



Psalm 119:89-112
Inductive Discovery Lesson 15

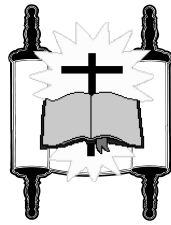
The Bible is unlike any other literary work; and if we are to be in a relationship with God, we must learn to not only read but apply what He has written. Reading through the pages of Scripture to acquire knowledge about God is a good thing but knowledge not applied can become a burden and a snare. Too many believers have only head knowledge of God when what they really need is the heart application of His Word to daily life. This involves a purposeful commitment to obey God's Word that results in being taught by Him.

I am Yours; rescue me! For I have worked hard at obeying your commandments (Psalm 119:94 NLT). Verse 94 in the New Living Translation translates the verb *worked hard* as, "to consult, to inquire, to beat a path, to read repeatedly." This speaks to the believer who "beat a path" to the Word with the intention to read, study, and apply it diligently. The Bible is the one book we should all read with great reverence and awe, not the way we would scan the latest news edition or speed read for information. When we open our heart to God's Word, He opens His mouth and speaks to us.

We Christians do not go to the Bible to find the escape hatch to life but rather to be strengthened to face life's difficulties and grow in our relationship with God. When we can't find a reason to delight in our circumstances, we can find many reasons in the Word to delight in God and His purpose. Growing spiritually means being willing to step outside of our self-controlled comfort zone and follow Him—wherever He leads. Here in Psalm 119, the psalmist leads us to some breathtaking affirmations that anchor us to heaven while enabling us to be useful to God while here on earth.

Did you know ~

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the book and the one that most magnifies the Word of God. It professes the all-sufficiency of Scripture by extolling its perfections. If God's people will open up to the truths contained in these verses, God will add to our lives the blessings contained herein. The Spirit of God writes the Word of God on our hearts, making us want to obey: *And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image* (2 Corinthians 3:18b NLT). Let's purpose this week to *appreciate—apprehend—and apply* God's truth to every part of our lives!



Psalm 119:89-112

Meditations on God's Word

lamedh

89 Forever, O Lord, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.

90 Your faithfulness endures to all generations;

You have established the earth, and it stands fast.

91 By Your appointment they stand this day, for all things are Your servants.

92 If Your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.

93 I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life.

94 I am Yours; save me, for I have sought Your precepts.

95 The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I consider Your testimonies.

96 I have seen a limit to all perfection, but Your commandment is exceedingly broad.

mem

97 Oh how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

98 Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me.

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.

100 I understand more than the aged, for I keep Your precepts.

101 I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep Your word.

102 I do not turn aside from Your rules, for You have taught me.

103 How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

nun

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep Your righteous rules.

107 I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to Your word!

108 Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me Your rules.

109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget Your law.

110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from Your precepts.

111 Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart.

112 I incline my heart to perform Your statutes forever, to the end.

OBSERVE

"Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law." – Psalm 119:18

The basic thing to remember about observing a psalm is that it is poetry—and poets think in images. Whatever type of psalm it may be (praise or lament, meditation or petition, just to name a few) the psalmist uses familiar images to turn his experience into a picture. He uses figurative language to reflect on God's character and express the stirrings of his own soul.

Start by reading the entire psalm through a few times. You might try reading it aloud, or have someone else read it while you listen intently.

Some things to look for: Does the psalmist compare or contrast one thing to another? Does he repeat a specific word or phrase to emphasize a theme? The psalmist may use hyperbole (an exaggeration for the sake of effect, not meant to be taken literally). What experience does he describe? What emotions does he express? What characteristics of God does he mention? Does he make a vow or a declaration? Use the **first column** to describe what the psalmist says. Use the **second column** to jot down your own notes, thoughts, impressions or questions.

Write the definition of words listed in each section. Use a regular dictionary or an Old Testament Word Study dictionary if you have one.

Psalm 119:89-96

What the psalmist says:

My notes and personal observations:

forever (v.89) _____

faithfulness (v.90) _____

What does the psalmist declare *about* God? _____

What does the psalmist declare *to* God? _____



Did you know . . .

The psalmist uses at least 8 synonyms for God's Word in Psalm 119. Like facets of a fine diamond, each word brings out some aspect of God's Word to be treasured in our heart and displayed in our life.

- Law** (*torah*) God's instruction **Testimonies** (*'edot*) God's standard of conduct
- Precepts** (*piqqudim*) God's requirements **Statutes** (*huqqim*) God's will inscribed or set forth
- Commandments** (*mitsvot*) God's authoritative directives **Judgments** (*mishpat*) God's just and binding rules
- Word** (*dabar*) What God has spoken **Promise** (*imrath*) God's sure sayings

Psalm 119:97-104

What the psalmist says:

My notes and personal observations:

meditation (v.97,99) _____

What does the psalmist declare about God's Word?

What does the psalmist's comparison of God's Word and honey say about his desire?

Psalm 119:105-112

What the psalmist says:

My notes and personal observations:

What does the psalmist declare to God?

What does the psalmist ask of God?



CONSIDER

According to Psalm 119:89-112 . . .

What makes God's Word the most vital and trustworthy source you can go to? _____

What benefits and blessings can be gained from meditating on God's Word? _____

INTERPRET and APPLY

"The unfolding of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple."

- Psalm 119:130

Look for a spiritual lesson. The imaginative language of the Psalms helps us to understand that God's Word provides guidance for our feelings as well as our faith. As you look for spiritual lessons, keep in mind that this collection of prayers and songs teaches us how to worship God—not just with our lips but with our lives. While the Psalms address all aspects of life and human experience, ultimately they point us back to our Creator.

Ask: What is the theme of this psalm? How does the psalmist express himself to God? What does this psalm reveal about God's character or His relationship with His people? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid? **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

"I pondered the direction of my life and I turned to follow Your statutes.

I will hurry, without lingering, to obey Your commands."

- Psalm 119:59-60 NLT

We don't read the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to obey what we have learned. Ask yourself: What can I learn from the psalmist's experience? How does this help to line up my feelings with my faith? Does it provide comfort? Does it provide correction? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

Psalm 119:89-96

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Psalm 119:97-104

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Psalm 119:105-112

Lesson: _____

Application: _____
_____?

Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the psalm is about. _____

Give your own title to the psalm to help you remember what it says.

Up close and personal

Forever, oh Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.
Psalm 119:89
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Psalm 119:105

Memorize God's Word

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize these verses in and re-write it here.

Meditate on God's Word

As you memorize each verse, let it work into your heart and mind. Scripture meditation is like a good cup of tea: the longer it steeps, the richer the flavor. So give yourself permission to slowly savor God's Word! Use the questions below (like a tea bag) to keep dipping into this verse.

Challenge alert: You won't always see an obvious answer directly from the verse. Just *think and pray* about it and share what the Lord brings to your heart and mind.

Look up. What do these verses teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What do these verses teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What do these verses teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does these verses give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

Look alive! Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in these verses to someone who needs to hear it?

Make God's Word Your Prayer

As you memorize and meditate on each verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.



A Lamp to my Feet and a Light to my Path

What has been the most important lesson, for you personally, as you studied this psalm? How will you begin today to put what you are learning into practice?
