

The Value of God's Word

(Psalm 119)

Pre-Session Warm Up

[Teacher, make a poster of Psalm 119:72, and place a Bible in a treasure chest. Have the children guess what the treasure is, giving the following clues: It's worth millions of dollars. You probably have one in your house. It's very useful, yet most people don't realize how valuable it is. It originally came from God.]

What is the treasure? (Have a child open the treasure chest.)

Why is God's Word the most valuable treasure in the entire universe? Because it tells us how we can belong to the God who made the universe and who loves us very much. It tells how to receive God's free gift of everlasting life so we can live with Him in heaven someday. The Bible is also filled with valuable treasures for our life here on earth.

The theme of Psalm 119 is God's Word is true and wonderful. The writer of this psalm speaks of the beauty of God's Word and how it helps us stay pure and to grow in faith. If we stay true to God's Word no matter how bad the world becomes we will have real happiness.

In describing the value of God's Word, the psalmist uses ten different terms for the Word of God. Almost every verse mentions God's Word. In all but 4 of the verses in this psalm he mentions at least one of these terms:

- **Law** – God's Word governs or directs our lives according to His will.
- **Testimony** – God's Word gives us evidence or proof; it is a witness or an acknowledgement of the truth.
- **Precepts** – God's Word gives particular instructions (orders or guidelines).
- **Statute** – God's Word is His decree or order. It has binding force and permanence.

- **Commandment** – God's Word is His directive. It possesses His authority.
- **Judgment** – God's Word is decisive; it is He ruling or ordinances (regulations).
- **Word** – The Bible is the last word on any subject! Every word is God-breathed; it is reliable. God has spoken, therefore it is true.
- **Way or Path** – God's Word shows us the way in which we should live our lives.

God's Word, the Bible, is the only sure guide for living a pure life.

Opening Prayer

Lord, Your Word is a light unto our paths. Thank You for inspiring the writers to write the books contained in our Bibles. Thank You for keeping it from corruption all through the ages. Teach us to value it and to use it. It is the only guide we can count on to show us the way to have a truly happy life. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

By His divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. (2 Peter 1:3)

Lesson

Our verse for today says that God's Word contains everything you need to know. Truly that was what the author of Psalm 119 believed.

God's Word will keep you from sin

Psalm 119:9-11

How can a young person stay pure? By obeying Your word.

I have tried hard to find You—don't let me wander from Your commands. I have hidden Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

We are drowning in a sea of ungodliness. Everywhere we look we find temptation to sin. It seems that almost everywhere you go there are people trying to destroy your belief in God and love for the Lord Jesus—friends at school, people on television, and sometimes even those in your own family. [Teacher, discuss...]

The author of this psalm asks a question that we all should think about: Where can you find the strength and wisdom to live a pure life, pleasing God in all you do? We cannot do this on our own. Is it even possible? Yes! If you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you can go to God's Word when you need help and encouragement.

Once you belong to God by receiving Jesus as your Savior, you need to store God's Word in your heart as a valuable treasure: read it thoughtfully, memorize it consistently and obey it wholeheartedly.

Hiding (or keeping) God's Word in our hearts will keep us from sinning. But memorizing Scripture alone will not keep us from sin; we must allow God's Word to guide everything we do. By remembering God's Word, you can keep every thought you have, every word you say, and everything that you do blameless before God. God's Word will keep you from sin.

God's Word can give you inner strength when you are sad

Psalm 119:28

I weep with sorrow; encourage me by Your word.

Have you ever been so sad inside that you couldn't stop the tears? Perhaps your dad forgot your birthday or your best friend at school betrayed you or someone you really cared about died. Maybe someone made fun of you because of the way you look, or maybe it seems you can never please your parents. No one else may know how deeply you hurt inside, but the sadness inside doesn't seem to go away.

What can you do when you "weep with sorrow"? If you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you can go to God's Word when you need help and encouragement. As you read, you will find promises that are valuable treasures. God will use them to give you strength

inside. As you claim His promises, God will replace your tears of sadness with His comfort and give you inner strength.

God's Word gives you hope

Psalm 119:43

Do not snatch Your word of truth from me, for Your regulations are my only hope.

Wouldn't it be a wonderful world to live in if everyone followed God's regulations? Someday we will live in a world like that when we get to Heaven! There will be no more tears or sorrow there!

Psalm 119:114

You are my refuge and my shield; Your word is my source of hope.

Even after you've received the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you will still have problems—times of suffering and hardship. But you can remember that God always keeps His promises, that will give you hope in times of suffering.

God's Word gives you comfort

Psalm 119:50

Your promise revives me; it comforts me in all my troubles.

Here the psalmist calls God's Word, His "promise." He is saying that it perks him up (or *revives* him) to remember that God always keeps His promises. It refreshes his soul and comforts him in this time of trouble. He knows that what God has said in His Word will remain the same. God will never change His mind.

God has accepted you because of the Lord Jesus Christ, and He will always love and care for you. God's Word gives comfort during hard times.

