

Psalm 119 – Week 5 – Love for the Word – Bible Study Helps

Title: Love for the Word

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores Psalm 119 as a declaration of love for the Word of God, emphasizing that genuine devotion to God is inseparable from devotion to His Word. Eric walks through the first sixteen verses of Psalm 119, establishing foundational truths about Scripture — its divine inspiration, preservation, purity, and authority — while calling believers to evaluate whether they are truly seeking God with their whole heart. The sermon stresses that God's Word is not merely a set of rules to follow out of duty, but a living truth to be loved, meditated upon, rejoiced in, and delighted in daily. Practical application is woven throughout, challenging believers to let Scripture govern every area of life, to teach it diligently to their children, and to declare it boldly to others. The message closes with a call to salvation for the unsaved and a charge to the saved to walk faithfully in God's Word all the days of their lives.

Key Points:

- Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible and is structured as an acrostic poem using all 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet, with nearly every verse referencing God's Word through terms such as law, statutes, commandments, testimonies, precepts, and judgments
- God's Word is divinely inspired, preserved for all generations, pure, and unchanging, unlike every other source of knowledge or authority in the world
- Jesus Christ is the living Word of God, meaning a love for God and Christ must be accompanied by a love for Scripture
- The phrase "whole heart" appears six times in Psalm 119 and thirteen times in the entire Bible, underscoring how seriously God emphasizes wholehearted devotion
- Walking with God is a personal relationship, not mere religious observance, illustrated by the examples of Enoch and Noah who walked with God despite surrounding corruption
- Hiding God's Word in the heart is essential for resisting temptation, as demonstrated by Christ's responses to Satan's temptations in the wilderness
- Believers are called to rejoice in, meditate on, and delight in God's Word, not merely know it intellectually or follow it reluctantly
- God's Word is the only reliable counsel, and all human counsel should be measured against Scripture
- Teaching Scripture diligently to children is a generational responsibility, and failure to do so puts future generations at risk of spiritual decline
- Every believer will stand at the judgment seat of Christ and be accountable for how they received, lived, and declared God's Word

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- Salvation is a personal choice to trust in Jesus Christ alone, and apart from that trust the wrath of God remains on a person

Scripture Reference:

- Psalm 119:1-16 (primary text)
- Psalm 119:89-90, 112, 130, 140, 160, 165
- John 1:1
- 1 John 1:5
- 1 John 5:7
- 2 Peter 1:15-21
- Psalm 12:6-7
- Matthew 5:18
- 2 Corinthians 5:17, 5:21
- John 14:6
- John 8:31-32
- Galatians 5:16
- Romans 7:22-23
- 1 John 2:15
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- 2 Timothy 3:15-17
- Proverbs 12:15
- Proverbs 19:21
- Proverbs 29:15
- Proverbs 4:14-15
- Ephesians 4:29
- 2 Corinthians 6:14
- Acts 20:27
- Romans 1:16
- Psalm 37:23

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- John 3:36

- Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Stories:

- A woman encountered at a playground by Eric's wife Brittiany was a former Jehovah's Witness who came to saving faith by reading the Bible on her own, with John 1:1 being one of the key verses that led her to the Lord, illustrating how God's Word sheds light and exposes false teaching

- The account of Jesus being tempted by Satan three times during His forty-day fast in Luke 4 is referenced to illustrate how memorizing and correctly applying Scripture is the means by which temptation is resisted

- The story of Jonah is referenced to illustrate the danger of failing to teach and disciple others, noting that Nineveh repented at Jonah's preaching but quickly returned to its old ways, showing that without ongoing teaching and multiplication of disciples, spiritual gains are lost within a generation

- The biblical examples of Enoch and Noah walking with God are cited to illustrate that faithful devotion to God is possible even in the midst of widespread corruption

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Discipleship Questions

The sermon emphasizes loving God's Word with your whole heart, a theme repeated six times in Psalm 119 alone -- in what practical ways does your daily routine reflect a wholehearted devotion to Scripture, and where do you sense the greatest resistance?

Eric described how a woman escaped a false religion simply by reading the Bible, trusting it to shed light on error -- how much do you rely on Scripture itself as your ultimate standard for testing what you believe, versus relying on tradition, culture, or the opinions of others?

