

Activate Group Resource for 21 October – The Foundations of God’s Word – Part 3 (Ps 119:33-48)

Big Idea:

The power of God’s Word to transform us in real and obvious ways.

Psalm 119:17-24 (NLT)

“Teach me your decrees, O Lord; I will keep them to the end. Give me understanding and I will obey your instructions; I will put them into practice with all my heart. Make me walk along the path of your commands, for that is where my happiness is found. Give me an eagerness for your laws rather than a love for money! Turn my eyes from worthless things, and give me life through your word. Reassure me of your promise, made to those who fear you. Help me abandon my shameful ways; for your regulations are good. I long to obey your commandments! Renew my life with your goodness.”

Key Points:

This section of the Psalm is focussed on the practical application of God’s Word and the way it can lead and guide our lives.

Each verse uses a different word to describe God’s direction for our lives - so we have *decrees, instructions, commands, laws, word, promise, regulations and commandments*. Then the psalmist has different words for what he is asking of God - so we read *teach me, give me understanding, make me walk, give me an eagerness for, turn my eyes, reassure me, help me, renew me*.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) How can God’s word give us a revelation of who God is?
- 2) Discuss: “if we have a heart that understands God’s ways, that has a revelation of who he is and how much he loves us, then that will affect every part of our lives - in a really good and healthy way?”
- 3) How can choosing God’s way, be a choice for true happiness and fulfilment? In what ways is it counter cultural?
- 4) What does it mean to follow God’s wisdom rather than the attraction of money (v34)?
- 5) What promises have you received from God? Are there any that you are struggling to trust God for (vv38,39)?

Application:

So what are these laws, commands, decrees and instructions that we should long to obey?

Well fortunately it’s not the hundreds of commands the Jews had to try and keep. As followers of Jesus it’s much more simple and clear - although not necessarily easier to do!

“Jesus replied, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:37-40 NLT