

=Story Behind the Psalm=

Psalm 119

NOTE: *These lessons are designed simply as a guideline. As a Sunday School teacher part of your job is to study the lesson and develop it for the pupils in your class according to their age and spiritual development.*

Scripture: Psalms 119

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The Story Behind the Psalm

This is an alphabetical Psalm. It is composed of 22 stanzas of 8 verses each. Each stanza is headed by different letter from the alphabet and each verse of each stanza begins with this letter.

In the Psalm the writer is magnifying the Word of God. He uses eight words describing the Bible: (1) law (2) testimony, (3) judgments, (4) statutes, (5) words, (6) precepts, (7) commandments, (8) and way. The first eight are used over 20 times each. The ninth is used four times.

The Way It Was Used by God's People

This was a Psalm of praise and thanksgiving for the Word of God. It is significant that this is the longest of all the psalms and is the longest chapter in the Bible. How appropriate this is that the foundation of all we believe controls the longest chapter of all!

LESSON:

Psalm 119 is all about the bible. Psalm 119 gives us many comparisons to the Word of God. This lesson is about those comparisons to give us a little more insight on the Word of God.

1. **The Bible is better than riches (72)**
 - a. Riches are sought after and protected. We should search for the things of God as hard as we look for money and wealth.
 - b. Most people center their life around their riches. We should center our life around God's Word.
2. **The Bible is like a lamp and a light (105)**
 - a. A lamp signifies a lesser light to see a short distance; basically where to place you next step.
 - b. A light signifies a greater light that illuminates a great distance.

- c. The Bible is a lamp to our feet. It will give us the next step to take. As we walk in the light of the lamp we will find our entire pathway (life) has been lit and filled with light.
3. **The Bible is like a shepherd** (176)
 - a. The shepherd guides and protects the sheep. The bible is our guide and protects us from sin and foolishness.
 4. **The Bible is like a counselor** (24)
 - a. A counselor is a non bias individual who takes all the facts and tells you what is the best position for you to take.
 - b. We should always take counsel
 5. **The Bible is like a song in captivity** (54)
 - a. Paul and Silas were taken out of the synagogue and placed in prison (Acts 16:25) but they could not take the song out of their heart. The Bible is that song of joy that sings on even through the toughest of times.
 6. **The Bible is like a refreshing revitalizing agent** (83). In the eastern countries their bottles are made of skins; one of these hung in the smoke must soon be parched and shriveled up. This represents the exhausted state of his body and mind by long bodily affliction and mental distress. Yet, the statutes of the Lord restore him back to an usable vessel.

Memory Verse: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.* **Psalm 119:105**