



JULY 27 - AUGUST 1, 2020
SESSION 6: PSALM 119:97-120

HOMEWORK (one hour of your choice)

OPENING THOUGHTS

What is your favourite food? What was it like the first time you had it?
What keeps you coming back for more of it today?

We all have different appetites, but we can all relate to tasting something delicious and craving it again at a later date. David describes the Word of God in these terms in our session today, likening it to sweet honey in his mouth. We're going to spend our time focusing on what it means to develop a consistent appetite for God's Word.

READ

Psalm 119:97-120

WATCH

Session 6 Video (19 minutes)

ANSWER

(DISCUSSION PREP)

Sometimes when we read the Bible, we don't take the time to try and relate to the people described. But like Matt said, David provides a relatable model in this psalm and others due to his honesty about the constant ebb and flow that we see in his relationship with God.

What are some of the ways you have been able to relate to David throughout this study?

Our walk with Christ is a journey that comes with highs and lows. As Matt has said previously, all of us will experience suffering along the way, though Christ remains present with us always.

How would you describe your relationship with Christ today? How do the verses we're studying in this session encourage you to be honest with the Lord about your circumstances?

Verses 97–104.

This stanza begins with David describing his consuming love for God’s Word. He describes it as his “meditation all the day,” meaning as he goes about his kingly duties, he’s constantly thinking on the Word of God. Then, in the following verses, he explains what fuels that love.

Who have you known to have a similar love for God’s Word?

Would you describe yourself as having this level of love for God’s Word? Why or why not?

What would change about the way you go about your life if God’s Word became your “meditation all the day” the way it was for David?

One of the fruits of remaining near to God by abiding in His Word is a growing understanding of what is good and what is false. But this growth doesn’t simply happen by itself. We have to be intentional about pursuing it. Like Matt said, though we should seek out teachers to help us better understand God’s Word, we must also be committed to a personal devotion to Scripture under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

What do you find most challenging about a personal study of God’s Word?

Based on your current routines, what are some of the intentional ways you attempt to grow in your understanding through Scripture? What could you do to be more intentional in the weeks ahead?

God’s Word is more than simply words recorded on a page. It is living and active, deepening our understanding of the heart of God, and teaching us how to live wisely. It also sustains us in times of difficulty and uncertainty.

Verses 105–112.

Matt explained the three ways that God’s Word sustains us are, 1) it offers clarity to our uncertainty, 2) it gives us hope in our suffering, and 3) it cultivate joy rather than merely happiness.

How has God’s Word been a “lamp” for you the way David describes in verse 105? How did it provide clarity in a time of uncertainty?

***How did you react to Matt's comments about living with an open hand on your life?
What does it mean to live with an "open-handedness"?***

What are some areas of your life where you struggle to live with this kind of open-handedness? How would your life look different if you were able to?

While it is important for believers to cultivate a discipline of studying God's Word, we must never fall into treating it as an end in and of itself. The goal of Scripture is to point beyond itself, namely, to the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Verses 113–120.

God's Word leads us into greater intimacy with Christ, but it also teaches us to fear God—a topic many find both unsettling and confusing today.

***How do you tend to react to the idea of "fearing" God?
What does that look like for you?***

What did Matt say were the benefits of this kind of good fear?

How would your life look different if you were to walk in a biblical fear of God? How will you pursue that end in the days ahead?

LIVE IT OUT

Pray: Each day this week, ask God to deepen your love for His Word and cause you to grow closer to Christ as a result.

Evaluate: Take inventory of your attitude toward God's Word and evaluate whether or not you have the same affection as David describes throughout Psalm 119. Ask God to create a love within you for His Word wherever needed.

Surrender: If the Holy Spirit has convicted you of any areas of your life where you are not living with an open hand, surrender those to the Lord today and trust Him to be sufficient for you.

Ask: If you struggle with understanding how to study and meditate on Scripture, reach out to a believer you know who practices this discipline well and ask him or her to teach you.

Serve: If studying God's Word is something you do well, look for ways to help those who struggle grow in their ability to study and understand Scripture.

GROUP MEETING

Zoom (Saturday, August 1, 9-10pm)

