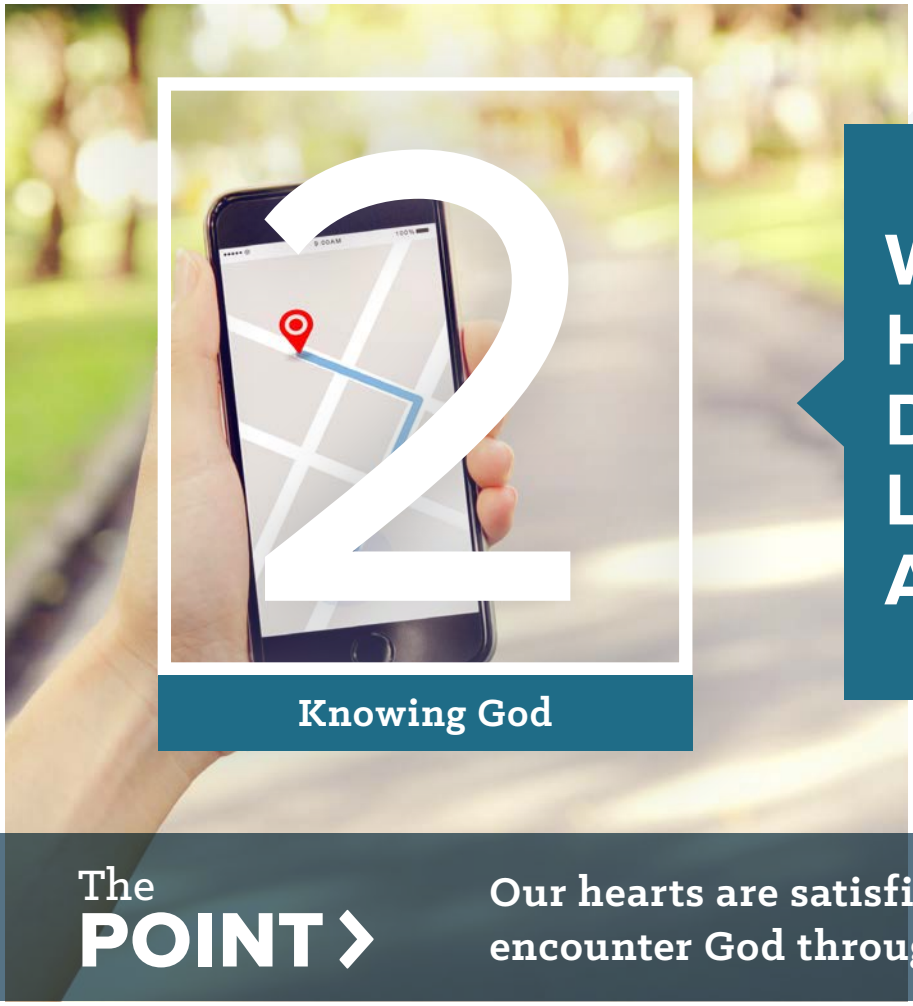


2

Knowing God

WHEN HAVE BAD DIRECTIONS LED YOU ASTRAY?

?

The POINT ›

Our hearts are satisfied as we encounter God through His Word.

› PSALM 119:17-24

17 Deal bountifully with your servant,
that I may live and keep your word.
18 Open my eyes, that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.
19 I am a sojourner on the earth;
hide not your commandments from me!
20 My soul is consumed with longing
for your rules at all times.
21 You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones,
who wander from your commandments.
22 Take away from me scorn and contempt,
for I have kept your testimonies.
23 Even though princes sit plotting against me,
your servant will meditate on your statutes.
24 Your testimonies are my delight;
they are my counselors.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:
The word north is derived from the ancient Indo-European language word "ner," which means "left." Orientation was established from facing the sun, and north is left.[2]



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // BIBLE
Through the Bible, we know God Himself, and we know how He expects us to live in order to follow Christ and experience His blessing.

Many of us have become quite dependent on GPS. And why not? GPS calls out directions as we need them, never requiring us to take our eyes off the road. This becomes all the more important when we're in an unfamiliar area or hazardous conditions.

