

The Importance Of God's Word

Psalm 119

MEMORY VERSE

PSALM 119:9

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A piece of paper (before class draw a curved path on one sheet of paper and make copies for your children) and a pencil for each child.

A paper plate for each child, a candle template, yellow or gold glitter or yarn, scissors, a marker, crayons and glue.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Psalm 119 Acrostic

We are going to learn in our lesson today that Psalm 119 is an “acrostic.” That means that when it was originally written in Hebrew that was split into 22 sections, one section for each letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Then the psalmist wrote 8 verses, each beginning with the same letter from that section. In other words, the first section was Aleph. Each verse in that section began with the letter Aleph.

We are going to play a word game from Psalm 119. Have the children open their Bibles to Psalm 119. Take turns going around the room and begin with the letter A. Have children find words from Psalm 119 that begin with that letter. You can have grace with tough letters like Q or X. The aim of the game is to go through the entire alphabet using words that are found in Psalm 119. It will also help the children understand a little bit more about what an acrostic is.

LESSON TIME!

Psalm 119 is the longest of all of the Psalms. In fact, it is the longest chapter in the whole Bible (It technically is not a chapter, but rather a psalm or song). It consists of 176 verses divided into 22 sections of 8 verses each. We will look at these sections a little bit closer later in our lesson.

Psalm 119 is not only long, but is deep in meaning. It is believed by many that King David wrote the Psalm. The theme of the Psalm is the Word of the Lord. It truly expresses the beauty of the Word of God in a way found nowhere else in the Bible. God's Word is described in several different ways:

1. law
2. word (words)
3. ordinances
4. commandments
5. precepts
6. testimonies
7. statutes
8. judgments

It is believed that a young man wrote the earlier verses, while many of the later passages could suggest being written by one who had the wisdom of age. There is in all the verses, the fruit of deep experience, careful observation and earnest meditation. **God's Word helps us to live for Him.**

There is something else that is very incredible about Psalm 119. It is what is called an acrostic. The psalm is divided into 22 sections. Each of these sections relates to a letter in the Hebrew alphabet. It would be kind of like how we might make a list and letter it a, b, c, and so on. In each of the sections there are 8 verses. Every one of the eight verses in each of the sections begins with the Hebrew

letter that it represents. So that means that in the first section, Aleph, each verse begins with an Aleph in Hebrew. It does this perfectly with all 176 verses and still keeps the singular theme of God's Word. God's Word is amazing!

Psalm 119 is also a prayer for steadfastness in the middle of an ungodly people. It stirs us to commit ourselves to the Word of God as well as the God of the Word. God desires to communicate to us. That is why He has given us His Word. It is a blessing and a privilege to read the Word of God. Let us never forget that and always remember to respect His Word. **God's Word helps us to live for Him.**

Instead of breaking down individual verses since the psalm is very long, we will take a brief look at the 22 different sections. We will then look at three verses in particular (9,11 and 105).

ALEPH (verses 1-8) – The blessings of following the Word of God. When we follow the Word of God our lives will be filled with blessing. God is not angry with us. He loves us very much.

BETH (verses 9-16) – God's Word keeps His people from sin. We need to hide God's Word in our hearts and then take heed to it. We need to listen to God's Word and pray. Then we need to be very careful to obey it.

GIMEL (verses 17-24) - He prays in the midst of the ridicule and persecuting people around him, for grace and wisdom.

DALETH (verses 25-32) – God's Word produces strength and closeness in our relationship with God.

HE (verses 33-40) – God's Word brings purity in an unpure world. He also prays for safekeeping.

WAW (verses 41-48) – We can always trust in God’s Word. It never fails. We can boldly declare His Word and never be ashamed.

ZAYIN (verses 49-56) – God’s Word provides comfort in times of need. It produces joy in difficult times and hope when we are feeling down.

HETH (verses 57-64) – The psalmist commits to keep and obey God’s Word knowing that obedience will bring blessing.

TETH (verses 65-72) – God’s Word teaches us how we should live. It also helps us when we have problems with other people.

YOD (verses 73-80) – God shows us His faithfulness in His Word. The Psalmist finds delight in God’s Word. He loves to spend time learning God’s Word.

KAPH (verses 81-88) – Answers to life’s tough questions are found in God’s Word. When we find ourselves worn out by this world we can find hope and comfort in God’s Word.

LAMED (verses 89-96) - Without the eternal, sure, mighty Word of God we would all be without hope and in despair.

MEM (verses 97-104) – God’s Word gives us wisdom to make the right choices in life. God’s Word is very sweet to His people.

NUN (verses 105-112) – God’s Word will guide us in our decisions in life. God is always faithful to His Word.

SAMEK (verses 113-120) – God’s Word provides shelter for us when we are fearful. The Word confronts those who are doing evil and wicked things.

AYIN (verses 121-128) – God’s Word is more valuable than all the treasures of the world. It is better to be poor with God’s Word than

rich and never have been exposed to the great truth of the scriptures.

PE (verses 129-136) – God’s Word gives light to our souls and leads us to what is right and true. His Word directs our steps.

TSADDE (verses 137-144) – God’s Word is righteous and pure. When all else crumbles in this world God’s Word and truth will stand firm.

