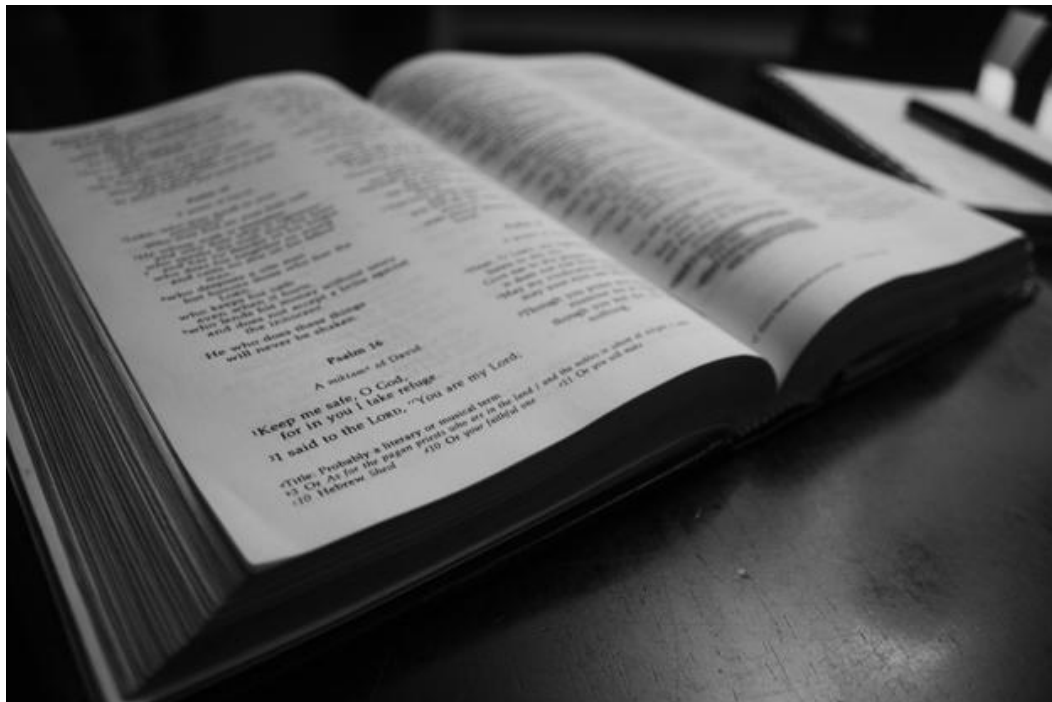


Chapter 6

Psalm 119

A study Guide



Psalm 1:1-3

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law
he meditates day and night.
3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.

PSALM 119

These lessons from Psalm 119 are individual study sheets from the divided sections in Psalms 119. They are independent from each other, so a leader has many different options to a study plan, from a systematic approach to an occasional or even selective use. Please review each lesson before using it as the lessons are prepared for the leader not the student. I have used these lessons with at least 4 different groups over the years and they went extremely well.

FIRST SOME DEFINITIONS

STATUTES - Written law, permanent rule

PRECEPTS - An authoritative command; rule of action or moral conduct

TESTIMONIES - Evidence, proof, solemn declaration, divine revelation

ORDINANCES - An established rule, rite, or law. Has to do with expressed order or procedure of conduct in specific instances.

DELIGHT - To gratify or please greatly, high satisfaction, extreme degree of pleasure.

*You may want to add a few other definitions as you go through these lessons. Also note that these lessons were made from a study out of the **New American Standard Version** of the Bible. Be sure to have the student groups read each section before working from the study sheets and be sure to open and close in prayer. Every lesson should have an introduction, a small group study time and a wrap-up/conclusion time.*

Lesson #1

PSALM 119:1-8

Introduction question: When was the last time you were really happy as a Christian, knowing God is also happy with you?

(This person is not one who is a super saint; one who has stopped totally from sin. Rather, this person is expressing their heart, knowing the blessing and joys of an upright, God pleasing life.)

Note what it is that brings blessings and joys to a Christian:

vs. 1 - Cause: (Whose way is blameless)

Effect: (Who walks in the law of the Lord (Rom. 8:1-11))

vs. 2 - Cause: (Who observes His testimonies)

Effect: (Who seeks Him with all their heart (1 Sam. 16:7b))

vs. 3 - Cause: (They do no unrighteousness)

Effect: (They walk in His ways (Zech. 4:6, God's Way))

vs. 4 - (When a Christian does what God expects, they know He is pleased and they consequently are blessed in their spirits.)

Note the cry of verse 5 - also note Ps. 51:10,12,13.

