

# HIS STORY. YOUR STORY.

## WEEK 5: GOD'S WORD

### LISTENING TO THE AUTHOR OF LIFE



**IDEA:** We need to know God's Word in order to obey His Word.

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 28 & Sunday, March 3

**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 19:7-11

### ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME GUESTS

**PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAISES:** Pass around the prayer notebook and include any updates.

### OPENING QUESTION

What is something you never leave home without?

*After some answers, hold up a water bottle and share that many people do not go anywhere without their water bottle. They now sell all sorts of water bottles to keep your water cold throughout the day; water bottles to show how much to drink each day and when. A fight actually broke out at a Starbucks over the new pink Stanley cup at Christmastime!*

[ WATCH VIDEO ]

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What may intimidate you or keep you from studying the Bible?

What are the dangers of misusing the Bible? How can we guard ourselves from these mistakes?

### SCRIPTURE READING

#### **Psalm 19:7-11 (NIV)**

The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.

<sup>8</sup> The precepts of the LORD are right,  
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,  
giving light to the eyes.

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever.  
The decrees of the LORD are firm,  
and all of them are righteous.  
<sup>10</sup> They are more precious than gold,  
than much pure gold;  
they are sweeter than honey,  
than honey from the honeycomb.  
<sup>11</sup> By them your servant is warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

## SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Circle all the attributes of God's word in this passage. **Have people call them out.**

Circle all the benefits of God's word. **Have people call them out.**

What does this passage teach us about God? (possible answers: God is wise and can be trusted; it shows how much He loves us that He gives us these commands; He is our Lord and Leader and we are to obey Him.)

What does the passage teach us about humanity? (possible answers: We are naturally prone to sin and to wander; we need laws to help guide us in life; they are for our benefit)

## APPLICATION EXERCISE

**Memorize Scripture together.** Today you will go home having memorized a verse! This is the most important thing to take with you wherever you go. Remember, we need to know God's word in order to obey God's Word.

Hebrews 10:23 (NIV) "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."

Write Hebrews 10:23 on the board. Have them write it out. Practice saying it out loud. Then cover parts of the verse as you recite it together. Then have them write just the first letter of each word (L U H U T T H W P, F H W P I F) and using that as a prompt have them say it to a neighbor. Then try reciting it without the prompt.

**CHALLENGE:** Recite and meditate on Hebrews 10:23 every day, throughout the day. Write it on a post-it for your mirror, on an index card or as a screen saver on your phone. Some people make up hand motions to go along with verses or listen to the verse set to music to aid in memorization.

## READING PLAN

**3/3:** Day 29 **3/4:** Day 30 **3/5:** Day 31 **3/6:** Day 32 **3/7:** Day 33 **3/8:** Day 34 **3/9:** Day 35

## COMMENTARY

Psalm 19 is a poetic meditation on the meaning of human life in God's creation. It has three sections: the first one celebrates the glory of God revealed in the heavens, the second one praises the perfection of God's law, and the third one confesses the sinfulness of human beings and asks for God's forgiveness and protection. Psalm 19 affirms that God's creation and word are sources of wisdom and joy for those who seek him.

The Psalm praises the Lord for His two great gifts to humanity: creation and the law. To use modern terminology, the psalm speaks of God's great revelation in nature and His special revelation in Scripture.

**19:7-11** The law, God's special revelation, reflects the character of its author. Different names are used for the law, synonyms that point to the whole of God's special revelation to humanity.

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy,...

**law.** Torah, the most general term for the law.

**reviving the soul.** God's Word transforms the lives of those subject to that Word.

**making wise.** Wisdom is not superior intellectual power. God's Word instills reverence for God.

At verse 11 the focus of the Psalm turns abruptly to the realities of human life in a sinful and fallen world. Not only are the words of the law sweet as honey, but "by them is your servant warned." The law of the Lord doesn't merely enlighten us, it also confronts human sin and warns us of its dangers.