CRAVE SESSION 1: The Word on the Word

The verses on these pages represent a simple journey through Scripture, a few touchpoints that chronicle what God's Word says about God's Word. To slow down and ingest the detail, consider these prompts.

1. FIND A SPOT

Print off these pages (if convenient), find a quiet place, a place that can serve as your "go-to spot" for solitude for this Crave exercise. After you settle into your spot, breathe a prayer that goes something like this: *Ahhhhhhhhhh…OK, God. I'm listening.*

2. OBSERVE

As you see in these passages references to God's Word or words (words like "commands," "decrees," "precepts," etc.), take a moment to interact with what you see:

- Use a symbol (like a book) or a special color to highlight these references.
- Then underline or highlight any descriptions of the Word or any actions related to the Word.
- Write in a separate journal (notebook, e-doc, or the two-page worksheet included in this document) anything you sense that God is showing you or teaching you about His Word from these passages.

3. PROCESS

Looking at what you've marked or highlighted, journal anything from these passages that answers the questions below. Answers might rock your world a bit. (You'll also find these questions in the two-page worksheet included.)

What does the Word do in me? | What am I called to do with the Word? | How is the Word described? Why should I pay attention to it? | What is God showing me? | What does He want me to learn?

4. TAKE AWAY

Write what most made you go "wow!" Or, here's a nice closing prayer to breathe: *God, what's next?*

FURTHER INSIGHT

Don't limit your study to these questions and prompts. And by the way, these verses are just a "starter set" of passages from God's Word that speak of God's Word. With some creative searching, you can find many more.

A WORD ON "THE WORD"

Obviously references to God's Word in this exercise refer to different forms of God's Word in different eras (i.e., written words, spoken words, the message of the Gospel). In His providence, God has collected the history of His revelation for us in the Holy Scriptures that we know today as the Bible.

Deuteronomy 6:1–3 (NIV)

[1] These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, [2] so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. [3] Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you.

Psalm 12:6 (NIV)

[6] And the words of the LORD are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times.

CRAVE

Psalm 19:7–11 (NIV)

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise
the simple. 8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are
radiant, giving light to the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the
LORD are sure and altogether righteous. 10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they
are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. 11 By them is your servant warned; in keeping them
there is great reward.

Psalm 119:98–105 (NIV)

(Or just do the entire chapter in your own Bible!)

98 Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. 99 I have more insight than
all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. 100 I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey
your precepts. 101 I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word. 102 I have not
departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me. 103 How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth! 104 I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every
wrong path. 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Isaiah 40:1–8 (NIV)

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her
hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's
hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice of one calling: “In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make
straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill
made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD will
be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” 6 A voice says,
“Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the
field. 7 The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the
people are grass. 8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever.”

Jeremiah 23:28–29 (NIV)

28 “Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For
what has straw to do with grain?” declares the LORD. 29 “Is not my word like fire,” declares the LORD, “and
like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”

Hosea 4:6 (NIV)

6 “…my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject
you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.”

Matthew 13:18–23 (NIV)

18 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20 The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. 22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. 23 But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Luke 6:45–49 (NIV)

45 The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks. 46 “Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? 47 I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. 49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”

Colossians 3:16 (NIV)

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV)

13 And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

2 Timothy 3:14–17 (NIV)

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

CRAVE

Guiding Observation Questions

What does the Word do in me? • What am I called to do with the Word? • How is the Word described? • Why should I pay attention to it? • What is God showing me? • What does He want me to learn?

Scripture Passage	Observation / Insight	Personal Application Prompts
Deuteronomy 6:1–3		How can these commands become deeply rooted in my heart? How can I weave them into the fabric of my daily life?
Psalm 12:6		Because the words of the Lord are flawless, I will…
Psalm 19:7–11		Key truth: keeping and doing God's decrees brings great reward.
Psalm 119:98–105		God's Word gives understanding and makes the wrong path clear. Therefore, I will…
Isaiah 40:1–8		Since physical things wither but God's Word stands forever, what needs to change in my priorities?
Jeremiah 23:28–29		What in my life needs to be broken up, reshaped, or refined by God's Word?

CRAVE

Guiding Observation Questions

What does the Word do in me? • What am I called to do with the Word? • How is the Word described? • Why should I pay attention to it? • What is God showing me? • What does He want me to learn?

Scripture Passage	Observation / Insight	Personal Application Prompts
Hosea 4:6		How does a lack of knowledge of God's Word lead me toward destructive decisions?
Matthew 13:18–23		Hearing and understanding God's Word produces a harvest of exponential growth. Key word: understanding.
Luke 6:45–49		Putting God's Word into practice builds a healthy foundation. What can I adjust so that insights from Bible study become immediate action?
Colossians 3:16		Sensing a theme: impress God's Word on my heart, keep it, understand it, put it into practice, and let it dwell richly in me.
1 Thessalonians 2:13		What evidence in my life shows that I receive God's Word "as it is," e.g., authoritative and divinely inspired?
2 Timothy 3:14–17		Wise for salvation. How am I leveraging all that Scripture is (as described here) to enjoy the ultimate fruit as described here?
Hebrews 4:12		Nothing cuts to the quick like God's Word. What am I doing to let God's Word do what it is intended to do?