

Discovering ways to share and be the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Being and sharing the good news

REVIEW

Recap on your experience of the challenge. Ask the following questions:

How did it go? Was it helpful?

If you weren't able to try the challenge, explore the question:

Where and how did you experience God last week?

WORD LYFE IMMERSED

In Ephesians, Paul speaks of our minds being 'washed by the word'. In other words, for our minds to have a godly perspective on life, we need to be constantly immersed and recalibrated by Scripture – which transforms our minds.

READ

† Psalm 119.97 - 112

⁹⁷ I deeply love your Law! I think about it all day.

⁹⁸ Your laws never leave my mind, and they make me much wiser than my enemies.

⁹⁹ Thinking about your teachings gives me better understanding than my teachers,

¹⁰⁰ and obeying your laws makes me wiser than those who have lived a long time.

¹⁰¹ I obey your word instead of following a way that leads to trouble.

¹⁰² You have been my teacher, and I won't reject your instructions.

¹⁰³ Your teachings are sweeter than honey.

¹⁰⁴ They give me understanding and make me hate all lies.

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk.

¹⁰⁶ Your laws are fair, and I have given my word to respect them all.

¹⁰⁷ I am in terrible pain! Save me, Lord, as you said you would.

¹⁰⁸ Accept my offerings of praise and teach me your laws.

¹⁰⁹ I never forget your teachings, although my life is always in danger.

¹¹⁰ Some merciless people are trying to trap me, but I never turn my back on your teachings.

¹¹¹ They will always be my most prized possession and my source of joy.

¹¹² I have made up my mind to obey your laws forever, no matter what.

Contemporary English Verse - CEV

'The only sure rule is to remember that the Bible is indeed God's gift to the church, to equip it for its work in the world; and that serious study of it can and should become one of the places where, and the means by which, heaven and earth interlock.'

Tom Wright *Simply Christian*

REFLECT

Setting the scene:

- ▶ Psalm 119 is the longest and most elaborate of the Psalms. It is a record of prayers and reflections of the Psalmist's love for God and his law (teachings). In it we see how persistently and eagerly he applies himself to understanding the law, learning it by heart and longing for more.

- ▶ God's Word brings wisdom when we allow it to guide us and teach us. In applying God's Word to our lives we have a 'lamp and a light' to help us better see what is around us.
- ▶ God's Word shapes the Psalmist's life and his conduct, giving him hope, peace and confidence.
- ▶ What are the 'shockers' and 'blockers' for you in this passage?
- ▶ Do you love to read and apply God's Word to life?
- ▶ What are the main things that deflect you away from Scripture?

RESPOND

Immersed challenge: As a group, create a challenge that will help you increase your engagement with the Scriptures this week.

Challenge ideas:
If you struggle to come up with your own challenge then why not try one of the following...

01 Listen to the Psalms/ Sons of Korah

Australian band, Sons of Korah, bring a unique contemporary flavour to the Psalms, which have preoccupied composers and song writers for millennia. The Psalms been the primary source for the worship traditions of both Judaism and Christianity going right back to ancient times. We are able to offer you a unique and innovative

experience of the Psalms. Download and listen to these tracks/Psalms over the course of this week as a way of immersing yourself in the Scriptures. If you like what you hear, then consider purchasing an album (or two) for others to experience? Some albums are available as a digital download from www.sonsofkorah.com

Visit to Lyfe.org / Wordlyfe.org / Immersed.org to find link to tracks.

02 You've Got The Time

Over the next 40 days, you could commit yourself to listening to the whole of the New Testament! Bible Society's 'You've Got The Time' resource enables you to listen to a dramatised reading of the New Testament. Available from biblesociety.org.uk

03 Lectio

Take 5-10 minutes each day this week to focus on a small section of Scripture. Read it aloud and slowly three times, allowing for a brief time of silence between readings to meditate. In the first reading, listen for a word or phrase or idea that captures your attention. Then focus or meditate on that word/phrase. During the second reading, pay attention to how the word or phrase speaks to your life right now. What could it mean for you? How does it resonate in your life right now? During the last reading, focus on what you sense God might be calling you to do or to become. The Psalms are a good place to start with lectio.

Don't Forget

1. To record your experience of the challenge so that you can accurately share it with your lyfe group when you next meet. You might like to text/tweet each other throughout the experience!
2. Consider posting your created challenge on the lyfe facebook site for others to view.

More resources on 'Word Lyfe'

- Listen to video interview with Andy Croft
- Read article on 'Mission in a Multi-Cultural and Multi-Faith Society'
- Read 'lyfe story' biographies on Billy Graham and John Wesley
- Recommended reading *Storylines* by Andy Croft and Mike Pilavachi

GROUP PRAYER:

You might like to commit to praying for each person in the group this week as you look to immerse yourselves in the Scriptures more deeply this week.