

Psalm 119

God's Word: Great Treasure

Scripture: Psalm 119:1-16 and Select Verses

Memory Verse: Psalm 119:162 *"I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure."*

Lesson Focus: This is the longest chapter in the whole Bible and fittingly is completely devoted to expressing the excellence of God's word. The author of this Psalm treasured God and His word and our objective is to challenge the kids to do the same.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Memory Verse, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st and 2nd: Treasure Map

Starter Activity: "Treasured" Songs

So many songs are written because people are inspired to express their love and devotion to something in song. Below are several songs that should be familiar to the kids. Consider singing the first part of the song yourself, stop, and then let the kids finish it for you. Or if you aren't comfortable singing, just walk through some of the song titles with the kids. But either way, ask the kids, "What is **treasured** in this song?"

- 1) You Are My Sunshine (Sing this to someone that you treasure)
- 2) Rubber Ducky (Ernie treasured his rubber ducky during bath time)
- 3) Do You Want to Build a Snowman? (Anna treasured being with Elsa)
- 4) Take Me Out to the Ballgame (Those who treasure baseball and their team)
- 5) The Star-Spangled Banner (We treasure our nation)
- 6) Here I Am to Worship (We treasure God!)

Q: Have you ever made up a song about something that you love and treasure? *

(**Teachers:** Consider sharing with the kids a song that you may have made up devoted to something that you treasure)

We have been in the Psalms the last several weeks and remember that the Psalms were songs that God's people would sing. The Psalm we are going to look at today is the longest Psalm and chapter of the whole Bible. In fact, it has 176 verses and about 2000 words!

But just about every verse of this Psalm is about God's Word and how great His Word is. The Psalmist treasured God's Word so much he wrote a song 2000 words long about it! * Let's take a look!

Bible Study:

All songs have titles (like some of the above mentioned) and this Psalm is called: “*Meditations on the EXCELLENCIES of the Word of God.*”

Q: What comes to mind when you hear the word EXCELLENT?

A: The official definition is “extremely good or outstanding”. *

As we said before, almost every verse of this song proclaims something EXCELLENT about God’s Word. The song uses several different terms that all refer to Scripture:

- *Law, testimonies, precepts, statutes, commandments, judgments, ordinances, ways, and word.* (**Teachers:** Consider writing these terms on the board and then as you walk through the verses of this Psalm, have the kids find which terms were used in each verse!)

Teachers: Consider reading **Psalm 119:162**, our memory verse, to set the stage. What does the Psalmist say he finds? **Great Treasure!** That’s pretty excellent! Keep this idea front-and-center as you go through the Psalm. The lesson below only goes through v. 16 and then see some optional activities at the end of the lesson.

Psalm 119:1: The songs starts with a simple statement of God’s blessing on those who walk in the **law** of the Lord.

Q: What do you think it means to “*walk in the law of the Lord*”? A: It means you OBEY! Jesus Himself said, “*If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*” (**John 14:15**)

Psalm 119:2: Ah, but now look and see what God really wants. He doesn’t just want us to obey, but He wants our hearts! He wants our love and devotion just as Jesus said!

Q: How many of you have taken music lessons? Do you think the music teacher would rather have a student who works really, really hard at practicing just because they have to, or a student who loves music and then practices because of that love? It is the same with Jesus! **We obey because we love Him not so that He will love us!**

Psalm 119:3-5: Notice the cry of the Psalmist in v. 5! He recognizes that his ways are not always God’s ways. In other words, he makes mistakes just like we do.

There is a popular saying that people often say, “*God helps those who help themselves.*”

Q: Do you think this in the Bible? It is actually NOT! **Psalm 145:18** says that God helps those who seek and love Him! * The more you love Jesus, the more you will seek Him to help you walk in His ways just like this Psalmist does.

Psalm 119:6: The Psalmist realizes just how far short he falls when he beholds God’s perfect holiness.

Q: What does it mean to be ashamed? A: Guilty or embarrassed of what you’ve done!

Boys and Girls: Like the Psalmist, the more you read God's word and understand His glory, His holiness, His righteousness, the more you realize just how ashamed you are of your own mistakes and sins! * This sounds like pretty bad news!

Q: What did the Psalmist say he found in v. 162? A: **Great Treasure!** * The treasure is that even though our sin is great, **God's love is greater!** As we keep reading, we also find the **good news** (the gospel) that our sins can be forgiven through simple faith in Jesus Christ and that we can walk with God. Wow!

Psalm 119:7-8: Then we respond like the Psalmist with praise and obedience!

Psalm 119:9-10: Here he expresses his desire to seek God with his WHOLE heart!

