Then God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth’; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth . . . And God saw that it was good (Genesis 1:14–17, 18b). Who can fathom the magnificent artistry of God? Look around and be amazed! Whether it’s hanging the stars in the heavens, placing the planets in their orbit, or laying out earth’s atmospheric conditions, God’s handiwork is on display.

In Psalm 19, David gives a reason to praise. He records two means of divine revelation, inviting the reader to extol God by considering two things: the majestic order of the skies and the perfection of the scriptures. God’s non-verbal declaration of His power through created nature is contrasted by the supernatural revelation of Himself in His Word. This is divine glory unveiled.

God has made Himself known by His awesome creative power (vv.1–6) and through His written Word (vv.7–14). Both serve as a testimony to who He is and why He created us—to give Him glory! Any other major pursuit in life that becomes a priority—be it money, fame, possessions, pleasure—will fall short and detour us from becoming who and what God intends for us to be.

David reminds us in this psalm to respond appropriately to the truth that God exists and that He has chosen to reveal Himself in ways that are clearly identifiable and irrefutable. His world is a call to worship; His Word is a call to salvation.

*Did you know ~*

The regular practice of taking God’s Word into your heart and mind will produce constant fruitful change in your daily life and in your walk with God. The contemplation and interpretation of the living Word will leave its mark—it is not possible to remain unchanged. “He is wisest who reads both the world-book and the Word-book as two volumes of the same work and feels concerning them, ‘My Father wrote them both.’” (C. H. Spurgeon)
Psalm 19

God’s Works and God’s Word Praise Him
A Psalm of David

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.
2 Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.
3 There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.
4 Their line has gone out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world.
   In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,
5 Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
   And rejoices like a strong man to run its race.
6 Its rising is from one end of heaven and its circuit to the other end;
   And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul;
   The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;
8 The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
   The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
   The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold;
   Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.
13 Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins;
   Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless,
   And I shall be innocent of great transgression.
14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
   Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

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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 19:1-6
What the psalmist says: My notes and personal observations:

As an outdoorsman, David often witnessed the beauty of sunrise and sunset. Why not do the same? As part of your observation this week, get up to watch the sunrise or be still and take in a sunset. What words would you use to describe God’s glory in creation?

_________________________________________________________
**Psalm 19:7-11**

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perfect (v.7)  
sure (v. 7)  
right (v.8)  
pure (v. 8)  
clean (v.9)  
true (v.9)  

**Psalm 19:12-14**

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secret faults (v.12)  
presumptuous sins (v. 13)
CONSIDER

According to Psalm 19...

What is the supreme purpose of creation? ____________________________________________

What is the divinely inspired purpose of Scripture? ____________________________________

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 19:1-6

Lesson: __________________________________________

Application: ______________________________________

?
Psalm 19:7-11
Lesson: _____________________________________________________________

Application: _________________________________________________________

Psalm 19:12-14
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

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

Memorize God’s Word
Choose the translation you prefer to memorize the verse in and re-write it here.

______________________________________________

Meditate on God’s Word
As you memorize this 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 does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

Look around. What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

Look within. What does this verse teach you about yourself?

Look ahead. Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

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

Make God’s Word Your Prayer
As you memorize and meditate on this 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?