God's Word guides you along life's path

Everyday we should read God's Word and look for the treasures God has for you. He has big nuggets of gold in His Word just waiting for you to find – words of wisdom and encouragement.

Psalm 119:72

Your instructions are more valuable to me than millions in gold and silver.

God's Word is not only like a valuable treasure, it's also like a treasure map, showing you how to find out what God wants you to do for Him. When you need to make a decision, God doesn't send angels with special messages or call long distance from heaven. Instead He has written us a letter of instruction that lights the path ahead—as you and I read and obey the Bible, God will show us step-by-step the right thing to do.

He will use His Word to show you if you've gotten off the path by making a wrong decision. And through His Word, God will show you how to avoid dangers on the path—falling into Satan's traps of sin. When you have a decision to make and you don't know what to do, you can go to God's Word for help and encouragement. God has promised to use His Word to guide you.

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

To walk safely in the woods at night we need a light so we don't trip over tree roots or fall into holes. In this life, we walk through a dark forest of evil. But the Bible can be our light to show us the way ahead so we won't stumble as we walk. It is important for us to study the Bible so we will be able to see our way clear enough to stay on the right path of life.

Psalm 119:130

The teaching of Your word gives light, so even the simple can understand.

God has given us Ten Commandments—ten easy-to-understand rules for life that even a child can understand. God hasn't made it hard for us to please Him. (Do not have any gods but Me, Do not worship idols', Keep God's name holy, Set aside a special day for God, Honor your father and mother, Do not murder, Be true to your husband or wife, Do not steal, Do not lie, and Do not to want what others have.) God's Word gives you directions for how to live a godly life.

Psalm 119:133

Guide my steps by Your word, so I will not be overcome by evil.

God's Word gives you peace

Psalm 119:165

Those who love Your instructions have great peace and do not stumble.

God promises "great peace" to those who love the Bible. Many people today are trying to find peace—a quietness and calmness inside, but they're looking in the wrong places. Perhaps you know people who take drugs, drink alcohol, or smoke cigarettes to "calm their nerves." Others may think new toys or clothes will make them feel better inside. Can you think of other things people do to find peace? (For example, run away from home; watch hours of TV; think about suicide). Only God can give you true peace that lasts forever. As you show your love for God's Word by reading it each day, you will find the valuable treasure of peace.

Let's pray and thank God for the treasure of His Word.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for inspiring the authors of Your Word to write down Your plans and directions for our lives. Help us to love Your word and to value it as a treasure chest full of gold and silver. Help us to use Your Word as a light to show us the way to live our lives in a way that is pleasing to You. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Craft Corner

Make a poster using all the terms for God's Word. Supply the kids with lots of various art supplies and poster board.

Game Center

Let It Shine!

(Psalm 119:105 -- Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path)

Before class hide a "treasure" (a toy or snack) in the room. Then turn the lights off and try to make it as dark as possible in the room. Then have the children try to find the "treasure." Kind of hard, isn't it? Try again, this time using a flashlight.

Life without God is like living in the dark. When you study the Bible, you can learn what God's Word says about the choices you have to make. It's like having a light in the darkness.

Or, use the following questions in a game or discussion of your choice:

Review questions:

1. What is it that almost every verse in Psalm 119 mentions? (God's Word.)
2. Why is the Bible such a great treasure? (It's God's Word. God speaks to us through His Word.)
3. What are some of the things that God tells us in His Word? (He loves us and will never leave us; He tells us how we can belong to the One who created the universe. It tells us about how we can receive God's free gift of everlasting life.)

4. How can we have real happiness in life? (If we stay true to God and His Word no matter how bad the world becomes.)
5. In describing the value of God's Word, the psalmist uses ten different terms for the Word of God. How many different ones can you name? (Law, Testimony, Precepts, Statutes, Commandments, Judgments, Word, Way or Path.)
6. Where can you find the strength and wisdom to live a pure life, pleasing God in all you do? (You can go to God's Word when you need help and encouragement.)
7. Why is it important to memorize God's Word? (Hiding God's Word in your hearts will keep you from sinning.)
8. What can you do when you are so sad inside that you can't top the tears? (Go to God's Word. You will find promises from God that will give you strength inside.)
9. What does it mean to meditate on God's Word? (To ponder, to think deeply about, to consider.)
10. What are some of God's promises that He makes to us in His Word? (God loves us and has a wonderful plan for our lives! Someday we will get to go to Heaven! God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins! We can have joy inside because we know that He keeps His promises!)
11. What revived the psalmists—what perked him up? (Knowing that God keeps His promises, He never changes His mind.)
12. Why is it important to study the Bible? (So we will be able to see our way clear enough to stay on the right path of life.)
13. How many of the Ten Commandments can you name? (Do not have any gods but Me, Do not worship idols', Keep God's name holy, Set aside a special day for God, Honor your father and mother, Do not murder, Be true to your husband or wife, Do not steal, Do not lie, and Do not to want what others have.)
14. What are some things people do to find "peace" in life? (drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, buy toys or clothes, watch hours of TV, etc.)