



### Introduction:

We are excited to share that Biltmore Church will embark on a journey we are calling the **Year of the Bible!** From Genesis to Revelation each week we see that all the stories are telling one BIG story. All the characters are really about one main character- Jesus. This week our journey will begin in Psalm 19, where we will see benefits that come from spending time in God's Word.

### Icebreaker: *(optional; use only one)*

- What are the biggest objections or excuses Christians cite for why they don't spend consistent time in God's Word?
- What is a "high" and/or "low" for you personally this week?

**Recall:** Ask a group member to read Psalm 19:7-11; 14

### Discussion: *(For assistance with today's text and discussion, see the Commentary section)*

1. Have you gone through the Bible in a year before? What are you excited about with Biltmore Church doing a year-long journey through the Bible?
  - a. Have you selected a reading plan yet? If not, go online to [biltmorechurch.com/Bible/](http://biltmorechurch.com/Bible/) today.
2. Share out loud the descriptors the text gives for describing God's law (*ex. "perfect" and "sure" in vs. 7*). Which ones stand out to you?
3. This passage also includes the benefits of God's Word, such as "reviving the soul" (*vs. 7*) and "enlightening the eyes" (*vs. 8*). Which of these benefits stands out to you as something you need in your life, and why?
4. In vs. 7, one of the benefits of spending time in God's Word is that it revives our soul. However, it is easy to fall into the habit of reading for information and not for transformation. What are some ways you can ensure that you are reading to become more like Christ instead of just gaining knowledge?
5. Verse 9 challenges us to have "*fear of the LORD*". Fear is most often explained as reverence and awe, but its most accurate translation is that of fear or terror. This isn't because God wants us to be afraid of Him, but just as Moses had to hide his face from the glory of the Lord, we too should have a holy reverence for the Lord. What difference does it make when you read the Scriptures with a holy fear of the Lord, versus taking His commands as suggestions or recommendations?
6. At the end of the chapter in verse 14 we see that the ultimate benefit of spending time in God's Word is the transformation of our words and thoughts. How is your attitude and response toward others different when you are spending time with God?

**Close:** Close by challenging group members to commit together to dig in deeper to God's Word than ever before.

**Commentary:** *(All Scripture references are from the ESV translation)*

**Background:**

Here's a short video created by the Jesus Storybook Bible group that does a great job on introducing Psalm 19 and the overarching theme that the whole Bible is about Jesus. Check it out [BiltmoreChurch.com/Psalm19](http://BiltmoreChurch.com/Psalm19)

**Psalm 19** begins by calling attention to the glory of God revealed through Creation. The heavens, sky, day to day, they all speak to us to show us the glory of God. In fact, God speaks so plainly through creation in verse three David proclaims that **There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.**

**19:7-11** David shifts from praising God for revealing Himself through creation to praising Him for revealing Himself through His word. This passage describes the character of God's word in six different ways. In each statement the Hebrew name for God- *Jehovah* is used.

1. **The law of the LORD is perfect, (vs 7).** It is perfectly free from all corruption and perfectly fit to equip mankind to walk according to His ways.
2. **The testimony of the LORD is sure.** God's word is His witness to us, and we can be confident that it will not deceive us.
3. **The precepts of the LORD are right, (vs 8).** A precept is a properly anointed mandate from God, and because it is from God, we can trust that it is right, because He cannot lie. *(see Num. 23:19)*
4. **The commandment of the LORD is pure.** It is without darkness, agenda, party, or bias. Pure.
5. **The fear of the LORD is clean, (vs 9).** Fear here is used in the context of awe, and not only is God's word clean, but it will also make us clean as well, *(see John 15:3)*.
6. **The rules of the LORD are true.** Rules in God's design are for our good and human flourishing, not restricting us. Just as they were for Adam and Eve before the Fall.

**19:14** David concludes this Psalm with the reminder that the spending time in God's word is less about obtaining knowledge and more about growing closer to our Creator. The word **acceptable** here carries the meaning of a sacrifice offered over to God. David desires for us to be so full of God's word that what we say and think would be so pure that it would be as a sacrifice to our High Priest.

**H.E.A.R Method:** *(If time allows, you may also use the H.E.A.R. method to study this passage)*

When reading God's Word:

**Highlight** each verse that stands out to you.

**Examine** what you just read by looking at Scripture within context.

**Apply** what you just read to your life.

**Respond** by writing out or incorporating what you just read into a prayer.