

Go Deeper this Week

Monday - Ephesians 6:10-17

Do you remember sword drills in children’s Sunday school? We’d raise our bible’s over our head until the teacher called out a passage. The first to turn to the passage won the drill. The bible is called the sword of the Spirit. It is the only offensive weapon in the spiritual armor of a believer. It is our critical tool, God’s word to us, to fend off the attack of the enemy. The problem is that we forget who our enemy is. Many people misuse the bible as a club to beat others into submission. But Scripture itself reminds us that our enemy isn’t flesh and blood…but the powers of evil in the unseen world. God’s word is vital in the life of a believer. We should know it well and utilize it well so that we may stand strong in the LORD. ”

*Pray: God of Heaven, thank you for your word. Help me know it well, apply it well in my life, and use it well to fend off the enemy.*

Tuesday - Hebrews 4:12-13

Have you ever watched a butcher cut meat? Through training and a really sharp knife they precisely and effortlessly cut to and even through bone. The writer of Hebrews compares the Scripture to that sharp knife. The truth shared in Scripture cuts deep…through the masks, the lies, the defenses we use to pretend we’re good. It cuts to the soul. Many of us run from the word. But these masterful cuts beautifully expose our greatest need. We need God’s forgiveness, grace, and hope. And God’s word, even as it exposes it also reveals the Good News that grace and forgiveness is God’s free gift to us. May we not fear the word, but eagerly dive in. May we allow God’s word to cut to the core…and bring wonderful healing and wholeness

*Pray: Loving God, your word hurts when it exposes. Help me not run but dive in and find that it wonderfully heals and refreshes*

Wednesday - Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Some jewish people took this passage literally. They tied bits of Scripture text to their foreheads and wrists. They embedded them in their doorframe. Whether God expected a literal application or not misses the point. God commands us to pass down God’s word to future generations. We do so not just by teaching knowledge but demonstrating its truth. We should wear God’s word and display it through all we discuss and do. It should identify our home…just like a house number (on a doorframe). Is God’s word that vital to you? Do others hear God through the way you live? What could change?

*Pray: Holy Spirit, help me so come to know and grow in God’s word that I live it out boldly and loudly for all to see.*

Thursday - Matthew 19:1-12

Were Adam and Eve real? Honestly, its a fair question. Modern science presents a strong case for at least some degree of evolution. No one has conclusive proof. We have varying degrees of evidence and a lot of faith. But what about Jesus? This passage is important not only for what it teaches about human sexuality and marriage, but also how Jesus teaches. Jesus references Adam & Eve’s creation and relationship. For Jesus, Adam and Eve are real and definitely matter. We are challenged as Jesus followers with what we will believe. We can not prove the creation story. But we don’t have to. We don’t believe because of evidence. We believe because Jesus did. What Jesus teaches, we believe…whether its human sexuality, marriage, service, love or even Adam & Eve.

*Pray: LORD Jesus, may I follow you with all my heart, mind, and will. What you believe may I come to trust and live.*

Friday - Acts 17:10-12

We know better than to talk religion or politics. Throughout history, those are fighting words. Paul experienced a lot of opposition as he sought to share the Gospel throughout the known world. But his early experience in Berea was different. Instead of fighting Paul, the Bereans were curious. They explored the Scriptures together to determine if what Paul was sharing was true. We witness talking heads screaming past each other on our televisions. And now the fight is in many churches. Maybe we could show the world something different if we dive into God’s word together. We stand in a long line of Jesus followers who share in the conversation. As we explore God’s word as its been heard throughout the ages, we learn how to not fight but be truly noble and open-minded. May we be curious, not fighting but exploring God’s word together.

*Pray: Holy Spirit, call us together with all the Church through all the ages, to hear and learn what God says through eternal God’s word.*

Saturday - Psalm 119:105

We take light for granted. I once did a night-hike. This was a guided hike in the dark of night through the woods…with only the moonlight to guide us. It is amazing what we can see with artificial light. This experience helped me appreciate a flashlight. Light makes the path so much easier to see. The word of God is that light for our paths. We ignore it at our own risk and peril. May you dive into God’s word today and come to see like never before!