Psalm 119:11 speaks of hiding God's Word in the heart as a defense against sin, and the sermon pointed to Jesus using Scripture to resist temptation in Luke 4 -- how intentionally are you memorizing and internalizing Scripture so that it is available to you in moments of spiritual attack?

The sermon drew a connection between walking with God and the examples of Enoch and Noah, both of whom remained faithful despite the corruption surrounding them -- what specific corrupting influences in your current environment are making it most difficult to walk consistently with God?

Eric noted that the counsel of the Lord shall stand above all human counsel, as seen in Proverbs 19:21 -- when you face a major decision, what is your honest first instinct -- to seek God's Word, or to seek the opinions of people around you, and what does that reveal about where your trust truly lies?

Deuteronomy 6 commands God's people to speak His Word when sitting, walking, lying down, and rising up -- how saturated is your home environment with Scripture, and what would need to change for God's Word to become the natural language of your household?

The sermon warned that we are one generation away from the faith dying out if believers fail to multiply disciples and teach Scripture to the next generation -- what specific and deliberate steps are you taking to invest God's Word into the children or younger believers in your life?

Eric described how God's Word does not change the way medical guidelines, building codes, or cultural standards do -- in what areas of your life are you tempted to treat biblical truth as negotiable or subject to revision based on modern thinking?

Romans 7:22-23 describes the inner conflict between delighting in God's law and being pulled toward sin by the flesh -- where do you feel that war most intensely right now, and how does your engagement with Scripture either strengthen or weaken your resistance?

The closing challenge was to evaluate whether we are rejoicing in, meditating on, and delighting in God's Word as Psalm 119:14-16 describes, rather than approaching it out of mere duty or habit -- honestly, which word best describes your current relationship with Scripture, and what would it take to move it toward genuine delight?

Small Group Guide

Psalm 119: Loving God's Word With Your Whole Heart

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Open your time together in prayer, asking God to open your hearts to His Word and to speak clearly to each person in the group. Have your Bibles ready and keep Psalm 119 bookmarked, as you will return to it throughout the discussion.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SERMON

- 1. Psalm 119 is centered on a person's love for God's Word.** Every stanza, every verse, returns to the theme of treasuring Scripture not as a religious duty but as a genuine expression of love for God.
 - 2. God's Word is the source of light in a dark world.** Without Scripture as the foundation and priority of our lives, we are left in spiritual darkness. God is light, and His Word sheds that light on our path.
 - 3. Walking with God is a relationship, not a religion.** Like Enoch and Noah, we are called to walk with God step by step, ordering our steps according to His Word, with the right heart attitude, not merely going through the motions.
 - 4. The whole heart is non-negotiable.** The phrase "whole heart" appears six times in Psalm 119 alone. God is not looking for partial devotion. He calls us to seek Him, keep His Word, and love Him with everything we have.
 - 5. God's Word must be taught, spoken, and displayed.** Deuteronomy 6 makes clear that Scripture is not meant to stay private. It belongs in our conversations, our homes, our parenting, and our daily rhythms.
 - 6. The right heart attitude toward God's Word is rejoicing, meditating, and delighting.** These are not passive responses. They reflect an active, ongoing love for what God has said.
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

OPENING QUESTIONS

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Use these to help the group ease into conversation.

1. When you think about your daily routine, where does time in God's Word naturally fit in? Where does it tend to get crowded out?
 2. Eric opened with several reflective questions. Which one landed on you most personally? Is God's Word on your mind when you wake up? When you drive? When you wind down at night?
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DIGGING INTO THE WORD

