

TREASURING THE WORD: CULTIVATING A LOVE FOR SCRIPTURE

PSALM 119

Read This First

Learn how to cultivate a love for Scripture and overcome our society's "Word Crisis."

Psalm 119 shows us practical insights on how to treasure God's Word.

Relate to It

If possible, before your group meets together, contact a few people and ask them to bring a treasured item to class. Ask the following:

1) What item did you bring? Why do you consider it valuable/treasured?

Ask the entire group:

2) The Psalmist considered God's Word his treasure (v. 72, 103, 129, 162). Before this week's study, how would you describe your relationship with the Bible?

Reflect on It

1. Make a chart with two columns: Benefits and Responsibilities. Using Psalm 119 and the New Testament cross-references, work together to fill in the chart.

Ask the following questions:

- Did anything surprise you?

- Did the Hebrew definitions help you understand any of these words better?

Which ones? What did you learn?

2. LeAnne gave you an alphabetical list to help you reflect on your reading. Let's discuss each of these a little more.

A -- Analyze Our Attitude: Did you find that you could use some of those words to describe your attitude toward Scripture? If not, how do they apply to your life?

B -- Break Old Thought Patterns: Describe your typical "First Thought" or "First Thing" regarding difficult circumstances you might encounter.

C -- Claim His Promises: What promises did you find this week that you can claim?

D -- Declare it to Others: How do you declare God's Word? Share examples with the group. How might we encourage one another to do this more?

3. George Barna said:

Biblical literacy is neither a current reality nor a goal in the United States of America. . . . Bible reading has become the religious equivalent of sound-bite journalism. When people read from the Bible they typically open it, read a brief passage without much regard for the context, and consider the primary thought or feeling that the passage provided. If they are comfortable with it, they accept it; otherwise, they deem it interesting but irrelevant to their life, and move on. There is shockingly little growth evident in people's understanding of the fundamental themes of the scriptures and amazingly little interest in deepening their knowledge and application of biblical principles.

Is Biblical literacy important? Why?

What challenges do you face in cultivating your love for and knowledge of Scripture?

4. As a group, view the You Tube video entitled "Treasuring God's Word."

Remember It

If your group is larger than six, break down into smaller groups (no more than five or six in one group.) Then do the following:

1. Pair up so you can say your memory verses to one another. Explain why you chose that particular verse.
2. Discuss what you learned about God.
3. Pray for one another.