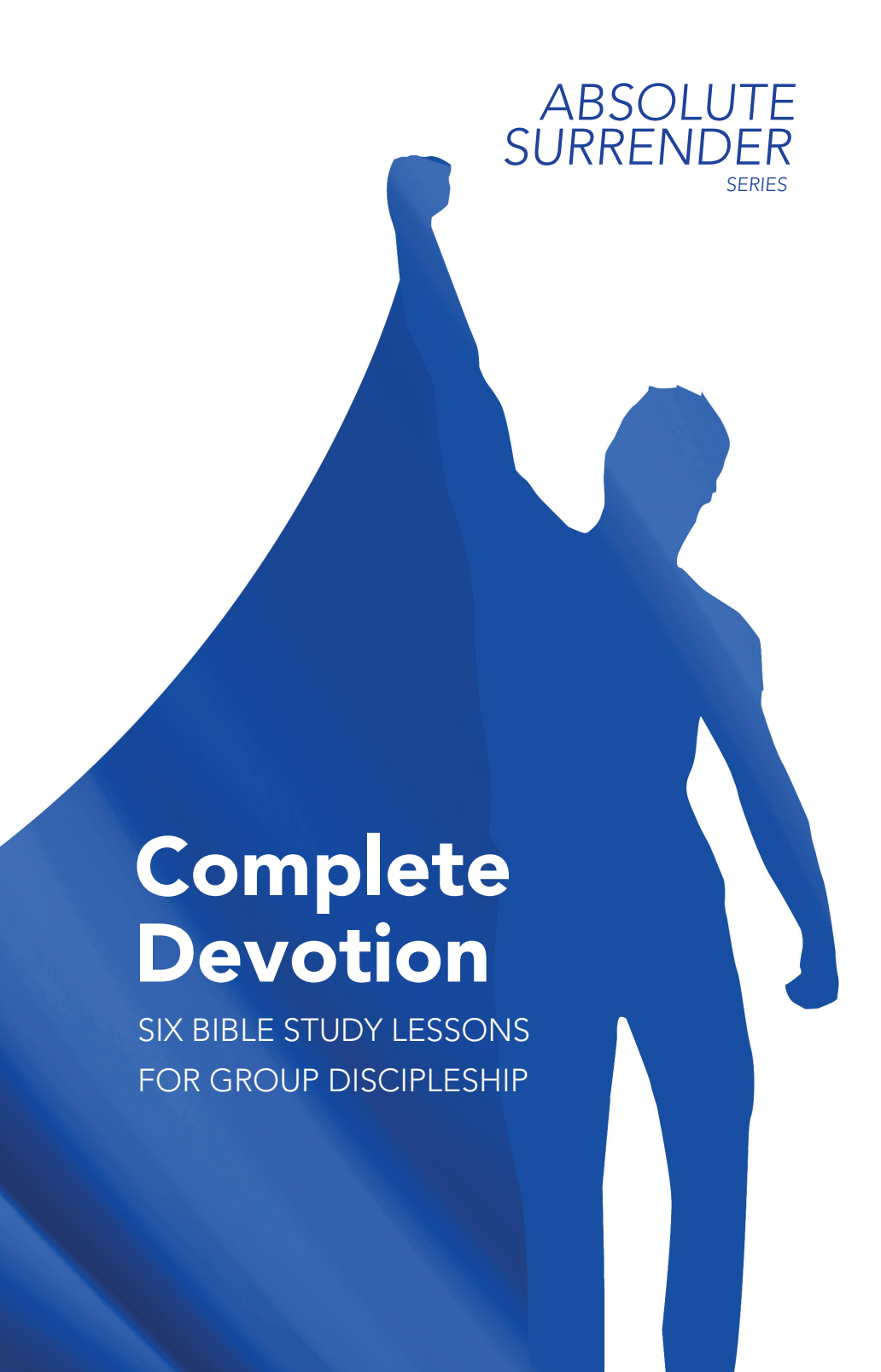


ABSOLUTE  
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SERIES



# Complete Devotion

SIX BIBLE STUDY LESSONS  
FOR GROUP DISCIPLESHIP

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FOR GROUP DISCIPLESHIP



**EVERY NATION**  
P R O D U C T I O N S

## **COMPLETE DEVOTION**

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P.O. Box 12229 Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines

email: [productions@everynation.org.ph](mailto:productions@everynation.org.ph)

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# How to Use this Material

In Victory, the primary venue for discipleship happens in a small group. It is called a Victory group. We strongly encourage everyone to be involved since these groups are specifically designed to help disciples grow spiritually.