One Canadian woman would disagree. She was in an unfamiliar area of Ontario on a dark and stormy night. When she drove down a boat launch into the Georgian Bay, she discovered her GPS may not have been as reliable as she thought. She did exactly as directed by her GPS, but the GPS was wrong. She came out of the frigid water just fine, but the same could not be said for her car.[1]

Thankfully, we can always follow the direction the Bible gives without fail. It is always reliable and will never lead us astray. Psalm 119 teaches us a lot about the value of God's Word, and in this psalm we see how the Bible produces spiritual growth, equips us to face opposition, and gives us a reliable perspective to navigate life.

PSALM 119:17-18

1 What helps us hear God's voice above all the other distracting voices in this life?

2 What benefits have you experienced from studying God's Word?

THE POINT // OUR HEARTS ARE SATISFIED AS WE ENCOUNTER GOD THROUGH HIS WORD.



Living God's way is not always the easiest path, but it is always the best path. #BSFLSpiritualDisciplines

PSALM 119:19-22

3 When have you felt like an outsider in this world?

4 Why are people sometimes more concerned about the opinion of others instead of God's Word?

5 How has knowing God through His Word helped you face challenges in life?

PSALM 119:23-24

6 Why is the Bible a better guide for decision-making than the leaders of our current culture?

7 How has your perspective been shaped by God's Word?

8 What is required if we are to intentionally internalize God's Word?

LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // BIBLE

Through the Bible, we know God Himself, and we know how He expects us to live in order to follow Christ and experience His blessing.

According to John 1:1-4, Jesus is the Word, who was with God and who is Himself God, since the very beginning. We have the privilege of knowing Jesus through the Word because He is the Word. As we spend time studying the Bible, we will come to know God more deeply as He reveals Himself to us. Further, we will come to see more and more clearly how He expects us to live. When we live for God, we put ourselves in the position that He will bless us. However, we need to understand that the greatest blessing we have is Jesus Himself.

GOD
JESUS
HOLY SPIRIT
BIBLE
SALVATION
CREATION
CHURCH
PEOPLE
FAMILY
COMMUNITY & WORLD

CHRIST

9 **Read John 1:1-4. What does this say about Jesus?**

To know someone deeply involves more than a simple "hey" here and there. It involves time together, sharing of ourselves, and listening to the thoughts of the other person.

Here are a few ways to get to know Jesus more intimately:

- Read the Bible at least 15 minutes a day.
- Study the Bible more deeply using Bible study resources.
- Meditate on God's Word.
- Memorize specific verses—John 1:1-4 would be a great place to start.

10 **What will you commit to this week?**



COMMUNITY

We're called to live out our relationship with Christ within the context of community. The church is the body of Christ on earth, and each of Jesus' followers is a part of that body.

11 **How has the church helped you grow in your relationship with Christ?**

12 **In what areas of the church are you not plugged into that would help you grow spiritually?**

13 **How can you help others know Jesus more deeply by engaging in the life of the church?**

CULTURE

In our culture, people believe there are many ways to God. Some think we need only to believe He exists. Others think we need only to go to church and pray. Some believe it's all about being a good person. But the truth is the only way we can truly know God is through His Word. God has declared His existence through creation, but it's only through the Living Word that He has revealed Himself to us. To know God, we must pursue Him in His Word.

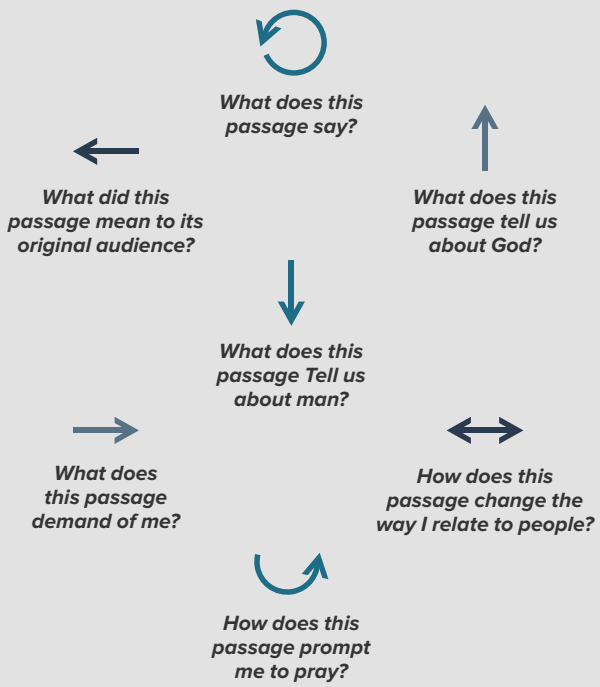
14 **How do your friends believe they can know God?**

