



Lab Study Guide Winter 2018

Date:
Text:

Teacher:
Any other Text?:

1. Read the Text Together Read the Text for this week out loud with your group.

2. Make Observations What stands out? What phrases caught your attention?
Any repetition, contrasts, comparisons?

3. Ask Questions What is confusing or hard to understand? Any details that might be important?
Ask: who, what, where, when, why, how?

4. Background Information

This Psalm was written by David. It's by far the longest Psalm and actually the longest chapter in the entire Bible with 176 verses. Psalm 119 is "The rich and precious jewel" of the word. It shows the full flowering of the "delight in the law of the Lord" which we talked about with Psalm 1, and Ps 119 gives personal witness to the numerous qualities of Scripture.

Not only is it rich and long, but also one of the most complex and probably most difficult to write. Psalm 119 is an acrostic psalm, an alphabet of prayers and reflections on the word of God, giving each Hebrew letter its turn to introduce 8 successive verses on the subject. Each Hebrew letter gets 8 verses to meditate on or express their relationship with the very words of God.

Also, David uses several different synonyms for Scripture throughout this poem: Law ("teaching, instruction"), Testimonies, Precepts, Statutes, Commandments, Ordinances, Word, Promises. These are all synonyms for Scripture, each one uniquely contributing to our understanding of what Scripture is.

5. Application Questions

1. How was your experience at The Well hearing Psalm 119 being read?
2. Share words or phrases from each section that you wrote down during the Well.
3. Other thoughts, hopes or desires for your life as you reflect on Psalm 119?

6. Have everyone answer....

What verse or phrase from this Psalm was most powerful for you this week?

