

Daily Devotionals for July 28-August 2

Monday, July 28 Read Psalm 119:1-16;105

This long psalm is a celebration of God's gracious love in setting a path for us to follow. How does the psalmist answer the question posed in v.9 How is the Law and God's statutes a vital part in hearing God speaking to us? What are some places where God's Word seems to be speaking especially to you recently? Have a conversation with God about these.

Tuesday July 29 Read Philippians 1:3-11

Do you really believe God is doing a good work in you (v.6)? Paul is inviting disciples to cling to that promise so as to encourage us to more diligently seek after God and see past the world into "what really matters (v.10)." How is it easier to listen for God's guidance if we already know what He wants to guide us to? How do you understand the goal of a "harvest of righteousness?"

Wednesday, July 30 Read Romans 12:1-21

What does the passage mean about "being conformed to the world (v.2)" and how does being that way interfere with our hearing God? Vv. 9-21 would seem to be common sense for anyone trying to be a good person. In what ways are we tempted to stifle or reinterpret God's message and guidance here? Why? How does actually *doing* these things help us hear God better?

Thursday, July 31 Read John 10:1-10

Here Jesus contrasts himself as the shepherd who wants good for us- the sheep- and "thieves" who come only to exploit and harm. What do those two perspectives on the sheep tell us about what voices we should listen to in making various life choices? How do the goals of the Good Shepherd and those of the thief help us discern which voice we might be hearing?

Friday, August 1 Read 1 John 4:1-17

Re-read and meditate a bit on vv.1-3. Moving beyond trite doctrinal statements, what actions, choices, values and perspectives "confess Christ" in your life? Which ones do not or are, as John says, "anti-Christ?" What actions are encouraged later in the passage that can help align us with God's desire for our lives?

Saturday, August 2 Read 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

Try memorizing this short but vital piece of scripture. How can studying the Bible, cultivating wise friends, being alert to visions, prayerfully reflecting on our lives and living out what we say we believe serve as ways to implement this teaching?

Sermon Notes from 7/27/25 "I Can See Clearly Now"

1. We hear God speak...

☐ ...in and through the Bible.

"Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path." -Psalm

☐ ...in good counsel and common sense.

"The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice." -Proverbs 12:15

☐ ...in dreams and visions.

"Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams." -Acts 2:17

☐ ...in personal reflection.

"Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." -Luke 2:19

☐ ...in action.

"Blessed...are those who hear the Word of God and obey it." -Luke 11:28

2. We keep these connections open by living His way and seeking His presence.

"And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters!" -Philippians 1:9-10

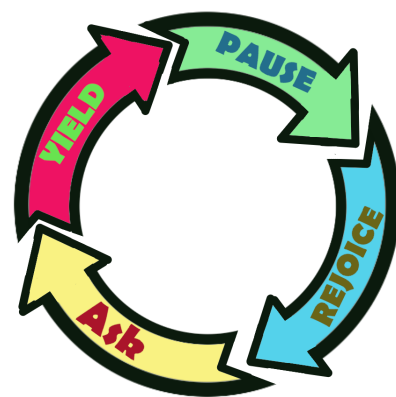


"I Can See Clearly Now"
Week of July 27, 2025

Small Group Study & Discussion Guide

Getting Started:

1. Have someone read Psalm 119:1-16;105 Share: "This long psalm is a celebration of God's gracious love in setting a path for us to follow."
- How does the psalmist answer the question posed in v.9?
 - How is the Law and God's statutes a vital part in hearing God speaking to us?
 - What are some places where God's Word seems to be speaking especially to you recently?



Going Deeper:

1. Read Philippians 1:3-11 Here Paul is inviting disciples to cling to that promise so as to encourage us to more diligently seek after God and see past the world into "what really matters (v.10)." Discuss the following:

- Do you really believe God is doing a good work in you (v.6)?
- How is it easier to listen for God's guidance if we already know what He wants to guide us to?
- How do you understand the goal of a "harvest of righteousness?"

2. Look at Sermon Note #1 and reflect on the ways you both hear God speaking and how we can be sure it is God we are listening to! Discuss the following:

A. God speaks to us in and through the Bible.

- How is the Bible God's voice? How can knowledge of the Bible help us know when something is NOT of God?

B. God speaks to us in good counsel and common sense.

- Whose counsel do you trust as "Godly?" What makes it so? Why is "common sense" often not very common? When are we most likely to disregard it?

C. God speaks to us in dreams and visions.

- Dreams might make us uncomfortable but how can they work in concert with some of these other means of listening for God? Can anyone share an experience of a dream or vision?

D. God speaks to us in personal reflection.

- How is honest confession before God essential to our hearing what God has to say to us? What are some methods that can help us evaluate God's responses and our own motivations and perspectives.

E. God speaks to us in action.

- Sometimes we don't know if something works until we try it. What sorts of actions (or practices) help us hear God better.

Taking it With You:

1. Before your group time ends, Make time to share a bit about what has been discovered during this exploration of prayer. Have there been any new practices or approaches to the life of prayer? What challenges have been encountered?

2. This prayer study is part of our larger "First Things First" theme for the year. How is prayer central, or foundational to your life and how is it not as important as it should be? How can we as a fellowship improve our prayer experience?