119:97-104 aloud together. Then read the paragraph on the "Key Verse."

Key Verse: The key verse is found at the end of the passage, "Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way." Loving God's Word allows one to live in accordance to it.

Psalm 119:97-104. Theme: _____

Encircle phrases which show what the psalmist does to God's Word and underline the effects of God's Word on the psalmist.

1. The psalmist mentioned in verses 97 and 99 that he meditates upon God's Word. What do you think he meant by meditating upon God's Word? How often or how long does he meditate upon God's Word?

2. Aside from meditation, what else does the psalmist do to God's Word (*vv. 100-102*)?

3. How did the psalmist regard God's Word (*v. 103*)? Where do you think does this love for God's Word stem from?

4. How did meditating upon and keeping God's Word affect the psalmist? How did he compare himself with other people (*vv. 98-100*)?

5. God's Word also has another effect mentioned by the psalmist. It affected the way he lived his life. In what way did God's Word affect his lifestyle (*vv. 101, 104*)?

In the space above, write what you think is the theme of verses 97-104.

WALK: *Applying the Word*

Questions for Adults

1. How often and how long do you meditate upon God's Word? Does it stay in your mind all day, just like the psalmist? What can you do to devote more time in reflection upon God's Word?
2. As you read and meditate upon the Bible, take time to also see how you could apply the things you have learned in your context, whether at home or at work. Commit with each other in the group that you'll not only meditate upon God's Word, but also respond to it in your life. Take time during your meeting to share with one another what God has been teaching you in the past week.
3. Share with the group an experience where God's Word had given you extraordinary wisdom. Thank God that he provided you with godly wisdom.
4. Individually and as a group, pray back this psalm to God. You could start by saying something like:

Father, I love you. I long to please you. Teach me your ways as I spend time studying and meditating upon the Bible...

5. Pray for one another.

Questions for the Youth

1. Life is full of choices. Sometimes we get overwhelmed with the plethora of possibilities before us that we are unable to make a decision. Take Netflix for example, sometimes we can spend hours just trying to decide which show to watch. When it comes to life decisions, what do you use as guide or basis in making your decisions and why?
2. The psalmist declared that studying the Scriptures gives him superior wisdom. Do you agree with him? Why or why not?
3. When we read and study the Bible, it is important for us to see how it relates to our circumstances in life. That way, it becomes our guide to living life. Make it a habit to connect what you have read to your life.

Questions for Children

1. Do you agree with the psalmist that the Bible can make you wiser (being wise is different from being intelligent) than most people? Why or why not?
2. The Bible teaches us how to avoid evil. What are some examples of how the Bible does this? Can you think of passages or verses from the Bible and how they help you avoid evil?
3. The psalmist considered the Bible as something sweeter than honey. To you, what is the sweetest thing or your favorite food? Do you consider the Bible as something you desire more than that? How can you cultivate a taste or desire for God's Word?