*Pray: Loving God, thank you for your word that is a light to my feet. Help me listen, learn, and take each step of life in faith and trust!*

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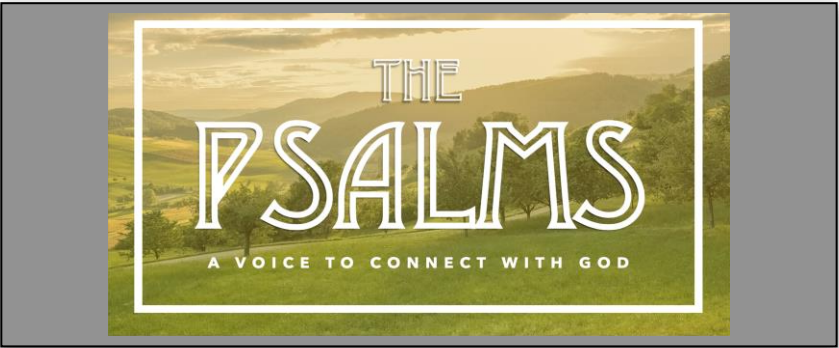
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Today’s Scripture - Psalm 119

א Aleph  
1 Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,  
who walk according to the law of the Lord.  
2 Blessed are those who keep his statutes  
and seek him with all their heart—  
3 they do no wrong  
but follow his ways.  
4 You have laid down precepts  
that are to be fully obeyed.  
5 Oh, that my ways were steadfast  
in obeying your decrees!  
6 Then I would not be put to shame  
when I consider all your commands.  
7 I will praise you with an upright heart  
as I learn your righteous laws.  
8 I will obey your decrees;  
do not utterly forsake me.  
ב Beth  
9 How can a young person stay on the path of purity?  
By living according to your word.  
10 I seek you with all my heart;  
do not let me stray from your commands.  
11 I have hidden your word in my heart  
that I might not sin against you.  
12 Praise be to you, Lord;  
teach me your decrees.  
13 With my lips I recount  
all the laws that come from your mouth.  
14 I rejoice in following your statutes  
as one rejoices in great riches.  
15 I meditate on your precepts  
and consider your ways.  
16 I delight in your decrees;  
I will not neglect your word.  
ג Taw  
169 May my cry come before you, Lord;  
give me understanding according to your word.  
170 May my supplication come before you;  
deliver me according to your promise.  
171 May my lips overflow with praise,  
for you teach me your decrees.  
172 May my tongue sing of your word,  
for all your commands are righteous.  
173 May your hand be ready to help me,  
for I have chosen your precepts.  
174 I long for your salvation, Lord,  
and your law gives me delight.  
175 Let me live that I may praise you,  
and may your laws sustain me.  
176 I have strayed like a lost sheep.  
Seek your servant, for I have not forgotten your commands.



Week 5  
Psalm 119

When the word, and not the world,  
becomes the majority of your week,  
your life will begin to change

Write down what you hear God saying to you:

Further Conversation

1. When during the day or week do you most often engage with God’s Word? How challenging is it to maintain a consistent appointed time?
2. **Read vs. 1-16.** As you listen to it, what big ideas stand out to you?
3. **Vs 1-2** What does “blessed” mean in these verses? How are we blessed? Why are we blessed, according to these verses? How have you found this to be true in your life – that following God’s way is what brings delight (v.16)?
4. How would you explain the dynamic that our growth as Christians is a combination of us depending on God for His help and us determining to follow God with all that we are? How do these two things work together in this passage, and how do they work together in your life?
5. When you read your Bible, does it give you delight? If not, why not? If so, can you describe what that delight is like?
6. **v. 13** When was the last time you spoke God’s Word to someone—or to yourself? What would change in your relationships if you talked more about what God says?
7. **v. 15** What does it mean to choose your thoughts carefully and intentionally?

This Week’s Prayer Partner

God works in so many ways in our community and across the globe. Every month, Tabernacle commits to pray for our ministry partners. Please consider sending a note, a donation, or joining their team.

**Room At The Inn**  
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Live Generously

Generosity is a step of faith. If you are visiting, we welcome you and hope you enjoy your experience. If you call Tabernacle your church home, we encourage you to support the ministry with your tithes & gifts. Offering baskets are placed at each entrance door during our 9AM Service. Offering plates are passed at our 11AM Service. You can also give online with this **QR code**.

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