3. Psalm 119:1 speaks of those who are "undefiled in the way" and who "walk in the law of the Lord." What does it mean practically to walk with God rather than simply follow a set of rules? How is that distinction meaningful in your own life?
 4. The sermon highlighted that the phrase "whole heart" appears six times in Psalm 119 and thirteen times across the entire Bible, with roughly half of those occurrences concentrated in these 176 verses. What do you think God is communicating through that kind of repetition? What does it reveal about what He values most?
 5. Psalm 119:11 says that hiding God's Word in our hearts helps us not to sin against Him. The sermon pointed to Luke 4, where Jesus resisted temptation by quoting Scripture directly. How does memorizing and meditating on Scripture function as a practical defense against temptation in your own experience?
 6. In Romans 7:22-23, Paul describes the tension between delighting in God's law inwardly and feeling pulled toward sin by the flesh. How do you personally navigate that tension? What has helped you stay close to God's Word when the pull away from it feels strong?
 7. The sermon referenced 2 Peter 1:15-21 to establish that Scripture did not originate with human will but came through men moved by the Holy Spirit. How does understanding the divine origin of the Bible change the way you approach reading or studying it?
 8. Deuteronomy 6:6-9 instructs God's people to talk about His Word when sitting at home, walking, lying down, and rising up. What would it look like for your household or daily life to reflect that kind of saturation with Scripture?
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GOING DEEPER

9. The sermon made the point that when God's Word becomes your final authority on every matter of life, it changes everything. Can you think of a specific area of your life where you have chosen to let the Bible settle a question rather than your own opinion or the culture's opinion? What was that like?
10. Eric shared the story of a woman who was in a false religion and came to saving faith largely because she read the Bible and trusted what it said, including John 1:1. What does that story tell us about the power of God's Word to cut through deception and bring someone to the truth?

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11. The sermon touched on the idea that we will one day stand at the judgment seat of Christ and be accountable for how we handled His Word. Did we read it? Study it? Live it? Share it? How does that reality shape the way you think about your relationship with Scripture today?
 12. Eric noted that the Holy Spirit, who authored Scripture, lives inside every believer. What does it mean to you personally that the Author of the Bible dwells within you? How should that truth affect the way you pray before reading Scripture?
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PRACTICAL REFLECTION

13. The sermon asked whether we are teaching God's Word to our children, speaking it at home, and displaying it in our houses. For those who are parents or who regularly influence younger people, what is one specific and practical step you could take this week to be more intentional about passing Scripture on?
 14. Eric described the heart attitudes of Psalm 119:14-16 as rejoicing, meditating, and delighting. On a normal day, which of those three comes most naturally to you? Which one feels most like a discipline you have to work toward? What might help cultivate the ones that feel harder?
 15. The sermon closed with a challenge drawn from Psalm 119:30: "I have chosen the way of truth." Choosing God's Word is an ongoing, daily decision. What is one choice you can make this week that reflects a commitment to choosing the way of truth over the way of your own reasoning or the world's direction?
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PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

These are specific, actionable steps group members can take between now and your next meeting.

Read Psalm 119 in full. Set aside time this week to read all 176 verses. Do not rush. Let the repetition of themes wash over you. Note which verses stand out and bring one observation to share with the group next time.

Establish or strengthen a daily time in God's Word. If you do not have a consistent habit of daily Bible reading, commit to starting one this week, even if it is only ten or fifteen minutes. If you already have one, consider how you might deepen it, perhaps by adding a time of prayer before you open your Bible, asking the Holy Spirit to teach you.

Memorize one verse from Psalm 119. Choose a verse from the first sixteen that the Lord used to speak to you during the sermon or your reading. Write it on a card, put it somewhere visible, and work on committing it to memory this week.

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Evaluate your speech. The sermon referenced Ephesians 4:29 and the apostle Paul's commitment to declaring all the counsel of God. Pay attention this week to how often God's Word comes up naturally in your conversations. Look for one opportunity to speak Scripture into someone else's life.

Pray Deuteronomy 6 over your home. Take a few minutes this week to pray specifically that God's Word would be central in your household, in your conversations, in the way you raise or influence children, and in the atmosphere of your home.

Share the gospel. The sermon closed with a reminder that some people have never trusted Jesus Christ alone for salvation. Ask God to bring someone across your path this week, and be ready to share what the Bible says about how a person can be saved.

CLOSING PRAYER GUIDE

Close your group time by praying together. Consider using the following prompts to guide your prayer:

- Thank God for His Word, that it is pure, preserved, and true from the beginning.
- Confess any areas where your love for Scripture has grown cold or where you have treated it casually.
- Ask God to give each person in the group a whole heart toward Him and His Word.
- Pray for anyone in the group or in your circles who has not yet trusted Christ for salvation.
- Ask the Holy Spirit, the Author of Scripture, to teach you and lead you as you commit to being in God's Word this week.

