

PSALM 119 : 105

REVELATION AND GUIDANCE – A LAMP TO OUR PATH

BIBLE STUDY



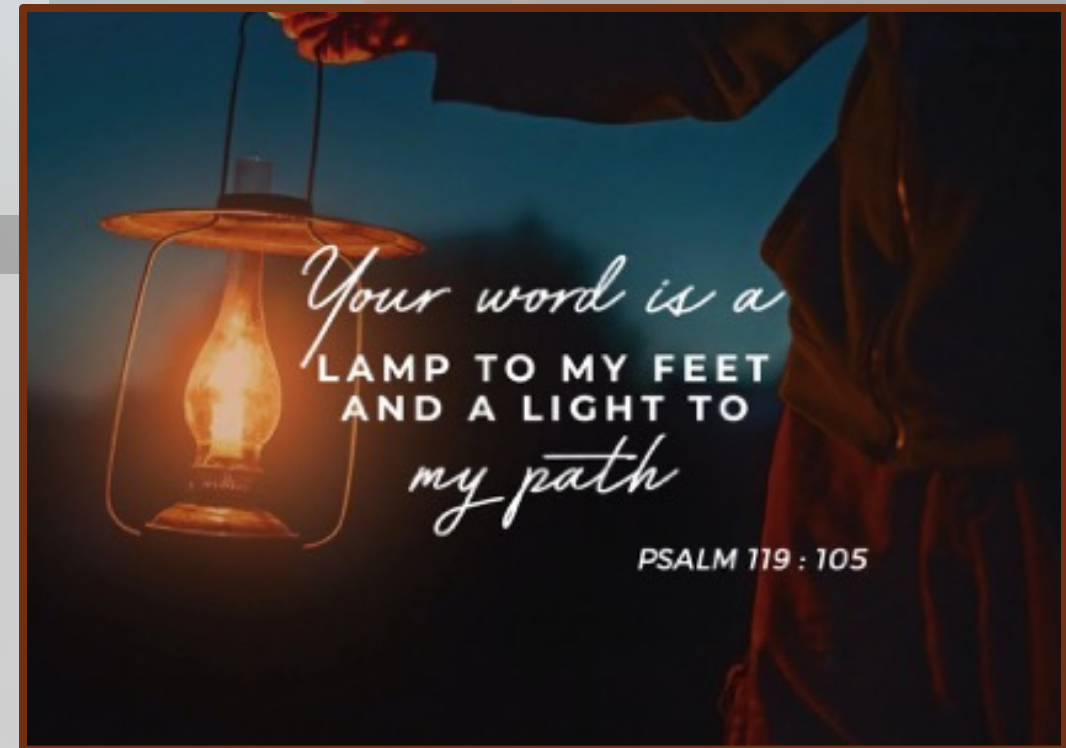
STARTER:

Most of us have a daily routine. Do you feel as if your routine reflects what you love to do? Is reading the Bible part of your daily routine? If so, how does it fit in?

Read Psalm 119 : 105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

This well-known and well-loved verse is our **Verse of the Year 2022** at Emmanuel Croydon. If you haven't already got one, be sure to get a postcard from church that reflects the beauty of the verse and will be something you can use as a reminder through the coming months.



PSALM 119 : 105

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BIBLE STUDY



The first part of the passage talks about the Bible being **a lamp for our feet**.

- The Hebrew word for lamp used here is **'niyar'**. This word is similar to the subtle light of a candle - a light that is not dazzlingly bright, but enough to navigate one step at a time. Reflect on what this might mean for us as believers as we seek God's guidance in our lives.
- The niyar lamp that is used in this passage was a small oil lamp. ***What would you say provides the oil for the 'lamp for our feet'?*** (Psalm 18 : 28)
- As we think about this image of the Bible as a lamp for our feet, what might be some of the potholes that it illuminates on the road we walk on in our daily lives?