QOPH (verses 145-152) – We find help to solve our problems in God’s Word.

RESH (verses 153-160) – God’s Word keeps us out of trouble. It is constantly revealing to us God’s tender mercies for us.

SHIN (verses 161-168) – God’s Word brings about rejoicing and peace to our hearts. It also provides salvation to us.

TAU (verses 169-176) – God’s Word causes us to praise the Lord with all of our hearts. It gets us back to the right place with God.

PSALM 119:9

How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word.

We will now look at three verses in particular to help us to know a little bit better the importance of the Word of God in our lives. In verse 9 we see a question. But along with the question we are given an answer. The question asked is how shall a young man cleanse his way? This is another way of saying, “How can we as young people keep doing right things and living for God?” The answer is to keep ourselves very close to God’s Word and be willing to always do what it says. **God’s Word helps us to live for Him.**

Because we need cleansing we know that we are already polluted. 2 Timothy 2:22 tells us, “Run from anything that gives you the evil thoughts that young men (women) often have, but stay close to anything that makes you want to do right. Have faith and love, and enjoy the companionship of those who love the Lord and have pure hearts.” (Living Bible)

It is important for us to walk in the way of holiness each and every day. We need to know which path to walk on, and which path to stay away from. It is a good thing to walk in a pure and holy path, though there may be obstacles along the way we need to overcome. So, how do we then cleanse our ways, and walk in paths of holiness? **God’s Word helps us to live for Him.**

The rest of the verse is the answer to that question. “By taking heed according to your Word.” It is God’s Word that has the power to lead us in a life of holiness. We must take heed to God’s Word everyday of our lives. It is like reading the directions to put something together. No matter how much we think we know, unless we read the directions, we will get it wrong.

Pride keeps us from heeding God’s Word. We feel we know it all and that we do not need any help. How wrong that is with God. We know nothing, and need His help each and every step of the way. We may desire to do right, but unless we know what is right, how can we do right? If we do something that we didn’t know was wrong it won’t change the result. We will still suffer problems when we do wrong, even if we didn’t know that it was wrong. That’s why we need the Bible to help us know what is right and what is wrong. **God’s Word helps us to live for Him.**

There is an old saying that says, “The Bible will keep us from sin and sin will keep us from the Bible.” If we want to know how to live our lives the right way and not live a life that is filled with sin, then we need to spend a lot of time reading and knowing God’s Word. **God’s Word helps us to live for Him.**

PSALM 119:11

Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

We also see another very important verse about God's Word. We have seen that when we obey God's Word that we will be kept from sin. But verse 11 tells us that we also need to "hide" God's Word in our hearts. How do you suppose we can hide God's Word in our hearts? The best way to do it is through scripture memory. When we commit verses to memory we are storing a very powerful weapon against sin in our hearts. It is very important to begin to memorize Bible verses as a child because it is easier to remember. You will find that if you commit to memorize verses as a child that they will stay with you like a dear friend all of your life. The Word will be there to comfort, help, protect, lead and guide you. God's Word is very powerful! **God's Word helps us to live for Him.**

Light Up My Path

For this activity you will need a piece of paper (before class draw a curved path on one sheet of paper and make copies for your children) and a pencil for each child. Give each child the paper and a pencil. Tell them to wait to draw on their paper until you instruct them to do so. Explain that you simply want them draw a line down the path from one end of the page to the other. But they have to stay in the path. Sounds pretty easy doesn't it? Well, next tell them that you are going to turn the lights out and give them 30 seconds to do it.

Turn the lights out. Wait 30 seconds. Turn the lights back on. Let's all look and compare how we "walked" down our path. Ask the children if it was difficult to do in the dark. Explain that we can't walk down the path of life in darkness. That is why we need God's Word. It provides light for our path so we know where we are going. God's Word guides and protects us.

PSALM 119:105

Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Not only does God's Word keep us from sin, but it also gives us great safety. God's Word will lead us, guide us, and give us direction for our lives. Many people get into trouble because they have no direction, or they choose a bad path. We all need to think about the path that we choose in life. We need to walk by the Word of God and then we will know where we are going and won't trip and fall on the way getting there. So many problems in our lives can be avoided just by seeing what the Bible says about things we are going through.

So, we see that it is important to "heed" or obey God's Word. It is also important to "hide" God's Word in our hearts and it is important "hold" onto God's Word as a light to show us how we are to live our lives. Remember that we always have a choice before us. Yet, let us meditate on the love of God for us through His wonderful love letter, the Bible, and realize how awesome, wonderful and glorious our God truly is! **God's Word helps us to live for Him.**

Light Craft

For this craft you will need a paper plate for each child, a candle template, yellow or gold glitter or yarn, scissors, a marker, crayons and glue. Give each child a candle to cut out from the template. Have them cut it out and color the candle and/or flame. Glue the candle into the center of the paper plate.

Under the candle write, "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" Psalm 119:105. Next make rays of light with either gold glitter or yellow yarn glued to plate above the flame. You will need about 5 - 7 rays. With a hole punch make a hole at

the top of the craft and take a piece of yarn and tie it through the hole so it can be hung up.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for God's Word and commitment to follow His Word, hide His Word in their hearts and allow His Word to guide their paths. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

Template - Light Craft