A Victory group meeting has three sections: **Connect**, **Word**, and **Prayer**, and ideally lasts from forty to sixty minutes.

## **CONNECT** (5-10 minutes)

Victory group meetings begin with a time to relate with one another. Depending on the people who comprise the group, this can be done through a variety of ways:

- Fun—such as an icebreaker activity
- Answered prayers—sharing of testimonies and updates
- Questions—such as those provided in the material, learning each other's personal stories, and sharing feedback from the weekly message

### *Effective Questions During the Connect Portion:*

- Are deliberately friendly to first-timers
- Ask for opinion or experiences
- Require no Bible knowledge
- Have no right or wrong answer
- Are not controversial
- Are preferably connected to the meeting's topic

## **WORD** (20-30 minutes)

Teach the truth and relevance of God's Word for life application. The Victory group meeting is not primarily a Bible study. Although teaching and explanation of Scripture is involved, the goal is to minister, not finish a material.

There is no need teach all the points in a material.

Within this section, we look at what the Bible says, its relevance to us today, and its application in our lives.

### **What:** *What does the Bible say?*

Communicate and impart biblical truth clearly and concisely

*<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 TIMOTHY 3:16,17*

### *Tips for Sharing the Word Effectively*

- Let the Bible speak for itself.
- Use illustrations and tell stories to explain Bible verses.
- When entertaining clarifications, be watchful not to allow the discussion to go off-tangent.
- The primary goal is to minister to the needs of the people, not to finish a Bible lesson.
- Be led by the Spirit when using the material.

### **So What:** *What is the relevance of the Word to my life?*

Give participants the opportunity to discuss how the Word impacts the way they live.

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

ROMANS 12:2

**Now What:** *How do I apply the Word to my life?*

Our primary reason for sharing the Bible is so that people will know who God is and what He has done. In doing so, the participants will begin to discover who they are and what they should do.

If it is a promise, teach them to claim it. If it is a command or a principle, encourage them to put it to action by God's grace. If it is a truth, let them embrace it willingly and not under compulsion. Allow God's grace and love to win them by the way you teach God's Word.

Encourage specific, measurable action steps that are consistent with the life change that the Scripture is bringing about. We do not command people, but we spur them on toward love and good deeds.

*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves.*

*Do what it says.* JAMES 1:22

*Tips for Life-Changing Application*

- You may choose one of the "So What" and "Now What" questions or you may add your own.
- An effective standby application question is: "What one action step are you going to take as a result of what you heard today?"
- Designate who will be the first to answer the question asked.
- Do not allow someone to argue or be critical of others.
- Remind everyone to apply the lesson to their own lives, not to someone else's.
- Ask God for wisdom to know when to balance or correct strange or unbiblical applications. Insensitive correction or criticism can kill the group, as can unchecked heresy.
- Remind everyone that transformation is God's work, not ours, and our obedience is a response to who He is and His love for us. It is God's grace that enables us to apply and obey His Word.

## **PRAY** (15-20 minutes)

Prayer is the most important part of the Victory group meeting. Make sure you have plenty of time left so your prayer time is not rushed. This is not a "closing prayer," but a time for everyone in the group to take specific requests to God. This is where the action is. The goal is to create a venue where people will see God move on their behalf.

*"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven."* MATTHEW 18:19

### *Tips for Powerful Prayer*

- Listen to the Holy Spirit carefully during the Connect and Word sections for things that may need prayer.
- Spend your time praying for one another, not sharing and discussing prayer requests.
- Keep your prayers simple, sincere, and short. Most non-believers have never heard an ordinary Christian just talk to God and will be touched by the sincerity and simplicity of the prayer.
- Pray, don't preach. Pray in simple and short sentences, not long "sermon prayers."
- Use conversational prayer, not complicated or profound, intercessory prayer.
- Expect God to answer your prayers.

## CONTENTS

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*23“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”* JOHN 4:23,24

## WHAT

Worship is defined as the reverent devotion and allegiance pledged to God. It comes from the Old English word “worthship,” which denotes the worthiness of the one receiving the special honor or devotion. Developing a habit of worship is so much more than just singing. Worship is living in a way that brings glory to God. It is our response to all that God is, and all that He does. Scripture teaches us that God is looking for true worshipers, and in this lesson we will look at what distinguishes true worshipers.