PSALM 119 : 105

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The second part of the verse talks about the Bible being **a light for our path.**

- How might the image of a path be seen as different from the image of daily steps used in the first part of the verse?
- How might this description of the Bible help us to see our lives as believers?
- **Psalm 119 : 105** translated in the Passion Translation reads: *Truth's shining light guides me in my choices and decisions; the revelation of your Word makes my pathway clear.*
- How does it encourage us to remember that the Bible brings truth in the world we now live in?
- In what ways might we seek 'the revelation of God's word' so that our pathway is clear? What ways have you found that are particularly helpful to you as a Christian as you seek guidance?



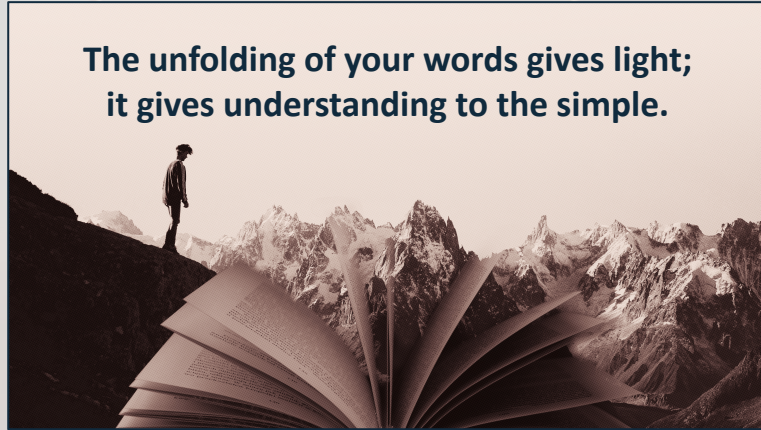
PSALM 119 : 130

REVELATION AND GUIDANCE – A LAMP TO OUR PATH

GOING DEEPER

Read Psalm 119 : 130

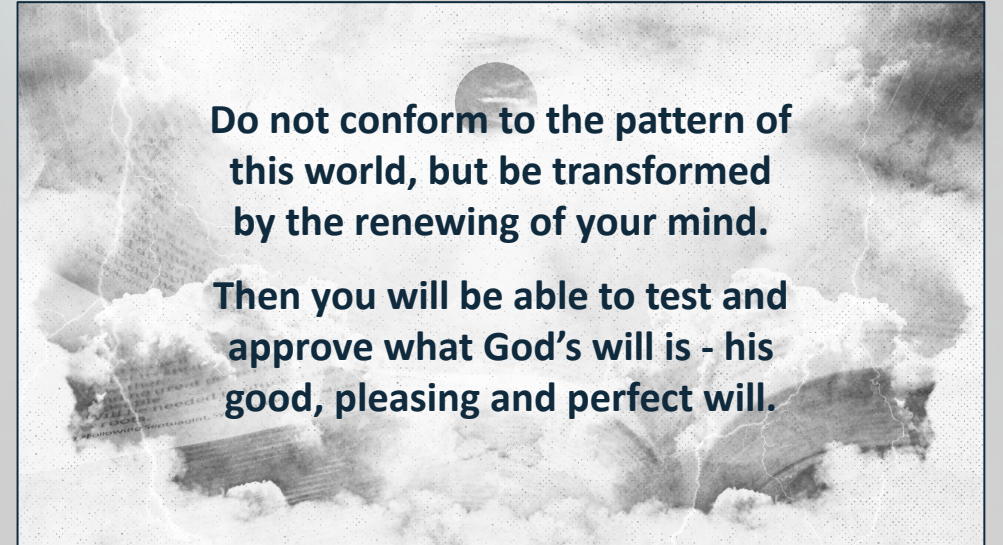
The unfolding of your words gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.



- Studying this verse, how do you think we might gain wisdom?
- Consider what it teaches about our attitude and our actions as we approach Bible reading.
- What might this mean for our daily routine?

Read Romans 12 : 2

Do not conform to the pattern of
this world, but be transformed
by the renewing of your mind.
Then you will be able to test and
approve what God's will is - his
good, pleasing and perfect will.