15 **How will you help a non-believing friend see that we can only truly know God through the Scriptures?**

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of **Bible Reading**



Day One

PSALM 119:9

God's people are called to lives of purity, keeping ourselves from being polluted or defiled by the values of the world (Jas. 1:27). The author of this psalm asked the question, "How can a young man keep his way pure?" He knew the importance of living a life of purity before God. After all, God had promised to bless those who lived pure lives of obedience, but for those who disobeyed according to the ways of the world, God promised a curse (Deut. 11:26-28). Every person wants to be happy—an idea closely related to the blessings of God. However, not nearly as many are willing to live lives of purity according to God's standards. If we want to be blessed, we must live lives of purity, and we do this by knowing God's Word and living it out from day to day.

Why is God so concerned with our living pure lives?

What are ways people today defile themselves? What are the consequences?

Day Two
PSALM 119:10



The psalmist asked about purity not because he was curious, but because he longed desperately to live in a way that pleased God. He wanted to live up to God's standards of purity with all of his heart. Many people today commit to purity, often specifically within physical relationships. However purity reaches far beyond this one context. Purity applies to every part of our lives—dating, entertainment, language, thoughts, desires, and more. The psalmist wanted more than anything else to please God through living a pure life. We are to devote ourselves to living this same way, praying continually that God would give us healthy desires as we devote ourselves to Him.

- **Where do you identify impurity in your life?**

- **How would seeking God with all your heart affect this?**

Day Three
PSALM 119:11-12

When we think of treasure, the image that often comes to mind is of a chest with the lid cracked open and jewels spilling out. We imagine this as treasure because these things are seen as valuable in our world. Treasure refers specifically to those things to which we ascribe worth—the things we treasure. For some, riches are their treasure because that's what they value most. For others, what's most important is family, clothes, cars, image and social status, freedom to do as they please, and many other things. The psalmist expressed that the thing he valued most was God's Word. He knew that the things of the world will never satisfy the deepest longings of the soul, and though we may be tempted to believe "stuff" will make us happy, it will ultimately leave us empty. If we want to be truly blessed, we must learn to treasure the Scriptures as the psalmist did—this is the only way to experience God's blessing in our lives.

- **When you honestly evaluate your life, what do you treasure most?**

- **When have you seen that valuing the things of the world leave us empty? When have you experienced satisfaction from God's Word?**

Day Four
PSALM 119:13-14

The psalmist had not only committed himself to a life of purity, but he was also committed to telling anyone who would listen about the joys associated with living for God. For those who are a part of God's family, we've experienced firsthand the blessings of belonging to God. We once lived in darkness, but now we're children of the light. We were once hopeless, but now we have hope for eternity because of Jesus. We were once desperately lost with no way back to God, but we've been found and restored back to a place of safety and security. We were once children of wrath, but now we have God's favor and blessings upon our lives. To keep this kind of news to ourselves would be self-centered and against the spirit of the gospel. Because we've experienced God's blessings, we should naturally be motivated to proclaim the beauties of God's truth to others that they would share in the blessings of God.

- **What motivates you to share the gospel with others?**

- **When have you experienced joy by helping others experience joy in Christ?**

Day Five
PSALM 119:15-16



Have you ever been so excited about something (or someone) that you couldn't get it off your mind? The psalmist had that experience too, and the thing that captured his attention was the Word of God. To meditate means to think deeply, to dwell on something with our thoughts or contemplate an idea. The Word of God is the way we know God and know what He expects of us, and because it's our means to a relationship with God, there's nothing more valuable in all the world. When we learn to see the Scriptures this way, it will capture our attention, and we'll find that God's Truth is always on our minds.

- **When have you had an experience where you couldn't stop thinking about something or someone?**

- **Why did the psalmist have this experience in relation to God's Word? How can you see God's Word more like this?**