

SESSION 6

LEAD IT: MENTOR/COFFEE HOUSE



GOALS

- For students to learn powerful characteristics of God's Word.
- For students to learn the promises that come with loving and obeying the Word of God.
- For students to have the opportunity to examine the role God's Word currently plays in their individual lives and be challenged to want to know and obey it in greater ways.

MATERIALS: Group

- Variety of colored pencils

MATERIALS: Each Student

- Student journal pages
- Scripture sheet, Psalm 119
- A Bible
- A pen

Open

After grabbing your coffee, open your time with a quick pop quiz about the Bible. Students can only be expected to know the first question. The rest are wild guesses. Ask students to write their answers on their journal pages. Reward the person who guesses closest to the correct answer.

How many books are in the Bible?

66 (OT: 39; NT: 27)

Wild guess: How many chapters are in the Bible?

1,189 (KJV)

Wild guess: How many verses are in the Bible?

31,102 (KJV)

Wild guess: Approximately how long would it take you to Tweet the Bible if you were to send a Tweet a day?
63.6 years, based on 3,253,301 characters with spaces in the Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament.¹

After your trivia time, share the following in your own words:

The Word of God is a gift. Inside God's book are the keys to His promises. Have you ever tried to play a new game without first reading the instructions? It's nearly impossible. All the pieces, without instructions, create chaos. The same is true with life. Life is an intricate game, with many different working parts. The key to all these parts exists inside the Word of God. God doesn't intend for us to wander through life not knowing fully which way we are going. He has plans for us. These plans are hidden in His Word.

Transition into your study time with a story of how the Word of God has made a difference in your life, or share in general the importance of God's Word to you personally. You may also want to swap stories about a time when not listening to the Word of God proved to be destructive.

DIGGING IN

Together take out your Psalm 119 Scripture sheet and at least two colored pencils. You are going to spend some personal time reading through all of these verses, which are selections from Psalm 119. Before students begin reading, have them create a symbol to use when marking synonyms for the Word of God. A good symbol for this might be an open book. Make sure you mark synonyms for the Bible, such as “statues” and “law.”

After students have finished making their way through the psalm, call for their attention and discuss what they discovered.

Ask:

Take a minute to look over your markings and list under the heading on your journal page five descriptions of God’s Word that most grab your attention.

After a couple minutes, ask students to share their top two or three descriptions of God’s Word and explain why these resonated with them. Below is a list of possible descriptions.

God’s Word:

Keeps us from sinning (v. 11)

Is our counselor (v. 24)

Is more precious than money (v. 72)

Is righteous (v. 75)

All of it is trustworthy (v. 86)

It’s eternal/it stands firm (v. 89)

It endures to this day (v. 91)

It makes me wiser than my enemies (v. 98)

It gives understanding/makes me hate the wrong path (v. 104)

It’s a lamp/a light – shows me the way (v. 105)

It’s wonderful (v. 129)

It gives understanding to the simple (v. 130)

It’s been thoroughly tested (v. 140)

It’s true (v. 142)

Now ask students the following questions:

How would you describe the relationship the writer of the psalm had with the Word of God?

Was the Word of God boring to Him? Did he feel like it was a chore to read his “Bible”? Why do you think He liked it so much?

Obviously the Bible didn’t exist as we have it today. What is the psalmist likely referring to when writing of “the law” and “statutes” and “word”?

Explain that the Hebrew word for “law” is Torah, which is not only the 10 Commandments but the ordinances and statutes found in the first five books of the Old Testament. However it is most likely that the psalmist is referring to God’s wisdom in general. You’ll note that “law” is not translated with an uppercase “L” as it would if it was referring to the Law of Moses.

According to the psalm, what are the benefits or promises that come with knowing and loving the Word of God?

Invite students to write these in the appropriate space on their journal page as they are shared.

Below is a list of possible promises and benefits.

Promises:

You’re blessed if you walk according to it (v. 1)

You’re blessed if you keep His statutes (v. 2)

If we meditate on it, we’ll be wiser than our teachers (v. 99)

If we obey it, we’ll have more understanding than our elders (v. 100)

If we love it, we’ll have great peace (v. 165)

If we love it, nothing will make us stumble (v. 165)

Share in your own words:

The best way to find out about God is through studying His Word. It is great to have teachers, pastors, parents and friends who share with us about what God is like, but to read and hear for ourselves takes it to an entirely new level.

Then discuss the following questions:

Have you ever felt like you heard God speak to you through the Word?

Did He speak anything to you through the passage we just read? If so, what was it?

Do you trust what you are reading and hearing?

What does the life of someone who trusts the Word of God look like?

Would you describe yourself as someone who knows the Bible?

If not, what might be keeping you from knowing and trusting the Word?

CROSS-CHECKING

Invite your group to read through the following passages together. You may want to divvy out the verses equally and have each student read passages out loud to the group.

Matthew 22:29

Colossians 3:16

Luke 6:47-49

1 Peter 1:23-25

Matthew 13:23

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Hebrews 4:12

TAKING IT INWARD

After you have finished reading through these passages discuss the following questions. Take your time working your way through these three questions. The idea is for your students to come out with one practical step and practice applying the Word of God to their lives.

Which passage stuck out the most to you?

Why do you think this passage grabbed your attention?

What do you think God might be saying through this passage?

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE

You might point out that two key themes show up in Psalm 119: knowing God's Word and obeying God's Word. Brainstorm as a group how you might personalize these two key themes.

Obeying God's Word – Certain phrases key you in on what we are to do with God's Word: *walk according to (v. 1), keep (v. 2), obey (v. 100, 129), follow (v. 106)*. Think of some activities that follow a command or instruction in the Bible, such as helping the hungry, the poor, or the sick. Spend a couple minutes brainstorming how you can obey these instructions.

Knowing God's Word – Work together to develop a plan that would motivate students to personally study the Word of God. Here are some suggestions to get the ideas flowing:

Continue in Psalms:

Since they've already gotten a jump start in the book of psalms maybe they will want to continue reading one psalm every morning.

Read the Red:

A "red-letter edition" of the Bible is a Bible with Jesus' words printed in red. Pick up one of these Bibles and simply read Jesus's words, which by themselves, would make up a small booklet.

Own a Chapter:

Become your family's authority on one of the Bible's heavier chapters like Romans 12, 1 John 4, Colossians 1, Ephesians 3 or even a one-chapter book like Jude or 2, 3 John.

Share in your own words:

As you can see in just the little time we spent in the Word, the value is exponential. Partnered with the power of the Holy Spirit God has given you the ability to walk confidently in this world. The secret is finding it and applying it.

Before you close your time together and end your last lesson in the *One on One with God* series, ask your students to share one thing they have learned these past six weeks that has changed the way they know God.

Source for Wild Guess answers: http://amazingbibletimeline.com/bible_questions/q10_bible_facts_statistics/ Last accessed July 9, 2015.