What do you think is the reason for the cry from the following verses?

vs. 6 - (not be ashamed)

vs. 7 - (Praise - learn righteous judgment)

vs. 8 - (Keep Thy statutes)

Note verse 8b - "do not forsake me utterly!" It seems that, for the Christians who are serious about their walk with God, when they fail so miserably and see their sinfulness, they often cry like this. What do you think about that statement?

(What displeases God -- Ps. 50:17-20)

(For your wrap-up read Matt. 19:26 - All the things in verse 1-4 are impossible for us to achieve on our own but they are possible with God.)

Lesson #2

PSALM 119:9-16

Introduction: What do you think would be the one question we would want to know the answer to most from the practical (How to) side of the Christian life? (10 minutes as introduction - open discussion)

(10-12 Minutes for small group interaction in the development of God's formula for victory over sin.)

(Develop a formula on black board by each group sharing one formula principal at a time; then determining priorities or order of personal application.)

Practical explanation of formula. (Open large group interaction on what it means and how I need to personally respond.)

The question that often plagues us is. - How can a young man or woman keep his/her way pure?

How? from Psalm 119:9-16

vs. 9 - (By subjecting one's life to be in according to the Word of God.)

vs. 10 - (Be a total, sincere, earnest desire for God and for His will, and this is dependency.)

(By a prayer of steadfastness to His commandments.)

vs. 11 - (By making God's Word a Treasure hidden in the heart - means study, memorization, plus personal application. "What did God say personally to me?")

vs. 12 - (By a thankful spirit – by a heart of praise. By a commitment to be taught by God - see total life as a learning process.)

vs. 13 - (By public confession of God's desire and design for man.)

vs. 14 - (By a continually thrilling response of one's being to God's faithfulness and power.)

vs. 15 - (By continually contemplating and practicing life principals.)

vs. 16 - (By enthusiastically rejoicing in the reality of God's Word in one's life. By a commitment to follow in obedience, to know truth.)

Lesson #3

PSALM 119:17-24

Share times when God's Word has given us the advice and counsel we have needed in directing us in a decision.

Review verse 24. Read paraphrased version.

Explain how God's Word gives the proper advice.

1. (Most often God Prepares us for the time of decision by our prior involvement in His Word. Bringing the scriptural counsel to our minds when needed.)
2. (When in time of need and we have not enough prior scripture input then of course, get into your Bible. You may need the suggestion of an older Christian where to turn, but rely on God to speak to you through His Word.)

Split up into groups and discuss:

1. Generally speaking, who has given you the best advice most often?
2. What qualities or characteristics must one giving advice have?

(The above answers are apart from God and His Word)

(Share results of group time.)

Develop the 3 primary means of counseling God uses.

1. (His Word) - verse 24
2. (His people) - II Cor. 1:3-7
3. (His chain of command) - Eph. 6:1-6

Emphasize the fact that God is the counselor with the necessary characteristics needed.

Heb. 4:14-16

I Peter 2:23; 5:19

Jer. 29:11

Good Counsel - I Kings 12:6,7

Bad Counsel - I Kings 12:8-11

Consequences - I Kings 12:13,18,19

Verse 24 - I really get excited about getting into God's Word; for one thing, it gives me insight to good advice and counsel for my life that has never failed.

God's Word reveals clearly the rightness of following Him and the consequences of rejecting His counsel, (vs. 24), as well as advising us in everyday life situations.

God's people experience the faithfulness God believing He will be faithful in the future. - II Cor. 1:3-7

God's chain of command expresses to us another method of advising us in time of need. - Eph. 6, - The book of Proverbs.

Lesson #4

PSALM 119:25-32 -- Notice how the writer is expressing his desire to live life God's way.

vs. 31b - ("O Lord, do not put me to shame!")

vs. 25 - ("Revive me according to Thy Word.")

vs. 26 - ("Teach me Thy statutes.")

vs. 27 - ("Make me understand the way of Thy precepts.")

vs. 28 - ("Strengthen me according to Thy Word.")

vs. 29 - ("Remove the false way from me.")

("Graciously grant me Thy law.")

(Explain that this is a Prayer of Trust)

What are the three "I have's" from verses 30 & 31?

(I have 1. chosen 2. placed 3. cleave)

vs. 31 - "Oh Lord, do not put me to shame."

(A person would not say the above unless other people knew that they were trusting God with their whole life.)

What we are talking about here is a Prayer of Dependency like in Ps. 119:116 - As I trust God to fulfill the prayer of verse 25 - 29. For God not to do it would be to be put to shame.

vs. 32 - I shall run - expression of assurance and confidence - For Thou wilt

I Kings 18:20 - 40 - Illustration of above

Heb. 12:2 - "despising the shame" What do you think are "shame" issues for believers today?

