

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

This week Dr. Bill Jones, Chancellor of Columbia International University, kicks off our new sermon series *Get in the Game* which is focused on encouraging each one of us to take intentional steps in order to grow in our connection with God. For our first message, Dr. Jones will be reminding us that, no matter what we're facing in our life's circumstances, we can look to the Bible as one of the primary resources God has given us for ongoing guidance and direction.

BIG THOUGHT

Because God promises to use the Bible as His Word to teach, correct, train, and prepare us (2 Timothy 3:16), we need to make sure we spend time reading and learning it.

1. Our passage for today is found in Psalm 119, which is the longest Psalm and one that spends a significant amount of time describing the virtues of God's Word. Read v. 97. How does the psalmist describe his feeling toward God's Word? How does he build it into his life? Do you have a particular verse of the Bible that has significance for you? Share with the group...
2. Now read v. 98-100. Which three groups of people does the psalmist mention by name? What in God's Word make us better able to face those who take a stand against us? (v. 98) Why do you think this is true? What do we need to mediate on to gain insight? (v. 99) And what response leads to understanding? (v. 100)

3. Read v. 101. Can you think of a time when your decision to follow God's teaching kept you from going down a wrong path? Or has there been a time when knowing God's Word would have prevented you from making a poor choice? Share with the group if you can.
4. Now read v. 102-103. How does God's Word represent His own "voice" of instruction to us? And what do you think makes the Bible sweet to us (v. 103) as we incorporate it into our lives? Explain.
5. Read v. 105. How does Scripture serve as a light when we're walking through life's circumstances? Have you ever experienced this? Give an example if you can.
6. Now read v. 106. How can our own self-discipline help us follow God? Read v. 107 - do you think our decision to follow God's Word can sometimes cause difficulties and hardships? Why? How can that same decision bring comfort, too?
7. The author finishes his reflections on Scripture by offering God praise. (v. 108) How do you feel about God and the gift of His Word after studying this passage - grateful? Challenged? Confused? Something else?

Take it Further

Talk with God and thank Him for His faithfulness to use the Bible to speak to us - then ask Him to help you develop a love for it! (v. 97)

Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: Isaiah 40:8

Day 2: Matthew 24:35

Day 3: Hebrews 4:12

Day 4: Psalm 119:11

Day 5: Proverbs 30:5

Day 6: 2 Timothy 3:16

Memory Verse: Psalm 119:105



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