

Discussion Questions

Preparation

Talk about the Bible. Have you read it in its entirety? Did you find some parts more inspiring than others? What's your favorite translation or version? What questions do you have about the Bible?

Passage: Psalm 176 (I'll let you decide if you want to read all 176 verses)

1. React to this statement: *"God's Word is authoritative for all times and places in its entirety."*
2. Read Psalm 119:1-4. What does it say about the authority of Scripture?
3. Read the verses below and discuss the Scripture as being eternal – It's applicable for all ages and times.

*I will keep on obeying your instructions  
forever and ever. (vs. 44)*

*I have known from my earliest days  
that your laws will last forever. (vs. 152)*

4. Read the verses below and Matthew 5:18.

*The very essence of your words is truth;  
all your just regulations will stand forever. (vs. 160)*

*All your commands are trustworthy. (vs. 86)*

What do these passages say about Scripture? What teachings have been challenged by our culture in your lifetime as being invalid or not applicable for our time?

How hard is it to hold to the teachings of Scripture which have become unpopular in recent times? Does it cause you to question the truthfulness or validity of these teachings?

5. Why should we trust the teachings of Scripture instead of current beliefs touted by our culture? If you are unsure as to why consider this text:

*You made me; you created me.*

*Now give me the sense to follow your commands. (vs. 73)*

6. Read this verse and talk about how you've experienced life through obeying God's Word.

*"I will never forget your commandments,  
for by them you give me life." (vs. 93)*

# Practicing the Christian Life: The Word

## Psalm 119

6/18/23

7. Have you found this passage to be true?

*Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,... Yes, I have more insight than my teachers,.. I am even wiser than my elders, (vss. 98-100)*

8. Read this text and share ways you have experienced liberation by following God's Word.

*I will walk in freedom,  
for I have devoted myself to your commandments.(vs. 45)*

9. Have you experienced intimacy with God? What's that like and when do you experience intimacy with God?

10. Is there value in having a daily quiet time with God? If so, what practices have you learned to get the most out of your quiet time with God?

11. What do you make of passages like these in Psalm 119? Do they seem to be over the top or is this a realistic picture of the passion we can have for the Word? And when we say "the Word" what Word is the Psalmist referring to?

*I pant with expectation,  
longing for your commands. (vs. 131)*

*Oh, how I love your instructions!  
I think about them all day long. (vs. 97)*

12. Scan Psalm 119. Notice places where the writer expresses his passion for God's Word while at the same time talking to God as a real, living person that he has a real intimate relationship with.

13. What's the difference between knowing the God of the text and knowing the God made flesh and what difference does it make when it comes to approaching and prizing God's Word?

14. How can we hold to a high view of Scripture without turning it into an idol? People do have various superstitions when it comes to the Bible. Make a list of them.

15. Any comments, questions or insights that haven't been covered yet?