Thank God and praise Him for His faithfulness - Ask God to teach you to trust - to show others Himself through your life - Ask Him to give you a proper reaction and attitude to momentary shame and to make you steadfast to His Word and prayer.

Meeting Format:

Opening Prayer

What has God done in your life that has been really exciting or personally meaningful?

Singing

Read Psalm 119:25 - 32 a verse at a time. What does it mean to me?

Note verse 31 - "O Lord, do not put me to shame." I Kings 18:20 - 40

Heb. 12:2 - Be contented, whatever the outcome, to love the giver of life more than life itself.

Pray in closing: For courage to tell others that we are trusting - to be wise for what we ask Him for - to use us to bring people to Himself - to be able to trust Him always and not be a phony person - to be encouraged in His Word.

Lesson #5

PSALM 119:33-40

NOTE: Each verse expresses a prayer for God to work in the heart and life of the individual.

vs. 37 - "Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity."

Definition of Vanity - nothingness, a vain and empty thing, fruitless, worthless thing, devoid of truth, that which is perverse or depraved.

Ecclesiastics - 12 chapters (divide the chapters by the number of groups you have and make as many groups you can up to 12 of them, one for each chapter of Ecc. if possible.)

Look up these additional verses and think about how they relate to what you had read from Ecclesiastics. Key verses: 1:14, 2:1-11, 24-26, 12:13,14

Matt. 6:19-21

I Cor. 3:11-15

Romans 8:6

Ps. 60:4,11,12

I John 2:15-17

II Cor. 3:4-6

Ps. 73: Note vs. 3,13,14,16,17

II Peter 3 - conclusion

We must see things as God see them. That is why we must pray.

vs. 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40

Please make up your own prayer from the scripture above.

PSALM 119:49-56

vs. 49 - "Remember the Word to thy servant, in which Thou hast made me hope."

vs. 50 - "This is my comfort in my affliction, that Thy Word has preserved me alive."

What is God's Word to you which has made you hope, comforted and preserved you alive?"

Note the three "Remembers" in vs. 49 - (God, remember Your promise to me)

vs. 52 - (I have remembered Your faithfulness)

vs. 55 - (I have remembered Your name, who You are)

Ps. 105:42 - God remembered His Word (promise) to Abraham

The promises of God do three things:

vs. 49 - 1. Give us hope. 2. Comforts in affliction. 3. Encourages so we will stick it out.

We want God to remember His Word to us and He wants us to remember His faithfulness and who He is to us.

His name - I will be to you all that I am. (Ex. 3:14)

NOTE: The three things that God's Word to me will result in.

1. Hope - Jer. 29:11 2. Comfort in affliction. 3. Revived me - give me life - Dt. 32:47

NOTE : II Sam. 7:25, 28, 29

vs. 16 - The promise, vs. 29 - Prayed for fulfillment of the promise.

Heb. 10:23 - God promises to keep promises & vs. 29 - Prayed for fulfillment of the promise.

What word do you want God to remember?

NOTE: vs. 49 & 50 - 3 things happen because God remembers His Word to you.

1. Our life has real hope.
2. We are comforted in affliction, - All possible from God's Word to you.
3. Encouragement comes to stick it out.

NOTE: Psalm 105:42 - God remembered His Word to Abraham

II Peter 1:4 - Promise is given so we will become like Jesus.

3:13 - Promise of Heaven gives hope.

II Cor. 1:20 - God's promise are "Yes"

Heb. 10:23 - God promises to keep His promise & vs. 6:18 - Impossible for God to lie.

Let us ask God to keep His promise to us. - Phil. 1:6

NOTE: vs. 52 - Why would remembering God's principles be a comfort to me? Because when I keep them, I know He is going to be faithful to me.

NOTE: vs. 55 - Why is God's name a help in keeping His Word? Because His name means "I will be to you all that I am." We want God to remember His words to us, and He wants us to remember His principles and who He is to us.

PSALM 119:57-64 In this lesson focus on the meaning and implications of verse 59.

vs. 59a - “I *considered* my ways and turned.”

In light of the truth of the scriptures God wants everyone to make the changes during their life time that will be of a eternal spiritual benefit. These changes only come about when we understand the truth about God, our selves and life from a godly perspective and when we understand God’s solution to our needs. Please look into the settings of the verses listed below and note what was or should be the proper God pleasing response.