- How do you think we might seek to renew our mind?
- What does this verse teach us about guidance?

PSALM 119 : 130

REVELATION AND GUIDANCE – A LAMP TO OUR PATH

REFLECT | LISTEN | PRAY

REFLECT

In what ways do you sense God telling you to act on what you have considered today as you go into the New Year?

LISTEN

Use this song as a prayer in your group



(Amy Grant – Thy Word)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6LC8cu031g>

PRAY

Ask God to help you appreciate the light of understanding that comes from his Word as you dig deeper over this year. Thank him for the truth that is revealed within it.

What decisions are you facing today that you could bring before God and ask for his guidance and wisdom?

PSALM 119 : 81-82

ASSURANCE – PROMISES TO HOLD ON TO

BIBLE STUDY



STARTER:

Remembering Bible passages that bring us comfort or joy is an important part of our walk as believers. What are your favourite ways to bring to mind such passages for when you want reassurance from the Lord?

Our first **Psalm 119 study** looked at a strong trust in God's word for guidance.

Today, the Psalmist is seeking assurance from the Bible, as his mood changes.



PSALM 119 : 81-82

ASSURANCE – PROMISES TO HOLD ON TO

BIBLE STUDY



Read Psalm 119 : 81-82

My soul faints with longing for your salvation, but I have put my hope in your word. My eyes fail, looking for your promise; I say, “When will you comfort me?”

- How would you describe the Psalmist’s mood in this section of **Psalm 119** (look at verses 81-88)?
- In **verse 81**, the Psalmist says ‘my soul faints with longing for your salvation’.

The word used here for salvation does not mean ‘justification by faith through grace’ as we may understand our salvation now. It means ‘victory or deliverance from an enemy’. Asking God for victory over an enemy – how might this be a description of our walk as believers? What enemies are you aware of in your life at the moment?



PSALM 119 : 81-82

ASSURANCE – PROMISES TO HOLD ON TO

BIBLE STUDY



Psalm 119 : 81-82

- Discouragement has turned many away from faith. Why do you think discouragement might first take root in the life of a believer?
- The second part of **verse 81** has the important words ‘but I have put my hope in your word’. What building blocks do you think we need to put into place in order to reach this ‘but’ when we’re going through a situation of difficulty and struggle as a believer?
- What do you think might happen to our view of God if we don’t reach the point of hope in God’s word?
- **Read verse 82 and also 84.** Why do you think waiting is often part of the faith journey?



PSALM 119 : 81-82

ASSURANCE – PROMISES TO HOLD ON TO

GOING DEEPER

What can help us to learn to trust God when we feel out of control?

Spend some time looking at these verses and discussing how we can use them as foundations for our current situation:

1. **God's ways are higher than our ways.**
Look up Colossians 1 : 16-17; Isaiah 46 : 9-10.
2. **God is wiser than us - he knows what he's doing.**
Look at Romans 11 : 33 and Proverbs 3 : 5-6.
3. **God's love is perfect and unchanging.**
Look at Lamentations 3 vv 22-26.
(The word for salvation in verse 26 is the same as in Psalm 119 : 81).
Romans 8 : 31-32.



PSALM 119 : 81-82

ASSURANCE – PROMISES TO HOLD ON TO

WATCH | PRAY

WATCH

Use this song
as a prayer in your group
(*Elevation Worship – Do It Again*)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0B_InQITxU

I'LL

SEE

YOU

DO IT AGAIN

PRAY

Pray using the words of Isaiah 55 vv 8-11 to remind each other that God is our Lord, and that his word accomplishes what he wants from it.

What encouragement could your small group give someone whose eyes are heavy with weariness as they wait for God to fulfil his promise? Pray for each other.

PSALM 119 : 103

DELIGHT AND SUSTENANCE – SWEETER THAN HONEY

BIBLE STUDY



STARTER:

If someone asked you what brings you delight, what would you answer?

Explain



Read Psalm 119 : 103

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.