### 1

#### **True worshipers worship in their hearts.**

*6“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 7They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.’ 8You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.”* MARK 7:6-8 (SEE ALSO MARK 12:30.)

True worship is not giving God lip service. It is an issue of our hearts being completely devoted to God.

*How do  
we worship  
God in vain?*

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**2**

**True worshipers worship in spirit.**

*“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”* JOHN 4:24

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.* ROMANS 12:1

Why must we worship God in spirit? What did Paul say is a spiritual act of worship?

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*What is a living sacrifice?*

**3**

**True worshipers worship in truth.**

*“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”* JOHN 17:17

To worship in truth is to worship based on God’s Word. The Bible is the final authority on who God is, and how we are to approach Him.

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*Why is it important to worship God in truth? How has God’s Word sanctified you?*

**SO WHAT**

- Why do you think worship is a habit a healthy disciple should develop?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to worship God? How does worship help us refocus or realign ourselves to God and His will for our lives?
- How do you think a true worshiper lives every day? How could this challenge and be different from our understanding of worship?

**NOW WHAT**

- Do you think you are a true worshiper? How can you develop the habit of worship in your life starting this week?
- Have you offered yourself to God as a living sacrifice? How can you do this in a practical way every day?
- How can you grow in a biblical understanding of God and His truth this week?

- 
- Thank God for the privilege of worshiping Him, for His presence in your life, and that He is always worthy of your worship.
  - Ask God to make you a true worshiper, in spirit and in truth.
  - Pray for those you know who do not know God yet. Ask God to use you to reach out to them. Believe that one day they will choose to worship God with their lives.



*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.*

PSALM 23:1 (READ PSALM 23.)

## WHAT

Psalm 23 is considered the best-loved and most-quoted psalm. Written by King David, it tries to depict the kind of relationship God has with His people—like a good shepherd who takes care of his sheep. Each verse of Psalm 23 is a constant source of comfort, security, and confidence because it describes who God really is. In this lesson, we will look at three characteristics of God as our Good Shepherd.

### 1 The God who Provides

<sup>1</sup>*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.* <sup>2</sup>*He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters,* <sup>3</sup>*he restores my soul.* PSALM 23:1-3

Just as a shepherd cares for his sheep and provides for their needs, God, our Good Shepherd, is able to meet our needs and satisfy our souls.

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What does it mean to “not be in want?”

### 2 The God who Guides

<sup>2</sup>*He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters . . .* <sup>3</sup>*. . . He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.* PSALM 23:2,3

(SEE ALSO 1 PETER 2:25.)

Sheep are known to be near-sighted and stubborn, and they get lost easily. They need a shepherd to guide them. We are likened to sheep and as our Shepherd, God brings counsel, direction, and conviction so we don't go astray.

How have  
you experienced  
God's guidance  
in your life?

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### 3 The God who Protects

*“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”* PSALM 23:4

*You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.* PSALM 32:7

The shepherd's staff and rod are used to ward off predators and to keep the sheep from falling into holes and cliffs. Like David, we can be secure because God watches over us and He is able to protect us.

Were there times  
when you felt like  
you were in a dark  
“valley” experience?  
How did having God  
with you make all  
the difference?

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**SO WHAT**

- How should the revelation of God as our Shepherd affect and change us?
- How does God's provision, guidance, and protection comfort you? Since God is our Shepherd, does He do what we want or do we do what He wants? Why?
- Why do you think David had such a strong and vibrant relationship with God? How do you think we can have that, too?

**NOW WHAT**

- Do you see God as your Shepherd? How can you have a deeper and more vibrant relationship with God this week?
- Do you need God's guidance and provision this week? In what area do you need to trust Him more?
- Do you trust that your Shepherd will protect you and keep you from harm's way? How can you have greater peace in Him this week?

- 
- Thank God for being your Shepherd. Declare your dependence on Him today.
  - Pray that you would follow and trust God always. Be honest with Him about your needs and circumstances.
  - Pray for God's protection over you and your family always.



*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.*

PSALM 51:1

## WHAT

Inspired by King David's remorse after being confronted by the prophet Nathan, Psalm 51 captures David's anguish over his sin of adultery and his cry for God's forgiveness and restoration. In this lesson, we can learn four principles from David's repentance.

### 1 The truth can set us free from sin.

*Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.* PSALM 51:6

*"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* JOHN 8:32

At first, David chose to cover his sin instead of repenting. He only saw the real condition of his heart when Nathan rebuked him. Acknowledging the truth about our situation starts the process of restoration.

