

This session focuses on the importance and what it means to be a people that delight in God's Word. Delighting in God's word is like feasting on spiritual food. It nourishes and sustains our faith, providing us with guidance, wisdom, and comfort.

Core Value 2: God's People Delight in God's Word

We see a church filled with disciples who both know and love the Word of God. In a culture that has given up on the Bible, we will choose to be a different kind of people who study and cherish His Word. We will recognize that Bible knowledge without affection can quickly become cold and legalistic. We also know that Bible affection without knowledge becomes sentimentality. Therefore, our aim is to be people who have both a deep knowledge and profound affection for God's Word, echoing the Psalmist as he writes, "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalm 119:103).

SESSION 2

God's People Delight in God's Word

I delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect your word.

—PSALM 119:16



PSALMS 119:33-48

Read Aloud in Your Group

³³ Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees,
that I may follow it to the end.

³⁴ Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law
and obey it with all my heart.

³⁵ Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight.

³⁶ Turn my heart toward your statutes
and not toward selfish gain.

³⁷ Turn my eyes away from worthless things;
preserve my life according to your word.

³⁸ Fulfill your promise to your servant,
so that you may be feared.

³⁹ Take away the disgrace I dread,
for your laws are good.

⁴⁰ How I long for your precepts!
In your righteousness preserve my life.

⁴¹ May your unfailing love come to me, Lord,
your salvation, according to your promise;

⁴² then I can answer anyone who taunts me,
for I trust in your word.

⁴³ Never take your word of truth from my mouth,
for I have put my hope in your laws.

⁴⁴ I will always obey your law,
for ever and ever.

⁴⁵ I will walk about in freedom,
for I have sought out your precepts.

⁴⁶ I will speak of your statutes before kings
and will not be put to shame,

⁴⁷ for I delight in your commands
because I love them.

⁴⁸ I reach out for your commands, which I love,
that I may meditate on your decrees.



FOR DISCUSSION

God's People Delight in God's Word

INTRODUCTORY QUESTION: What are some common reasons or excuses you've heard (or used) for not making time to read the Bible regularly?

1. What does the psalmist ask God to do in verse 33, and why is it important for us to ask God to teach us His ways?
2. In verse 35, the psalmist longs to walk in God's path. How does this desire resonate with our own hearts, and what might hinder us from walking in God's ways?
3. What does it mean to turn our eyes away from worthless things, and how can doing so draw us closer to God, as expressed in verse 37?
4. In verse 43, the psalmist speaks of his trust in God's word. How can we develop and strengthen our trust in God's promises and guidance through His word?
5. How can we practically apply the teachings of Psalms 119:33–48 in our daily lives to draw closer to God and grow in our understanding of His word?
6. What does it mean to “delight in God's Word,” and how does this differ from merely reading it out of obligation?
7. How do you think neglecting God's Word affects our relationship with Him, and what are the potential consequences of this neglect in our lives?
8. What role does prayer and the Holy Spirit play in fostering a love for God's word in our lives and in our group?

9. Pastor Steve Day is often quoted for saying, “God speaks to our spirit through His Word.” When we are not engaging with God's Word, what or who takes its place in speaking to our spirit? How do you personally respond to this statement?
10. How can we encourage one another to prioritize regular time in God's word and hold each other accountable in our commitment to study it? Discuss strategies to support one another in staying consistent in Bible reading and meditation.

GROUP EXERCISE:

For many Christians, they know they want to read the Bible, but neglect to make it a priority or a pattern in their life. Overcoming this begins with identifying the phrases we use to excuse our neglect of God's Word. Look at the list below and 1) circle any of the reasons you have used and 2) cross out any that you don't use. From there, discuss these roadblocks with your group and see how you can overcome them!

1. I don't have enough time.
2. I don't understand the Bible.
3. I'm not really a reader.
4. I get distracted when I read the Bible.
5. I have already read it and there is nothing new for me to learn.
6. I feel like reading the Bible is a chore.
7. I prefer to listen to sermons or podcasts rather than read.
8. I don't really understand why reading the Bible matters.
9. I think the Bible is boring.
10. I don't want to read because I don't want to feel convicted.



CORE VALUE IN ACTION

God's People Delight in God's Word

I was born and raised in the Jewish faith, however, when I was eight years old, I witnessed some people do things I thought a good person shouldn't do. Until then, I had associated being a good person with attending synagogue and adhering to the teachings of the faith, yet I couldn't reconcile what I had seen with what I had believed. It was then that I gave up on religion and thought the path was just to be "spiritual." I believed in a God and prayed to Him, however, the prayers never connected, and I never felt a true relationship with Him. It took me 56 years of searching to find something that would calm the storm that existed within me.

For the past 14 years, as I grow in the Lord's Word, I find more and more peace within and delight in living His Word. The more I learn who He is and who I am in Him, I become the person I was meant to be and who He wants me to be. His words show me the best Father I could have and His love for me; the best love I could have ever imagined. I am guided by Him, find comfort and forgiveness, joy, and the strength to move through the difficulties that occur in life. Working through life's challenges, I gain strength and grow in my faith. I delight in the blessings of mercy and grace He gives me as I grow to live and love more like His Son every day.

The more I live in His word, the more I want to share His gospel with others. I start each day by saying, "Yes, Lord" be with me on my journey today and show me where I need to be and who I need to speak Your words to!

So yes, I delight in His words and thank Him every day for the life I now have in Him.

Lorna

