



This eight-day study is adapted from the 2019 summer seminar. For a list of my resources used during the seminar, feel free to contact me.

Day One

Opening Reflection: Psalm 119:89–96

Read Psalm 119:89–96 aloud. Reflect on what these verses say about the Word of God:

- The Word is **eternal** (v. 89). (*Isaiah 40:8 – "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."*)
- The Word is **unchanging and firm** (v. 90).
- The Word sustains **life and stability** (v. 91).
- The Word is a source of **delight and preservation** (v. 92).
- The Word is our **anchor in affliction** (vv. 93–94).
- The Word is our **safety from the wicked** (v. 95).
- The Word is **limitless in perfection and boundless** (v. 96).

What other truths do you see regarding the power and perfection of God's Word in the Psalm 119 passage?

Share a time when God's Word has brought you comfort, stability, or clarity in a difficult season.

Day Two

Purpose of Reading the Bible

Why do we read the Bible?

We read the Bible to...

- Hear from God (Exodus 24:7; Deuteronomy 6:4–7)
- Know God and His will (Jeremiah 9:23–24; 2 Timothy 3:16)
- Be changed and sanctified (John 17:17; Romans 12:2)
- Worship in spirit and truth (John 4:23–24)
- Grow in wisdom and maturity (Psalm 19:7–11; Colossians 1:9–10)
- Understand and share the gospel (Luke 24:27; 2 Timothy 3:14–15)
- Be equipped for ministry (Ephesians 4:11–13; 2 Timothy 3:16–17)

Read and reflect on the above verses. Journal a response to one or more of these prompts:

- Which reason stands out most to you today?
- What might be keeping you from approaching Scripture this way?
- How can this change your attitude toward your Bible reading this week?

Day Three

Context Matters

Understanding the **context** of a passage prevents misunderstanding or misapplication. One verse, apart from its context, can be misused or misunderstood. Consider:

Philippians 4:13 – "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

- What is Paul really saying here?
- Read the broader context: Philippians 4:10–20. What does this passage actually teach about contentment and Christ's provision?
- Read Philippians 2:1–11 and 4:1–9.
- Identify the surrounding themes.
- Consider how understanding the larger context enhances your understanding of Philippians 4:13.

Work through Frequently Misused Scripture from the Free Printables page on this site.

Day Four

Reading the Old and New Testaments Faithfully

Old Testament:

- OT narratives are not moral tales; they reveal God's character, plan, and covenant work.
- Ask: What is God revealing about Himself here? How does this story connect to Christ?

Example: Joseph (Read Genesis 37–50)

- Not just a story about endurance or leadership.
- Shows God's providential plan to preserve His people through suffering.

Compare the *moralistic view* ("Be brave like Joseph") to the *Christ-centered view* ("God preserves and provides for His covenant family to bring about redemption through Christ.")

New Testament:

- Always read with attention to Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promises.
- Example: Read Mark 5:1–20 (Jesus heals the man with many demons)
- Who is Jesus here?
- What power does He have?
- How is this good news for the afflicted?

Read Acts 10:34–43; Acts 13:26–35.

- How did the apostles use the Old Testament?
- What can this teach us about our role in God's story?

Application:

- What would it look like for your church or small group to live as people who know the whole Bible points to Jesus?

Day Five

Christocentric Hermeneutics: Seeing Christ in All of Scripture

Luke 24:27 – "Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."

Six Questions for a Christ-Centered Reading:

1. What does this passage reveal about God's character and redemptive work?
2. How does this text connect to God's promises (e.g., covenant, blessing, kingdom)?
3. Where is Christ foreshadowed or fulfilled?
4. What does this say about human need and the problem of sin?
5. How does this passage lead to the gospel?
6. How does this shape our hope and mission as believers?

Genre-specific Examples:

- **Narrative:** Joseph's story → God preserves a remnant to bring Christ.
- **Law:** Exodus 20 → The Law shows our need for Christ's righteousness.
- **Poetry/Wisdom:** Psalm 1 → Christ is the blessed man who delights in God's Word.
- **Prophets:** Isaiah 53 → Clear prophecy of Christ's atonement.
- **Gospels:** Direct life and teaching of Christ.
- **Epistles:** Teach us how to live as Christ's body.

See the Free Printables page to create a bookmark with these six questions and genre guides for ongoing use.

Day Six

Interpretive Tools: The Five C's

1. **Context** – Literary, historical, and cultural context.
2. **Content** – What is the passage saying?
3. **Canon** – How does it fit into the whole Bible?
4. **Character of God** – What does this reveal about who God is?
5. **Christ** – How does this point to Jesus?

Using Daniel 1–2, share your insights.

Day Seven

The Study and the Teaching

To faithfully read and teach the Bible, we move from understanding the original meaning to applying it today. This process involves several key questions and steps:

1. **What does this text teach about God?** – Look for God's character, attributes, actions, and promises.
2. **What does this text teach about fallen humanity?** – Notice human sin, weakness, rebellion, or need.
3. **How does this text point to Christ?** – Identify how the passage connects to Christ's person, work, or fulfillment of prophecy.
4. **What does God want my people to know?** – The core truth or doctrine the text is communicating.
5. **What does God want my people to do?** – The response or obedience God is calling for.

This movement from **then** to **now** bridges the ancient text to modern application:

The Study (Working in the past):

- Discover the **Theme** – What is the biblical author talking about?
- Discover the **Complement** – What is the biblical author saying about what he is talking about?
- This leads to the **Main Idea of the Text (MIT)**.

The Teaching (Working in the present):

- Determine the **Main Idea of the Message (MIM)** – What is my main point today?
- Express this using:
 - **Theme:** What am I talking about?
 - **Complement:** What am I saying about what I am talking about?

Steps to Structure a Lesson or Message:

- Find the seams – Identify how the text is naturally divided.
- Structure the Scriptures – Outline the passage clearly.
- Structure the Message – Create a clear and logical flow.
 - Use complete sentences.
 - Use present tense.
 - Tie all points to the text.
 - Be application focused.

Study the Scriptures

- Observation and Interpretation – What do I see? What does it mean?

Teach the Scriptures

- Introduction
- Body:
 - Exposition (explain the text)
 - Illustration (support with relatable stories or visuals)
 - Application (how to live it out)
- Conclusion (Invitation to respond)

This is the movement from **Hermeneutics (Interpretation)** to **Homiletics (Communication)**.

Day Eight

Final Reflection: Heart Check & Application

- What motivates your Bible reading?
- Are you treating the Bible like a textbook, self-help book, or God's living Word?
- Do you seek personal transformation or mere information?
- Are you letting the Bible interpret your experience, or vice versa?

Closing Prayer: Ask God for:

- A hunger for His Word.
- Eyes to see Jesus in all of Scripture.
- Wisdom to interpret and apply His truth.
- Courage to obey and live out what He reveals.