Prodigal son - Luke 15:17 - “Came to his senses”

Haggai 1:2-11 - vs. 5 & 7 - “Consider your ways”

Haggai 2:15-19 - “Do consider...consider”

Hosea 7:2 - “”They do not consider their hearts”

Deut. 4:39 - “and take it to your heart”

Psalms 50:22 - “Now consider this”

I Sam. 12:24 - “For consider what great things...”

Psalms 8:3 - “When I consider...”

Ez. 18:28 - “Because he considered...”

Isa. 41:20 - “Consider and gain insight”

Isa. 41:22 - “Consider them and know their outcome”

Heb. 13:7 - “Considering the outcome of their way of life”

Matt. 6:28 - “Consider how the lilies of the field”

II Tim. 2:25,26 - “if perhaps God would grant them a spirit of repentance”

Psalms 73:16,17 - “I pondered...I perceived their end”

Every believer has the need to establish an eternal perspective on life. They need to ask the question, “What is it going to count for eternally?” To understand life from God’s perspective is to truly understand life.

What do you think are the changes God wants you to make in the areas of your life listed below in light of what the scriptures teach in those areas.

1. Eternal life -- II Pet. 3:9; John 1:12; I John 1:9; Rom. 10:13
2. Wealth -- Luke 12:13-21; Matt. 6:19-21; I Tim. 6:9-11,17,18
3. Thought Life -- Matt. 5:27,28; Heb. 4:12,13; James 1:13-15
4. Relationships -- II Cor. 6:14-18; James 4:4; Rom. 12:9-21

Lesson #8

PSALM 119:65-72

vs. 67 - "Before I was afflicted, I went astray. But now I keep Thy Word."

vs. 71 - "It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Thy statutes."

vs. 75 - "I know, O Lord, that Thy judgments are righteous, and that in faithfulness Thou hast afflicted me."

Note the reasons why do we have troubles from these verses below.

1. (Because of sin) - Jer. 30:14
2. (Because of the curse) - Gen. 3:16-19
3. (Because of Satan) - Job 1:8-22
4. (Because we live in the world) - John 16:33
5. (Because of our sin nature) - Gal. 5:17, Rom. 7:15-24
6. (Because of the consequences of sin) - II Sam. 12:11-14
7. (Because of the sins of parents) - Ex. 20:5
8. (Because we are believers) - John 16:33

What is the purpose of trouble?

1. To share in God's Holiness - Heb. 12:11,10
2. To keep us on God's Road - Psalm 119:67
3. To learn God's Word - Psalm 119:71
4. To comfort and encourage others - II Cor. 1:4
5. To bring us back to God - II Chron. 7:13-15
6. To make us more productive - John 15:2
7. To keep us from sin - I Peter 4:1,2
8. To bring us into a closer, more meaningful relationship with God - II Cor. 4:7-11
9. To show us our inability (ourselves) to put it together and our need of totally trusting God for everything - II Cor. 1:8,9
10. To increase our ministry and faith - Luke 22:31,32

How to deal with difficulties -

1. See the difficulty as the hand of God - I Thess. 5:18
2. Remember God's plan for you is the best - Rom. 8:32, Eph. 1:3
3. Trust Him no matter the conditions or circumstances - Job 13:15
4. Submit to Him as doing what is right - I Peter 5:6,7; 4:19
5. Look at it from the eternal viewpoint - Heb. 12:2
6. Be confident in God's ability - Jer. 32:27

Lesson Project: *Make a list of the problems you face and think through the different reason there may be for them and what purposes God may have for them.*

BONUS LESSON

PSALM 119:73-80 --

Thinking through the whole issue of an individual's reason for existence.

vs. 73 - "Thy Hands made me and fashioned me"

Please review these verses and note what God's says about His making you.

Psalms 139:13-16

I Peter 4:19

Eph. 2:10

Ecc. 12:1

Rom. 1:25

Lesson #9

PSALM 119:81-112

Study of God's Word from these verses

Divide into small groups - note what is said of God's Word, what it does in a person's life and anything else about it worth noting.

Also note these additional verses:

1. Matt. 24:35 -

2. Rev. 21:1 -

Investing your life in that which is most important says what to you about God's word?

Think - *What do you do now, that will be important or of value, worth something:*

5 years

10 years

25 years

FROM NOW

50 years

1,000,000,000 years

Wisdom says: Make the best investment of your time now for the best eternal return later.

PSALM 119:113 -- Bonus Lesson

vs. 113 - "I hate those who are double minded"

James 1: 6-8 - doubting and double-mindedness the same - can't expect anything from the Lord.

James 4:8 - "Purify your hearts you double minded." Our hearts cause us to be double minded.

Jer. 17:9 - heart means affection?

Cure to double mindedness is a purified heart - denotes time, discipline, and effect. Purified heart does not come overnight.