- What do you think has inspired the Psalmist to use such strong language? **Read verses 97 – 104 for more thoughts.**
- Have you ever thought about the words of the Bible as being ‘sweeter than honey’?

What might hold us back from using such a strong description? Where do you think we might seek our ‘sugar fix’ instead?

- What might be needed for us to experience the same sweetness about the words of Scripture? How do you think our lives change when we begin to find God’s words sweet?

PSALM 119 : 103

DELIGHT AND SUSTENANCE – SWEETER THAN HONEY

BIBLE STUDY



Read Psalm 34 : 8

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him

- As we reach out into a relationship with the Lord by tasting and seeing, what is the promise that follows? How has this been your experience?
- What would you say to someone who interpreted 'taste' as meaning that Christianity can be mixed up as a smorgasbord with other religions and beliefs?
- Thinking about these two verses, how might we see the Bible differently if we consider it as something that delights and sustains us?



PSALM 119 : 103

DELIGHT AND SUSTENANCE – SWEETER THAN HONEY

GOING DEEPER

Read 1 Peter 2 : 2-3

- What are the results of tasting in these verses?
- What happens to a baby who is not fed good milk?
- What do you think pure spiritual milk might involve?
- How might we sense that we are growing up in our salvation?



PSALM 119 : 103

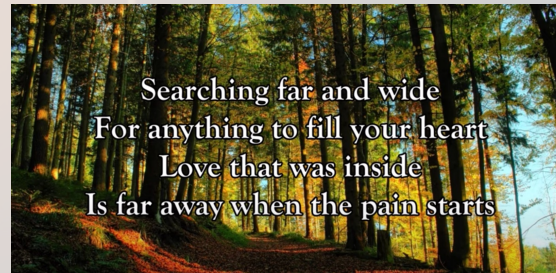
DELIGHT AND SUSTENANCE – SWEETER THAN HONEY

LISTEN | PRAY

LISTEN

Use this song
as a prayer in your group
(Travis Greene – Taste and See)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zonXmpQKqCk>



PRAY

Forgive us when we turn away from the Bible and seek our sugar fix elsewhere. Help us to see as we look back over our walk with you that you are faithful in your goodness, and that we can find sustenance when we delight in you.

May we be filled with joy as we find you to be good, and to grow in our salvation as we seek a deeper understanding of you.

PSALM 119 : 9-11

HOLINESS – COMMANDS TO OBEY

BIBLE STUDY



STARTER:

How do you think people view the word 'purity' in our culture? Consider how it is used in adverts, for example, or in workplaces.

Is there a danger that it is seen as unattractive, even in the church, to seek a life of purity? Why?



PSALM 119 : 9-11

HOLINESS – COMMANDS TO OBEY

BIBLE STUDY



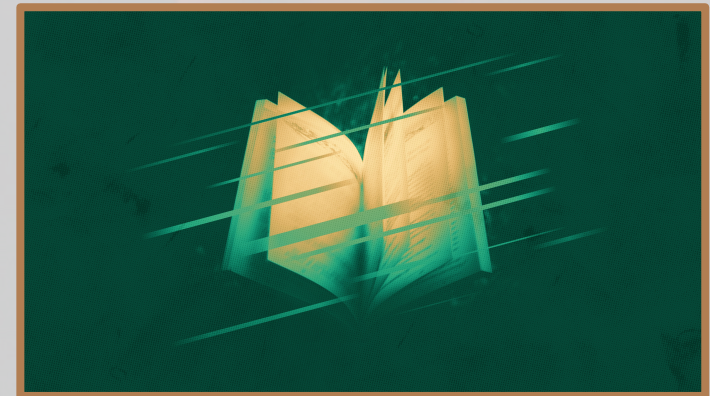
Read Psalm 119 : 9-11

How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

- Of course, these verses are not just for young people (v.9), but for all those seeking wisdom. What do you think it might mean for believers to seek to 'stay on the path of purity' in 21st century Croydon? What challenges are we up against?
- **The second part of verse 9** says that we need to live according to God's word in order to be pure. What needs to happen for us to do this - to our attitude, and our daily habits?

