

## **Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides**

### **August 27th**

#### **Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)**

1. Looking back, if you could repeat one part of your summer, what would it be?
2. What is one thing that you have learned as we have been studying the book of Psalms?

#### **Bible Study Questions**

1. Read Psalms 119:1-2. In your own words, why is someone blessed who walks according to the law and keeps it?
2. Read Psalms 119:33-40.
  - What do you resonate with in this prayer?
  - The author asks that God turns his eyes away from worthless things. What kind of things do you think that he is talking about? Are there worthless things that are holding your focus?
3. Pastor Michael talked a bit about the difference between information and wisdom.
  - How would you define the difference between the two?
  - Why is wisdom more valuable than information?
  - What do you tend to gravitate towards?
4. Read 119:9 and 133.
  - The Psalmist asks that “no sin rule over me.” How does sin rule over us?
  - How does knowing God’s Word help us break free from sin’s rule and live lives of purity?
5. Read John 1:1-14
  - Why does John refer to Jesus as being “the Word”?
  - How does knowing God’s Word then draw you closer to Jesus?

## August 27th

### Psalm 119: Holy Anticipation for God's Word

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible. It is an acrostics poem that beautifully captures the love that the author has for God's Word. This often seems strange to us. We know that we should spend time in the Bible, but many of us do it as a duty instead of a love. Psalm 119 reminds us of why we should approach the Bible with a sense of sacred awe and anticipation.

- I. **Blessed are those who pursue God's Word:** Verse 1 begins with teaching those who walk according to the law and seek him are blessed. This all prompts the question as to "why?"
  - a. **Seeking God's Word results in wisdom:** There are several verses in which the author talks about the understanding that he receives from the Bible (v. 24, 66, 98-100). One word to describe this is wisdom. In America, we love information. The internet gives us endless data about world news, science, and history at our fingertips. With this constant overload of data, very few of us ever learn how to use it. Wisdom is when you take the information that you have and are able to use it to make good decisions.
  - b. **Wisdom applied leads to a holy life:** The psalm often talks about the kind of life that knowing God's Word leads to. (v. 9, 101, 105). It leads to a life that makes the right decisions...a life that is holy. Verse 133 describes it this way. "*Direct my footsteps according to your word, let no sin rule over me.*" We live in a broken world in which our lives are constantly held back due to sin. God's desire is to free us from sin and his Word gives us guidance on how to do that.
- II. **The fullness of God's Word is embodied in Jesus:** In John 1, Jesus is called "The Word". The reason is that all of the wisdom of God is embodied in Jesus. Everything that the law teaches, is lived out through him. It could be said that when one pursues and applies the wisdom of the Bible, the end result is a relationship with Jesus.

### Conclusion

It is because of the life that results from knowing God's Word, that the author is able to approach it with a joyful anticipation. He doesn't just read the Bible, but loves the Bible. Even when reading the difficult passages, he cherishes them because of the life that it results in. We should approach God's Word in the same way.