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*Have you ever covered up for something before? What happened?*

### 2 Our hearts need to be made new.

*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.* PSALM 51:10

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!* 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

David asked God to give him a new heart because he recognized his natural tendency to sin. In Christ, God takes our corrupt nature and gives us a new heart that desires the things of God over sin.

What does it mean to be a “new creation” in Christ?

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### 3 Complete restoration is possible.

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.* PSALM 51:2

David did not just cry out for forgiveness; he believed God could redeem his past and enable him to live once again for God.

Share your testimony of how God has redeemed your past.

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### 4 God desires brokenness and humility, not sacrifice and penance.

<sup>16</sup>*You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it . . .*

<sup>17</sup>*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.* PSALM 51:16,17

(SEE ALSO EPHESIANS 2:8,9.)

David realized that brokenness, not penance, is the key to receiving God’s forgiveness.

What does it mean to have “a broken spirit”?

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**SO WHAT**

- Why do you think it's easier to cover up sin rather than acknowledge the truth? How did David's response help him be restored to God?
- How does God restore sinners? Give other examples from the Bible.
- Why is penance and sacrifice easier than brokenness and humility? Why do you think God desires humility and gives grace to the humble?

**NOW WHAT**

- Are there areas in your life that are not pleasing to God? Are you willing to acknowledge the truth and repent of your sin today?
- How can you walk in humility before God every day? How can you guard yourself against pride and self-righteousness?
- How can you show love and kindness to people who are not following Christ this week? How can you help those around you live for God?

- 
- Thank God for His Word and for His mercy and grace.
  - Ask God to forgive you of any sin you have entertained in your heart and life. Ask God to give you a pure heart and a broken spirit, knowing that your sin grieves a holy God.
  - Pray that as you walk with God, you would help others walk with Him as well.



*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.* PSALM 91:1

(READ PSALM 91.)

## WHAT

Psalm 91 is a declaration of God's protection over His people. This declaration speaks of faith over fear, security over troubled times, and confidence over uncertainties. As believers, we can hold on to God's promises and proclaim His peace, protection, and presence over our lives.

### 1 God's peace

*I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."* PSALM 91:2

*<sup>6</sup>Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* PHILIPPIANS 4:6,7

God is our great refuge, and He comforts us with His peace when we trust in Him. What is a "refuge?"

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What is a "fortress"? When do we need a refuge and fortress?

## 2 God's protection

*4He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. . . .<sup>9</sup>If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the Lord, who is my refuge—<sup>10</sup>then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.<sup>14</sup> . . . “Because he loves me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.”*

PSALM 91:4,9,10,14

God Himself is our protector, covering us with His feathers keeping us from imminent danger.

*What is a “rampart”? Why can we be safe under His wings? How has God protected you from danger?*

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## 3 God's presence

*“He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.” PSALM 91:15*

*. . . God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” HEBREWS 13:5*

*Knowing God will be with us, how should we live?*

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**SO WHAT**

- How is it possible to trust and rest in God when you're faced with a difficult situation?
- How can fear cripple a person? What are some of the promises in Psalm 91 that battle fear?
- Why is God's presence our greatest protection?

**NOW WHAT**

- Is God your refuge? Who is God in your life? How can you grow in your relationship with God this week?
- Do you trust God to protect you and your family? How can you understand God's power and promises of protection more?
- Are you (or someone you know) going through a challenging time? How can you trust God to come through for you?

- 
- Thank God for His presence and peace upon your life.
  - Declare Psalm 91 over yourself and your family.
  - Pray that you would live in faith, joy, and peace all the days of your life.



*Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.* PSALM 100:4 (READ PSALM 100.)

## WHAT

We often find ourselves grumbling and complaining about what we do not have. Psalm 100, however, exhorts us to give thanks regardless of our circumstances. Celebrating who God is and what He has done for us is the antidote for a grumbling heart. Following are three reasons we can always praise God.

### 1 God is good all the time.

*For the LORD is good . . .* PSALM 100:5

*Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.* PSALM 34:8

We serve a good God, and His plans are for our good. We can give Him thanks at all times because of His goodness.

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### 2 God's love endures eternally.