- The Bible teaches us to be 'wholehearted' in our pursuit of God, and this is reinforced in **verse 10**. In what ways do you think we may fall short of being wholehearted in our walk as believers? Can you think of biblical examples of wholehearted living?



PSALM 119 : 9-11

HOLINESS – COMMANDS TO OBEY

BIBLE STUDY



Psalm 119 : 9-11

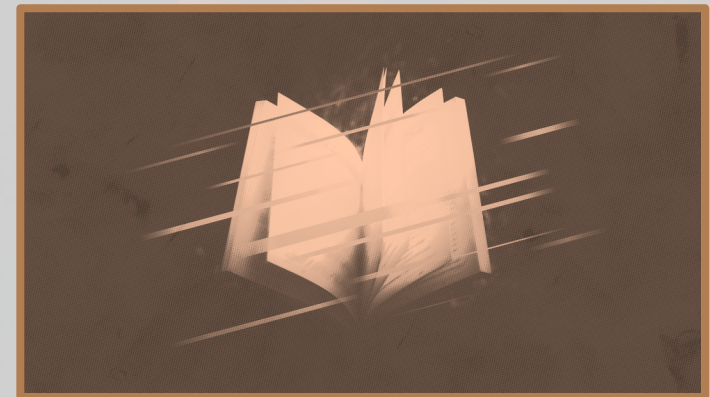
How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

- Look at **Psalm 119 verse 2**. How does it work together with **verse 10**? What do you think it means to be blessed, when keeping God's commands might result in rejection or even persecution?
- Look at **verse 11**. How did Jesus model what this verse says in his encounter with Satan in the wilderness?
(See Matthew 4 : 1-11 for a reminder).

- As we begin this New Year at Emmanuel with a focus on the Bible, how do you think you might as a small group find new ways to 'hide the word in your heart'?

Why is it important that we learn to do this, according to the Psalmist (**v11**)?



PSALM 119 : 9-11

HOLINESS – COMMANDS TO OBEY

GOING DEEPER

Build up a picture of biblical purity in our daily lives from the following verses:

What do they teach us?

1 Peter 1 : 15-16; 1 Corinthians 6 : 18
Ezekiel 45 : 10; 2 Corinthians 10 : 5
Ephesians 4 : 29; 1 Corinthians 10 : 31



PSALM 119 : 9-11

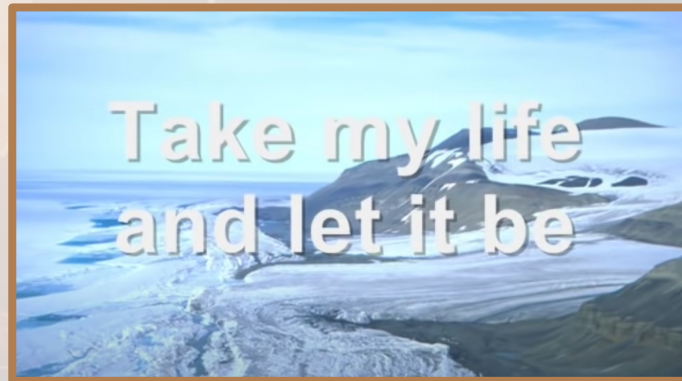
HOLINESS – COMMANDS TO OBEY

WATCH | PRAY

WATCH

Use this song
as a prayer in your group
(Chris Tomlin – Take my life)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0Byp7aK2DA>



PRAY

These verses are specifically addressed to the young people learning from the teachers of wisdom. Of course, we know from the rest of Scripture that they are applicable to us also. But take some time as a small group to pray for the young people of Emmanuel Church – that they would understand the freedom and sacrifice that come from the call to live a life of purity.

Pray for the other thoughts that have come up from your discussions through this study. Ask God to teach us what it means to live lives of attractive purity.