

Coffee Talk

Summer Study 2017

Week Two

~ Encourage ~

~ Strengthen ~

~ Share ~

You'll be *encouraged* as you hear each story of trial and growth, faith and grace, love and healing.

You'll be *strengthened* as you complete our simple and uplifting Bible study.

You'll *share* your growing joy and faith with others!

It's *contagious!*

Discussion Questions

June 19/20

Just for fun...

- If you could be any animal, what would it be and why?
- What pets do you have or did you have growing up?

Think and share...

- One year from now, what habit or ability would you like to have mastered?
- Have you ever had to unlearn something like a bad habit, a way of thinking, a skill, etc? It could be a simple thing or something significant... Why did you and what prompted your desire to change?
- Share something you learned, were challenged by, or found encouragement in from the previous week's study.

“Our True Source of Hope”

Jennifer Richmond

- Notes -

Coffee Talk Summer Study

Week Two – June 19-25

This study is designed to offer daily time in the Word of God for the purpose of understanding better who God is and in so doing knowing ourselves and our purpose better.

We'll read, think, pray, write, consider, and apply the truths and concepts we find in the Word of God. Use any version of the Bible you're comfortable with. I recommend the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible. You can also use a smartphone app, but getting the Bible into your hands will elevate your experience, so I strongly advise you use a good ol' fashioned Bible. Be willing to write and highlight and take notes in your Bible. Set aside time every day, and grow in the discipline of actual study. Amazing rewards await those who take the time to read and study God's Word. Don't forget: You can join the study daily on our Facebook page or the podcast. www.Facebook.com/LMCCWomen or www.DwellingRichly.Podbean.com or iTunes "Dwelling Richly"

~ This Week's Focus ~

The most important voice for you to hear and believe is God's. The most essential way to hear that begins by reading His Words for yourself.

Day One – Read Psalm 119:1-40

Psalm 119 is one of the most unique chapters in the Bible. That's clear enough reading it in English, but reading it in Hebrew is even more amazing. When you read it in Hebrew you see the beauty of the structure. Psalm 119 is divided into 22 sections: one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Each section is composed of 8 verses and each verse begins with the same Hebrew letter. It's not only beautifully written, it's got a purpose! It's special kind of poem that makes learning the word easy and you might have learned this way in school. This kind of poem is known as an acrostic. Each verse contains a special word pertaining to God's commandments, law, ordinances, word, judgments, statutes, precepts and decrees.

Over the next several days, as we study this Psalm, my heart is that you will come away with a renewed passion to be in God's Word and a bigger picture of who Jesus is.

1. From Psalm 119:1-40 Make a note of several verses you read that shows how King David* feels about God's word.

While studying, we want to see David as our inspiration and role model. Inspired by the Holy Spirit (Hebrew: the ruach chodesh), he wrote this Psalm over 3000 years ago and yet reading it today I feel that David could be sitting across from me sharing his heart. The Bible says that God called David a "man after His own heart." That is high praise and calls me to want to get to know David all the more through this Psalm.

**David is not named as the author. Some think it might have been the prophet Ezra. However, tradition and scholars tend to agree that David was, so for our study I'll be referring to King David as the author.*

2. David makes requests of God in verses 17-40. List several here:

3. What does this say about David's priorities and understanding of God's Word?

4. What did David do when he was discouraged? Write a verse from this selection that stands out to you. Consider committing it to memory.

Day Two – Read Psalm 119:41-72

5. David frequently writes that he is expecting God to keep His promise, remember His word, etc. Write one or more of those verses here:

6. What does Psalm 119:43 say about where David's hope is?

This is the verse where the word "hope" first appears, but as you can see from reading so far, much of the first 48 verses speak to our hearts with words that remind us of feeling hopeless. And where again and again does David find hope? God's Word. In fact, David so treasures God's Word that after 42 verses of recounting how deliberately he needs, wants, works for, memorizes, treasures, recounts, and obeys God's Word He asks God to not take – literally "snatch" – the "word of truth" from his mouth.

Does this strike you as odd? Why would he even be concerned that God do such a thing? Well, David's been through a lot – A LOT – and by "a lot" I mean serious sinful behavior.

7. Read Psalm 119:49-50

What a strong thought! From verse 49, write what David wants God to do and why. Then from verse 50 write from where David draws comfort:

Vertical line for writing.

Day Three – Read Psalm 119:13-104 & Psalm 51

8. The introduction in your Bible will give you a reminder about why David wrote Psalm 51. He had broken the word of God. He had sinned by coveting, murdering, lying, committing adultery. What does he say to God in verse 11?

Vertical line for writing.

What does he say in 51:15?

9. Before that in verse 11 he cried out for God NOT to cast him away or take His Holy Spirit, and later in Psalm 119:43 he pleads again, don't take this from me! What does this say about David's priorities? Write your thoughts here:

Vertical line for writing.

10. Write down the verses that show David's desperation for God's word:

Vertical line for writing.

Have you put your hope in God's judgments? Is what He has decided final enough for you? David had most definitely been on the receiving end of God's judgment. In fact, David and Bathsheba committed adultery, conceived a child, and part of God's judgment on their sin was that their child would die. Harsh and so painful! And yet, David can come before the Lord and say that he has "hope in your judgment." This hope is because of David's confidence in the righteousness of God. That is why we can hope in the Word of God. It is right. It is true. It is not going to fail us even when we fail Him.

Day Four – Read Psalm 119:105-136

11. In Psalm 119 we see at least FIVE verses where David repeats this phrase "I have put my hope in your word." Write Psalm 119:114:

Vertical line for writing answer to question 11.

12. David writes often of what he has done as well as what he wants God to do. List some of David's written expectations here:

Vertical line for writing answer to question 12.

13. On what basis do you think David makes requests of God? Are you willing to do the same when it comes to what you expect of God in your life? Explain:

Vertical line for writing answer to question 13.

14. Consider specific situations in your life right now that are troubling you. Using Psalm 119 as an example, how will you approach God with your desires in these areas?

Vertical line for writing answer to question 14.

Day Five – Read Psalm 119:137-146

15. Read Psalm 119:143-144 Think about a time of deep struggle, sadness, difficulty in your life. Rewrite these verses in your own words. Instead of “trouble and anguish” (ESV) name the specific life circumstance that you think of when you consider this verse. Instead of “your commandments” list a specific verse or verses from Psalm 119 that you have found delight in.

16. The phrase “according to” comes up frequently in these verses. List the “according to” phrases from today’s reading here:

17. What truths about God do these “according to’s” teach you?

18. How often does David praise God and for what reason? (119:164 ESV)

Based on what we’ve studied through Psalm 119, does this surprise you? Explain:

19. How will this Psalm change the way you worship? Pray? Prioritize your day? Offer counsel to a hurting friend?

*You are loved
and prayed for.*

