

**Growing Up Through God's Word — January 28-29, 2017**  
**Follow-up Bible Studies**

---

Written by Maggie Baxter

**Day One: Psalm 19**

- Describe “the heavens” and what they communicate about God (1-6). This week, take a prayer walk and notice the ways creation testifies about God’s love. Try to make this practice a habit.
- What topic does David address next (7)? How does he describe God’s law (7-9)? What are four ways it impacts people (7-8)? How else does David esteem God’s law (10-11)? Describe how he relies on God alone for truth and holiness (12-13). Talk to God now, thanking him for the certainty of his word and the ways it shapes you. How does David conclude this psalm (14)?
- Re-read verses 7-9. What are some ways you can similarly pay closer attention to and nurture love for God’s word this year? Make a plan to put one idea into action. How do you think this will accelerate your journey toward spiritual maturity?

**Day Two: Psalm 119:89-96**

- This is an excerpt of a 176 verse acrostic poem that is the longest psalm in the Bible. Almost every line is about God’s word. Reflect on what this means regarding the Bible’s rightful role in your life. Lift your thoughts up to the Lord, asking him to grow your reverence for his word. Describe the nature of God’s word (89). How does the Lord demonstrate his faithfulness (90-91)?
- What protection does delighting in God’s law offer (92)? What does the psalmist promise (93)? What does he ask the Lord to do (94)? Why (94)? What does the author sense awaits him (95)? In the meantime, what will he do (95)? Bring to mind your own troubles. This week, memorize a few pertinent verses to help you “ponder his statutes” whenever you feel attacked.
- Contrast perfections found in this world with the perfection of God’s word (96). Conclude by making a list of other things that cannot compare to the certainty and godness of God’s word.

**Day Three: Isaiah 55**

- Describe the experience of coming to “the waters” (1-3). Who will come to God’s people (5)? Why (5)? What advice is given for finding the Lord (6)? What should “the wicked” do (7)? Why (7)?
- How do God’s thoughts compare to ours (8-9)? Meditate on this truth. Thank God for it and pray you’d be able to decipher human ideas from the Lord’s and respond accordingly.
- Describe the power of God’s word (10-11). Pray you’d embody these verses: that in response to God’s word you’d bud, flourish, sustain others, and achieve his purpose. What’s one area of your life where you feel led to walk this out? What type of environment does the Lord promise to us (12-13)? Why will he do this (13)?
- Consider the experiential commands of this prophecy: buy, eat, delight, seek, call, go out, etc. What does this communicate about how we are to engage God’s word? Beyond simply reading it, ask the Lord to use his word to purify you and to build you up.

**Day Four: John 18:28-40**

- Set the scene of this text (28). What did Pilate ask the Jewish leaders (29)? What was their answer (30)? What else did they talk about (31)? What was significant about this conversation (32)?

- Summarize the exchange Pilate then had with Jesus (33-37). What is your response to Jesus saying his “kingdom is not of this world”? Regularly reading the Bible can help you remain loyal to God’s invisible kingdom, even as you face tangible hardship. Pray for an increase in time and discipline to read God’s word.
- What was Pilate’s concluding statement to Jesus (38)? Why do you think he spoke about truth as though it’s subjective? Talk to the Lord about whether you ever feel or act this way. As you engage, meditate on Jesus’ words: “Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” Pray the truth of God’s word would pierce your soul and transform your life this year.
- When Pilate spoke again to the Jewish leaders, what did he say (38-39)? How did they respond (40)? Like Pilate, why do you think the people failed to be on the side of truth?

#### **Day Five: Ephesians 4:1-16**

- Describe the sort of life Paul urges followers of Christ to live (1-6). How does this description relate to 1 Peter 1:22? This is one of the Bible’s many overlapping themes and messages. What is your response to this trademark characteristic of the Bible?
- How does Paul convey the way God gives grace to his people (7-12)? What does this achieve (12-13)? Note Paul’s description of spiritual maturity in verse 13: “attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” What are some examples of this sort of maturity in action? Define spiritual maturity in your own words.
- What is one benefit of spiritual maturity (14)? Studying scripture combats spiritual gullibility. What is one change you can make to start reading God’s word everyday? Pray for grace to do so.
- How does Paul then explain spiritual maturity’s benefit to the entire body of Christ (15-16)? Which part here speaks most to your heart? How do you think the Lord wants you to respond?