Last week we looked at **Psalm 103** and saw how God gave us His all in giving His Son to die for our sins. Our response is to be like this Psalmist who gives his all to God in love.

Psalm 119:11: Here the Psalmist talks about *hiding God's word in his heart*.

Q: What do you think this means? A: It means memorizing it! Every week we have a memory verse for you with the lesson. Today's verse is really easy to memorize. Try and commit **Psalm 119:162** to memory this week and come back next week and see if you can recite it to me. Ask whoever picks you up after church if they would memorize it with you! (**Teachers**: Consider offering a small incentive/reward to make this challenge more interesting to them)

And notice why you should memorize God's word. So that you will not sin (do what is wrong)! * We will never be "sinless", but those who love God will "sin less".

Psalm 119:12-15: These verses echo many of the same sentiments we have already talked about. (**Teachers**: As described above, consider having the kids point out which word from the list of terms describing Scripture is in each verse for fun)

In v. 14, just like in our memory verse, the Psalmist is comparing knowing God's word to possessing great riches and treasure. (**Teachers**: Consider having the kids hold their Bible up above their heads and ask them if they see this book as real treasure!) *

Psalm 119:16: Because this book is such a treasure, the Psalmist is determined to DELIGHT himself in it.

Q: Earlier in the lesson we talked about the music student who practices really, really hard, but hates it vs. the music student who might practice less, but loves it. Which one would you say DELIGHTS in music? Which one will continue to practice and not quit?

Boys and Girls: God wants the same for you! He wants you to DELIGHT in Him and His word. If you read the Bible, or memorize verses from the Bible, or just try really hard not to sin just because you have to, you are missing what God wants!

Key Point: At the beginning of our lesson we talked about how people write songs to express their love for something. This guy LOVES God and His Word and wrote a 2000 word “love song” about God and His Word!

If this guy was around today, he would look at us and say: **WAKE UP!** God and His Word is better than Fortnite, better than Barbie dolls, better than Minecraft, better than Disney+, better than iPhones, better than whatever the world treasures.

DELIGHT in God’s word this week by reading it and memorizing it! Make it your treasure! Shock your Mom, Dad, grandparents, or whoever picks you up after class by telling them that you want to read more of God’s word with them this week!

Teachers: Our main lesson will conclude here, but here a few suggestions for classroom time afterwards:

- 1) Share with the kids some of your Bible-reading habits and how you delight in God’s word
- 2) Pick some other verses from Psalm 119 and talk about them. Some of my favorites: v. 18, 28, 47, 50, 55, 67, 68, 71, 72, 73, 89, 97, 103, 105, 114, 160
- 3) Use a random number generator from your phone like <https://www.google.com/search?q=random%20number> and use it to randomly pick verses and discuss how that verse describes God’s word as excellent (note there are about 3 or 4 verses in the Psalm that don’t explicitly talk about God’s word!)

Bring It Home

Lesson Theme: God's Word: Great Treasure

Scripture: Psalm 119

Memory Verse: Psalm 119:162 *"I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure."*

Teachers/Parents: We shared a few familiar songs (i.e. *You Are My Sunshine*) with the kids at the beginning of our lesson that all express love for someone or something. Many, many songs are written for that very purpose. Can you think of any songs like this or have you ever made one up yourself? Why did you make it up?

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Psalm 119 is an amazing ~2000 word "love song" about God and His word. Just as the title says, almost every verse exclaims something excellent about the Scripture (testimonies, law, precepts, judgements, word, etc.) You can pick just about any of the 176 verses and you will learn something excellent about God's word. Pick a few verses randomly and discuss together what you found.
- 2) Read **Psalm 119:2** and **Psalm 119:10**. What is common between these two verses and why do you think this is important to remember before opening up God's word?
- 3) Read **Psalm 119:11**. In class we encouraged the kids to hide God's word in their hearts by memorizing it. Consider memorizing our memory verse above, **Psalm 119:162**, together as a family this week and challenging each other to remember it. According to v. 11, why is memorizing God's word a good thing to do?
- 4) Read **Psalm 119:16**. What is the difference between doing something because you delight in it vs. doing something because you have to? How can you make reading God's word more and more a delight rather than just a raw duty?
- 5) Read **Psalm 119:50**. What does this teach us about where we can go when life is hard? What does **Psalm 119:71** suggest might be the purpose or reason behind some of our harder times in life?
- 6) Read **Psalm 119:160**. What does this verse say about the reliability and trustworthiness of God's word? What are some other reasons that we can trust God's word? Look here for some ideas: <https://www.gotquestions.org/trust-the-Bible.html>