*. . . and his love endures forever . . .* PSALM 100:5

<sup>38</sup>*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.* ROMANS 8:38,39

*How have you  
tasted and seen  
God's goodness  
in your life?*

God's love for us does not fade over time, and we can't be separated from it. In fact, it is unconditional and it constantly draws us to Him. We can give Him thanks because we know we are loved with a love that will never fail. Were there times when you experienced love that faded away?

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*How would you compare this with God's unfailing love?*

### **3** God's faithfulness never ends.

*... his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

PSALM 100:5

*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.* HEBREWS 10:23

God's promises are sure because He is faithful to keep His Word. We can give thanks even in the midst of trying circumstances because He will pull us through as He promised.

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*Share of a time when you saw God fulfill a promise in your life.*

**SO WHAT**

- Why do you think do we tend to grumble and complain? How do you think we can have grateful hearts?
- How does God's love differ from the love a person can give us? Why will other people disappoint us? How does the Bible describe God's love?
- How does God show His faithfulness to us? Why can we always be grateful for God's faithfulness and unchanging character?

**NOW WHAT**

- Do you find yourself grumbling and complaining often? How can you be more grateful to God for His blessings and faithfulness this week?
- How can you grow in your understanding of God's character this coming week?
- Do you believe God loves you? Do you believe He is good and He wants the best for you? In what area do you need to trust God more?

- 
- Thank God for His faithfulness, goodness, and love.
  - Ask God to help you grow in your relationship with Him every day. Pray that you will trust God no matter what.
  - Pray that you would have the power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep Christ's love is for you.



*How can a young man keep his way pure?  
By living according to your word.* PSALM 119:9

## WHAT

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible, with 176 verses broken into twenty-two sections. Each verse speaks about the importance of God's Word in enabling us to live holy and pleasing lives for God. Following are three exhortations from Psalm 119 on how to live in purity.

### 1 Love God's Word.

*<sup>10</sup>I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. <sup>11</sup>I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.* PSALM 119:10,11

Purity is always an issue of passion. The more we love God's Word, the more we will love God. The more we love God, the more we will live to please Him. God's Word in our hearts exposes temptation for what it is and enables us to say "no" to sin.

*Give an example  
of how you have  
hidden the Word in  
your heart.*

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### 2 Study God's Word with others.

*<sup>12</sup>Praise be to you, O LORD; teach me your decrees. <sup>13</sup>With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. <sup>14</sup>I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.* PSALM 119:12-14. (SEE ALSO 2 TIMOTHY 2:2.)

The more we speak about God's Word, the more ingrained it gets in our lives. The psalmist learned the value of declaring God's Word over his life, reviewing God's commands and rejoicing in its benefits.

Why should we rejoice in God's Word?

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### **3** Meditate on and apply God's Word in your life.

*<sup>15</sup>I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.*

*<sup>16</sup>I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.*

PSALM 119:15,16

*I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path.* PSALM 119:104

To "meditate" means to ponder, reflect on or "chew" on something until it is internalized. The practice of meditation is not to empty one's mind, but to fill it with God's Word until it brings about transformation and renewal. More than just gaining knowledge, delighting in God's Word helps us think and act according to His ways.

Give an example of a topic in Scripture that you are meditating on right now.

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**SO WHAT**

- Why do you think many Christians do not prioritize God's Word? How can we prioritize the Word even when we have busy lives and full schedules?
- Why do you think we need to study, meditate on, and learn from God's Word?
- What do you think it means to "hide" the Word in our hearts so we won't sin against God?

**NOW WHAT**

- Do you have a regular time and place for Bible reading and prayer? How can you prioritize God's Word this week? How can you "hide" the Word in your heart this week?
- What's one Scripture or topic you need to study this week? What do you need to meditate on?
- Are you applying the Word in your life? Are there areas where you need to apply the Word starting today?

- 
- Thank God for His Word and that He shows us through His Word how we are to live.
  - Pray that you would have a deep love and passion for God's Word like never before. Commit to spending time with God in the Word every day.
  - Ask God to reveal Himself to you and speak to you every time you read, study, and meditate on His Word. Pray that you would live pure and holy before Him as you continually hide the Word in your heart.

<sup>2</sup>Guard my life, for I am devoted to you. . . .  
<sup>11</sup>Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk  
in your truth; give me an undivided heart,  
that I may fear your name.

PSALM 86:2,11

**Complete Devotion** is a series of six materials for group discipleship designed to help disciples be fully devoted to God and His purpose, plans, and will.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- True Worship
- Psalm 23
- Psalm 51
- Psalm 91
- Psalm 100
- Psalm 119



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