

PSALM 119

SESSION 7:

PSALM 119:121-136

Quick Start



READ

Take some time in advance to read and consider the Bible study questions and come up with personal examples to encourage discussion.



PRINT

Before meeting, make enough copies of this session's handout for your entire group. The handouts came with your download.



WATCH

Make sure everyone can see the screen and the audio is at a comfortable level.

Note: For more detailed information, please see the How to Use The Leader's Guide document.

PSALM 119

OPEN

Have you ever been so excited about something that you couldn't resist telling someone about it right away? (an acceptance letter for college, a positive pregnancy test, a clear medical examination, etc.)

What caused your excitement? How did it feel to share it with someone else?

In today's session, we're going to take a look at David's desire to see the lost world around him embrace the Lord. Having come to know God, David longs for others to know that good news. We'll spend our time today talking about how God's grace is not meant to stop with us, but He intends for it to overflow from our lives to influence those around us.

READ

Read 119:121-136.

WATCH

Show Session 7: Psalm 119:121-136 (8:45 minutes)

DISCUSS

Now that we're a little over halfway through this series, let's start off our time this week with a refresher on what we know about Psalm 119.

Who is its author? (King David)

What is the theme of the psalm? (The importance of keeping God's Word primary in our lives)

What makes it unique to the rest of the psalms? (It's the longest chapter in the Bible, but it's also an alphabet acrostic where the first line of every 8-line stanza begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet.)

PSALM 119

In this session, we're going to meet David in a dark time as he describes the difficulties facing him, but we're also going to see him model for us a healthy way of responding during those times. Someone read verses 121–128.

How does David describe himself in verses 122, 124, and 125? (A “servant” of God)

How does David describe the world around him (vs. 121–122, 126)? (Oppressive, insolent, and disobedient to God's law)

What desire did Matt say characterizes David in this passage? (A desire to be used by God in the lives of others)

Matt briefly shared his story of coming to know Christ in order to emphasize the change that occurs within us all to be used by God. The Holy Spirit transforms our hearts so that we desire to know and obey God's Word and to be used by Him in the lives of those around us.

In what ways can you relate to the passion Matt described having experienced after his conversion?

Who in your life has God burdened your heart with a hope to see them come to Christ?

Where do you desire for God to use you for His purposes today?

Scripture makes it clear that all Christians should have a concern for the salvation and welfare of those God has placed around us, but it is easy for this kind of conversation to prompt guilt and shame within us. If we seek to minister to the lost in our lives from a place of guilt and shame, we will end up exhausted and disappointed. In the following stanza, David helps us understand what motivates sustained obedience. Someone read verses 129–136.

What does Matt identify as David's two motivations for being used by God?

1. A love for God
2. A love for other people

PSALM 119

Which verses stand out to you as demonstrating a love for God on the part of David?

How does David demonstrate a loving concern for the lost? (Verse 136 is the clearest where he says that his “eyes shed steams of tears, because people do not keep your law.”)

Go Deeper

Learn more about how to love the lost from the following passages:

Luke 19:41–44; Acts 17:16–34; Rom. 1:18–32

How do Jesus and Paul react to the lost around them? (Jesus weeps and Paul is stirred to witness to them.)

Who is Paul writing about in Romans 1:18–32? (Those who have rejected God)

How does he speak to that same group of people in Acts 17:22–34? (With patience, grace, and knowledge of their culture)

How should the models of Jesus and Paul inform the way you view and interact with the lost?

People do not come to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior through angry tirades about their behavior. We have to be able to speak truthfully within the church about sin and its effects (as Paul does in Romans 1:18–32), but we also have to be able to serve those caught in sin with grace and compassion, as Christ did for us.

As Matt said, our impulse today is to react with anger and emotion rather than giving people the benefit of the doubt. Far too often, Christians today are marked by anger rather than love for one another and a desire for the lost to come to know Christ.

How to you tend to react to the brokenness of the world?

What are your relationships like with those who do not have a relationship with Jesus? What are some of the obstacles that keep you from greater compassion for the lost?

As we said before, this begins at the level of motivation. Guilt and shame are not sustainable motivations. The same can be said for hate and anger. We are called to be a people marked by sacrificial love and a desire for all to come to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

PSALM 119

How should that change the way you view verse 128 and other passages in the Bible that speak of “hating” sin and sinful ways? (What we see in this psalm is that David hates sin, but desires for sinners to see the beauty of God and His Word.)

Despite the brokenness of the world, God has a plan. Men and women around the world remain trapped in sin, but as Matt said, “God’s big plan is to send us right into the mess to herald the good news of the gospel.” We are all witnesses of His saving work and He desires to use us as messengers of His good news to those around us.

Throughout this passage, David clearly hates sin, but also desires to see the world around him redeemed. **What are some of the areas in your life where God has placed you around those who do not know Him?** (workplace, school, neighborhood, etc.)

How has God given you opportunities to bear witness to the lost? In what ways do you need to grow in your compassion for those who do not have a relationship with Christ?

While we are called to engage the brokenness of the world with the light of Christ, we also need God’s protection as we do so because we will face the temptation to return to our former ways.

How have you experienced the temptation to return to former ways around those who do not know Christ? What would doing so communicate about your faith?

Where do you need God’s protection today?

LAST WORD

As Matt said, God’s grace is not meant to terminate on us, but to overflow to others. At times, that will come to us naturally whereas other times it will take intentionality. Either way, we are called as Christians to shine the light of Christ in all that we do and say.

Take some time this week to consider where God has placed you and what opportunities He has provided for you to share the grace you have received with those who do not know Christ. Ask Him to create conversations and protect you from any temptation to return to your former life.

PSALM 119

LIVE IT OUT

Pray: Ask the Lord to give you opportunities this week to share with those around you the good news of Jesus Christ. Pray that He would protect you from temptation in those times as well.

Proclaim: As God gives you opportunities, be intentional about speaking the gospel to those around you who do not yet know Jesus.

Confess: As a result of this session, if the Holy Spirit has convicted you of a lack of compassion for the lost around you, bring that to light and confess it to God. Ask Him to give you a heart that breaks for the lost and a desire for them to know Christ.

Forgive: If you struggle to love those who do not know Christ because of bitterness in you toward someone that has hurt you, take steps to forgiving that person and ask God to remove that bitterness and replace it with compassion for the lost.

Serve: Identify a need you can meet in your neighborhood, workplace, or community and consider ways in which you can meet it. At some point this week, use the gifts and resources God has given you to serve that need as an expression of your belief in Christ.