Satan's purpose - to keep us double minded so that our relationship with God will go wanting.

Prov. 4:23 - Matt. 12:34 - Matt. 15:18,19

The question - who give the best life? - I Kings 18:21, Matt. 6:24

The issue - God won't give the best to those who give the least. Now is the time of proof - Luke 16:11, II Tim. 1:12, Matt. 25:14-30, I Thess. 2:4; 19:15-22

God doesn't give the option of first checking out what He has to offer before we follow Him - we first decide to follow Him, then the blessings of following Him come later--its a faith thing.

Lesson #10

PSALM 119:120 -- “My flesh trembles for fear of Thee.” and “I am afraid of Thy judgments.”

LESSON TOPIC -- WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FEAR THE LORD? Check out these verses:

Isa. 29:13 - Matt. 10:28 - II Cor. 7:1 - II Peter 3:10-12

Abraham - Gen. 22:12

Psalms 145:19 - Results in fulfilled desire - Fear of God

Psalms 147:11 - pleasure to God

Prov. 3:7 - causes departure from sin

Prov. 10:27 - lengthens life

Prov. 13:13 - results in rewards

Prov. 14:16 - fearing and departing go together

Prov. 14:27 - is a fountain of life

Prov. 19:23 - satisfies

Prov. 22:4 - are riches, honor, and life

Prov. 31:30 - fearing women will be praised

Ecc. 8:12 - it will be well with them

Ex. 18:21 - requirement for leadership

Ex. 20:18 - keeps sin in check

Deut. 4:10 - needs to be taught to children

Deut. 5:29 - necessary for obedience and blessing

Joshua 24:14 - requirement for ministry

I Sam. 12:14 - degree of personal fear determines

I Sam. 12:15 - leaderships relationship with God

II Kings 17:39 - necessary for deliverance

Psalms 15:4 - God honors those that fear Him

Psalms 25:12-14 - guidance, peace, unbelievable spiritual wisdom are given to those who fear

Psalms 31:19 - results in goodness from God

Psalms 33:8 - results in God's favor

Psalms 34:9 - result in meeting of needs

Psalms 103:11,13,17 - results in mercy from God

Prov. 14:2

What do you think it means to fear the Lord? From 1 to 10, how do you rate yourself?

Lesson #11

PSALM 119:122,125,135 -- LESSON TOPIC: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A SERVANT?

vs. 122 - "Be a guarantee (pledge) for Thy servant for good"

vs. 125 - "I am Thy servant"

vs. 135 - "Make Your Face shine upon Your servant"

SERVANT - two different kinds - hired and bonded -- Check out these verses:

Rom. 1:1 - "Paul, a bond servant of Christ Jesus"

Phil 1:1 - "Paul and Timothy, bond servants of Christ Jesus"

Matt. 18:23-33 - forgiveness - Col. 3:13

Matt. 25:14-27 - No sense of competition - seeking to please the Master - II Cor. 12:16

John 13:2-17 - Serve each other - Rom. 12:16

Matt. 20:20-28 - to be greatest, be a servant - Rom. 12:10, Phil. 2:2,4, Col. 3:17,23-24

Do it for Jesus means living as if you were living as a servant of Jesus' and as if Jesus was right there.

To live with an awareness that Jesus is present and that He understands your hearts motive for doing what you do is to live life on a totally different plane. God knows when you are living for Him and when you serve Him by caring for others and He will bless you for that kind of attitude expressed in service. To live for selfish reasons is to miss the mark with God. Those who follow Him must serve like He did.

What do you think? How does the lesson on the fear of God and this one on being a servant relate?

Lesson #12

PSALM 119:169-176 -- LESSON TOPIC ON PRAYER.

Note the “let” in verses 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, and 175

God, I would like You to permit

1. My cry comes to You - hear me, help me understand
2. My prayers comes to You - fulfill Your promise
3. My lips utter praise - I’m responding to Your Word
4. My tongue sing of Your promise - it’s good
5. Your Hand be ready to help me - my trust is in Your Word
6. My soul live - that I may experience You and consequently praise You
7. Your principles help me

Grant it O Lord!

What is the writer asking God to do?

Where do you identify with this guy the most?

PRAYER ADDITIONAL VERSES

Acts 6:4 - Needs equal time with God’s Word

Phil. 4:6-7 - Takes away anxiety and gives God peace.

I Thess. 5:17 - Needs to be active throughout the day.

Expresses our dependency.

If I am really trusting God with my life, then I need to communicate with Him often.

Prayer is the only way in which one can effectively minister to the needs of others.

(Play a song about prayer)

Prayer Time

