

Small Group Study Week 3

Study God's Word

Icebreaker: Each person in the group share 2-3 sentences about a favorite book or movie that has inspired them

Recap: This Sunday, we talked about the value of God's word as taught in Psalm 119:1-16. As a group, summarize some of the main takeaways that you remember from the sermon.

Read and Discuss: Take time as a group to read the following scripture passages and discuss how they relate your understanding of God's word. Some starter questions are suggested for each passage.

Psalm 19:1-14

- This psalm speaks about general revelation (God's speaking to all of humanity through His created works) and special revelation (God's particular speaking to His people through scripture). How do you see these two aspects of revelation relating to each other?
- How would you summarize what this passage teaches about the benefits of God's word?
- Where have you personally benefitted from the study of God's word? Share a story with the group.

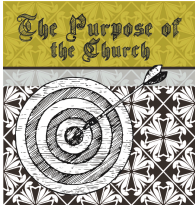
I Peter 1:12-21

- Peter assures his readers that the New Testament accounts are not legends, but are eyewitness accounts. In verses 12-15, he says he's writing his letters so readers will be able to remember. How does this encourage you?
- How would you summarize Peter's teaching about the nature of the scriptural writings (v 19-21)?
- Think of a time scripture has been enlightening to you? How has it brought clarity out of confusion? Share a story.

Hebrews 4:12-13

- Based on this passage, how would you describe how the Word of God is different from any other book?
- In what ways does God's word "judge the thoughts and attitudes of the heart"?
- Think of a time when you were challenged, convicted, or changed by God's word. If appropriate, please share with the group.

Pray: Each group member share one thing for which they are grateful to God. One group member should offer a brief prayer to close the group.



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Going Further:

Here are some actions you might consider to further your practice of the study of God's word:

- **Commit to daily reading of God's word.** A daily practice of reading God's word will be of invaluable benefit for you. It will sharpen and nourish your mind, filling your mind with truth and wisdom. You will receive unexpected guidance for your day. And over time, the words of scripture will shape your thinking.
- **Memorize scripture.** You will encounter verses of scripture that are very meaningful to you. Make the effort to memorize these verses so that you can come back to them any time. The act of memorizing is also great for maintaining mental sharpness and for filling your thoughts with good things.
- **Take advantage of Sunday Worship.** Bring your Bible to Sunday worship. Take notes on the sermon and underline significant passages. Write in the margins of your Bible. If you actively take notes (rather than passively receive), you will glean much more benefit out of the sermon.
- **Join a group.** You will receive tremendous insight from studying alongside other Christians. Not only that, but you will develop deep friendships as together you apply the word of God to your lives.
- **Listen to other teachers.** Don't just rely on the Sunday sermon. If there is a particular part of the Bible that you're looking for more answers, then you can easily find great teaching. We live in an era where we can access many great sermons/studies/teachings via the internet. Good places to start are the teaching ministries of RC Sproul, Alastair Begg, and Tim Keller.