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." -- Psalm 119:11

5-Day Bible Reading and Devotional Guide

Based on Psalm 119 and the Theme of Loving God's Word

Day 1: Walking in the Light of God's Word

Reading: Psalm 119:1-8

Devotional: To be undefiled in the way is not a standard we reach on our own -- it is the gift of Christ's righteousness applied to every believer. Yet that gift calls us to walk. Walking implies movement, direction, and daily decision. God's Word is not a document to admire from a distance but a path to travel step by step. Ask yourself honestly: are your steps ordered by Scripture, or by habit, comfort, and personal preference? The blessed life described in Psalm 119 belongs to those who do not merely own a Bible but who walk inside its truth every single day.

Personal Reflection: In what areas of your daily routine is God's Word absent? What one practical step can you take today to bring Scripture into that space?

Day 2: Seeking God With a Whole Heart

Reading: Psalm 119:9-16; Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Devotional: The word "whole" leaves no room for division. Psalm 119 mentions seeking God with the whole heart six times across its 176 verses -- a repetition that is not accidental. God is not satisfied with a portion of your devotion any more than a marriage thrives on partial commitment. Deuteronomy 6 instructs God's people to carry His Word into every moment: rising, resting, walking, sitting. This is not religious exhaustion -- it is the natural overflow of a heart genuinely in love with God. When His Word fills your heart completely, it shapes your speech, your parenting, your decisions, and your direction without effort or pretense.

Personal Reflection: Honestly evaluate where your heart is divided. What competes with God's Word for first place in your thoughts throughout the day?

Day 3: The Preserving Power of God's Word

Reading: Psalm 12:6-7; Psalm 119:89-90; 2 Peter 1:15-21

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Devotional: Every institution, standard, and system built by human hands is subject to revision. Medical guidelines change. Building codes are updated. Cultural values shift with each passing generation. But God's Word is settled -- not revised, not updated, not subject to cultural pressure. Second Peter reminds us that Scripture did not originate in the mind of any man but was carried along by the Holy Spirit. This is not a minor theological point. It means that when you open your Bible, you are not reading the opinions of ancient writers -- you are receiving the preserved, pure, and eternal counsel of God Himself. Stand on it without apology.

Personal Reflection: Are there areas where you have allowed cultural opinion or personal feeling to quietly override what Scripture plainly teaches? What does it look like to recommit to God's Word as your final authority?

Day 4: Hiding God's Word in Your Heart

Reading: Psalm 119:11; Luke 4:1-13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17

Devotional: When the enemy came against Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus did not reach for a scroll. He reached into a heart saturated with Scripture. Three temptations. Three responses drawn directly from the Word of God. This is the pattern God's Word prescribes for every believer. Hiding Scripture in your heart is not a children's activity -- it is spiritual warfare preparation. Second Timothy tells us that all Scripture is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction. Every category of spiritual need is met within the pages of God's Word. A heart filled with Scripture is a heart equipped to stand when the enemy lays his snares.

Personal Reflection: How much of God's Word do you currently carry in your memory? What passage could you begin committing to heart this week as a practical act of spiritual preparation?

Day 5: Delighting, Meditating, Rejoicing

Reading: Psalm 119:14-16; Psalm 119:97-105; Romans 1:16

Devotional: The psalmist does not describe God's Word as a burden to endure but as a treasure to rejoice in -- valued above all riches, meditated on throughout the day, and never forgotten. This is the standard. Not reluctant obligation, but genuine delight. If your relationship with Scripture feels more like duty than joy, the answer is not to read less but to ask God to renew your love for what He has given you. His Word is a lamp in genuine darkness, a light on a path that the world cannot illuminate. Do not be ashamed of it. Declare it. Delight in it. Let it change everything about how you live.

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Personal Reflection: On a scale of honest reflection, would you describe your current relationship with God's Word as delighting, enduring, or neglecting? What would it look like to pursue genuine delight in Scripture beginning today?