

Psalm 119: 'O how I love your word!'

Workers & Families Day Nov 2023

Introduction: The Kimyal community in West Papua

The 'A-Z' psalm

All but a couple of the 176 verses include a reference to the Bible

A believer who depends on the word of God for their life

DISCUSS IN GROUPS

- How does the psalmist feel about the word of God (e.g. 14, 20, 103, 111, 131, 162)? Explore some of the imagery.
- What do we make of that kind of emotional response?

Four reasons why the psalmist is so passionate about the word of God:

1. It gives life (initial saving life)

e.g. 25, 40, 93, 156

2. It leads to blessing (life to the full now)

e.g. 1-3, 37, 45, 96, 98, 105

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3. It brings perspective (in the time of trial)

DISCUSS IN GROUPS

- Read 'Gimel' and 'Daleth' (vv. 17-32). What do we learn about the psalmist's experience, and how does his experience foreshadow that of the Lord Jesus?
- How does the psalmist respond to his problems? What impact do his problems have on him?
- Have there been times in your life when you have been both 'clinging to the dust' (v25) and 'clinging to his testimonies' (v31)? How do these things hold together?

e.g. 67, 71

4. It brings delight

e.g. 14, 24, 47, 111, 127, 162, 167

Application: Read the book!

DISCUSS IN GROUPS

- What has struck you from this morning? What difference might it make to your life?
- Pray together

Bible Study Resources

The resources below are listed in order of how demanding they are in terms of time and ability, beginning with the easiest and ending with the most stretching.

Solid Joys

A devotional app from desiringgod.org, with short daily reflections written by pastor John Piper sent straight to your phone or tablet.

Available free from the Apple App Store or Google Play.



The Psalms

The Psalms are brilliant for learning what a relationship with God can be like in practice. If God feels distant, it can help to read a psalm each day and pray along with the writer.

10ofThose undated devotions

Undated devotions on short passages taking you through books of the Bible, each ending with a couple of questions to stimulate private reflection. Maybe start with the Exodus, Deuteronomy, Daniel, or Colossians booklet.

£3.99+p&p from 10ofthose.com, or just 99p for an e-book.



Time with God / Explore

If studying the Bible on your own is new to you, then The Good Book Company's 'Time with God' is an excellent place to start. 'Explore' is produced regularly in the same format with 3 months of daily readings in each copy.

Time with God: £1+p&p from thegoodbook.co.uk.

Explore: £4.49+p&p per copy (£16.99 annual subscription) from thegoodbook.co.uk.

Explore app available free from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

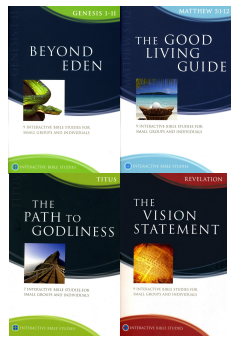


Interactive Bible Studies

As The Good Book Company website says: 'This series is ideal for those who want to grapple more deeply with the meaning and significance of the text.'

Any of the ones written by Phillip Jensen or Tony Payne are likely to be very good. Maybe start with Genesis, Matthew, Titus, James, or Revelation.

£2.80+p&p each from thegoodbook.co.uk.



Mining the Bible

Learn to study different Bible genres for yourself with these downloadable booklets, which introduce you to principles and methods of Bible study for each genre as you go along. Each study has a stretching set of questions, and ends with a short summary of the passage. Try the first guide on Colossians for free. £1.00 e-book from miningthebible.co.uk.

Prayer Resources

PrayerMate

A phone app to help you organise your prayer diary.

Create your own lists of people and points and/or subscribe to organisations for their prayers, and PrayerMate will cycle through what you've organised when you use it.

Available free from the Apple App Store or Google Play.



The Valley of Vision

A collection of prayers by faithful Christians from 1600-1900, collected to teach us how to pray. *O great God of highest heaven*, a song we sing regularly, is based on one! £6.65+p&p from 10ofthose.com.

A Call to Spiritual Reformation

One of the best books about prayer to grow our prayers. Pastor and academic Don Carson examines the apostle Paul's prayers to learn about his priorities and attitudes in prayer, so that we might grow in our prayers too. Don't let the title put you off!

£9.99+p&p from 10ofthose.com.

