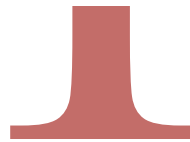




## THE WORD



## SESSION ONE

It is our heart that over the next twelve months, we will fall more in love with the Word of God. We hope that you will be able to say, from personal experience, that you know its power to revive the soul, break the chains of lies, and provide a firm foundation for all of life. What a privilege to daily dive into the Word of God. We are bravely and humbly laying our lives before Scripture because it is “God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live

in conformity to God’s will, both publicly and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage]” (2 Tim. 3:16, AMP). Instruction, conviction, correction, and training take backbone and humility, both to receive and to act upon. How amazing that the Father loves us *so* much He wants us to rise up to our fullest potential and the most radiant representation of His nature! Our time in the Word *will* change us when we unclench our fists and ask His Spirit to reveal His truth to our hearts.

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### P S A L M 1 1 9

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Psalm 119 is both the longest psalm and the longest chapter in the Bible. It may have been written by Ezra after the temple was rebuilt (see Ezra 6:14-15) as a repetitive meditation on the beauty of God’s Word and how it helps us stay pure as we grow in faith. This psalm has twenty-two carefully constructed sections, each corresponding to a different letter in the Hebrew alphabet (in order) and each verse beginning with the letter of its section (an acrostic poem). Almost every line mentions God’s Word. Such repetition was common in the Hebrew

culture since people did not have personal copies of the Scripture to read as we do. Instead, God’s people memorized His Word, and passed it along orally. The structure of this Psalm allowed for easy memorization.

*We pray this psalm will move you to wonder at the vastness of God’s Word. We pray it will help you see the constancy of its theme and show you the unity of Scripture. It is one big story from beginning to end!*





# PSALM 119

V V . 1 - 3 2

<sup>1</sup>Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD. <sup>2</sup>Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart—<sup>3</sup>they do no wrong but follow his ways.

<sup>4</sup>You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. <sup>5</sup>Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! <sup>6</sup>Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands. <sup>7</sup>I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws. <sup>8</sup>I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me.

<sup>9</sup>How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

<sup>10</sup>I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. <sup>11</sup>I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. <sup>12</sup>Praise be to you, LORD; teach me your decrees.

<sup>13</sup>With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. <sup>14</sup>I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. <sup>15</sup>I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.

<sup>16</sup>I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

<sup>17</sup>Be good to your servant while I live, that I may obey your word. <sup>18</sup>Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law. <sup>19</sup>I am a stranger on earth; do not hide your commands from me.

<sup>20</sup>My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times. <sup>21</sup>You rebuke the arrogant, who are accursed, those who stray from your commands.

<sup>22</sup>Remove from me their scorn and contempt, for I keep your statutes.

<sup>23</sup>Though rulers sit together and slander me, your servant will meditate on your decrees.

<sup>24</sup>Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors.

<sup>25</sup>I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to your word. <sup>26</sup>I gave an account of my ways and you answered me; teach me your decrees. <sup>27</sup>Cause me to understand the way of your precepts, that I may meditate on your wonderful deeds. <sup>28</sup>My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.

<sup>29</sup>Keep me from deceitful ways; be gracious to me and teach me your law. <sup>30</sup>I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws.

<sup>31</sup>I hold fast to your statutes, LORD; do not let me be put to shame. <sup>32</sup>I run in the path of your commands, for you have broadened my understanding.

