

“The Bible Tells Me So”

Psalm 119

So, I am very excited to start this year with a new vision and theme for our youth group. Last year was our year of prayer, and this year, it is our year of “Biblical Narrative”. Which means seeing the bible as **one complete story from Genesis to Revelation**.

I bet, some of you have tried to read the bible before, some of you tried throwing down the bible and see which verse God or gravity guilds you to. And some of you tried reading from Genesis and got lost somewhere in Exodus and if not, Leviticus would do it. And some of you have never actually read anything in the bible for yourself, because just holding it felt boring.

Well this year, we are going to challenge that! This year as a youth group, we will be going through the whole biblical narrative to see it as one big picture. The bible contains **31,102 verses; 1,663 commands; 40 different authors** and **3,237 different characters**. BTW There are **31 different guys** in the Bible named “Zechariah.” Hopefully, through this series, you will see that these 66 books of the bible all point us to **His word that became flesh** and made his dwelling among us. Maybe this year you will finally see how every story whisper “**Jesus saves**”. And Christianity will make sense to you for the first time when you are able to see it from the beginning to the end.

Honestly as a Christian, I don’t understand how someone would live in this kind of world and not meditate God’s words. Sundays aren’t enough. If this time, is your only source of scripture than you are spiritually sick, weak, and anorexic. A starve soul will fill itself with anything else. And the truth is, that your substance will never satisfy.

And I will tell you, that there is nothing better for your life right now, than knowing this redemptive story and finding your place in it.

Me teaching you “10 steps in a better relationship” is not nearly as beneficial as you realizing the 1000 steps Jesus took towards saving you. So that you can have a relationship with the father.

Btw this would be a **good year to invite friends and start taking notes**, because like the marvel universe everything will weave together in the end. That’s why I encourage you to **bring a real bible each week** so you can see it for yourself.

This year, I want us to take the bible seriously, and commit ourselves in reading it. That’s why as a youth group we will be on a daily reading plan that will be posted in the Sunday programs. Each small group will be keeping each other accountable by going through this reading plan together. Let me tell you, it takes less than 10 minutes a day, to read through the whole bible in a year. And if you are not a reader that’s fine, you can **fine audio books** on the bible app. I promise you, if you give the bible the same amount of devotion as Netflix you will finish in a month!

Today we will spend our time studying the greatest love poem ever written.

Psalm 119

It is in fact the longest chapter in the bible with 176 verses. And I hope you see that the longest poem in the bible is not about relationships, happiness, or success, it is about **the beauty of the word of God itself**.

And also, we don’t know who wrote Psalm 119, but we do know that it was written in a very creative way:

- 176 verses are broken up into 22 sections/stanzas and each 8 verse of those 22 sections starts with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet, in order.
- As if the author wants to communicate **the importance of the word of God in our lives from A to Z**, from the beginning to the end.
- Also, Jewish people have been reading this psalm as a part of their new year's celebration (Rosh Hashanah) so how appropriate that we are reading it on our Tet new year celebration.
- My personal commitment to God this year is that if I am not casted in Esther, I will memories all 176 verses by the end of this year, that's just like 2 sections a month. Not bad.

But for us, I want to just show you 4 brief reflections about what this psalm tells us about the word of God.

What is the bible?

1. **God's love revealed to us.**

- Look with me in the first stanza and tell me what words the psalmist used to describe God's words?
- Through this psalm the author describes the bible as God's laws, precepts, commands, decrees, rules, ways, paths, wisdom, and word from God.
- Nowhere it talks about man's enlightens about God, but **God revelation to man**.
- Our culture believes that the bible is a collection of human thought about a higher being, and every religion contributes to it.
- But that's not what Jesus believed about the bible, Jesus believed that when the authors wrote, **they spoke the very word of God**.
 - We know that because at times when Jesus quoted King David or the OT prophets he says, "God said..."
- **The bible is God's love reviled to us**, shown to us, said to us, demonstrated to us in this, while we were sinners, Christ died for us.
- Psalms 119 says in verse 41 *"May your unfailing love come to me, Lord, your salvation, according to your promise."*
- Verse 47, the end of that stanza *"for I delight in your commands, because I love them."*
- **We love God's words not so that we can have salvation, but we love his words because through them we have received salvation**. Because his love came down, our delight rises up.
- The revelation of God is not something we fingered out or cracked the code, no, it's something he poured down. It's a gift from God. So even if the smartest person in the world want to read the bible, it will not make sense unless God allows it.
- The writer of this Psalm says: Psalm 119:89, *"Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens."*
- What you need to believe is that, the Bible are words that comes down from above, not a collection of wisdom that arise from below.
- So, if your reading, and you are struggling with a passage, first of all, you should ask God to open your minds, for wisdom, for understanding and revelation? because you are not meant to figure it out on your own.

2. God's life breath in us.

- If you have not realized there are only 2 things God breathe life into. 1. His words and 2. Us.
 - It says in 2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."
 - In the garden after God mold Adam he breathe life into him.
 - So if we stray from the word of God, we are actually disconnecting from the source of life itself.
- **God's laws and his commands are the standards from which we measure all things in life, what's good and bad, what's right and wrong.** Most people don't like the idea of God telling them what's best for them. Especially through a book. We rather just follow our hearts...
 - But how do we know what's in our hearts is right? I have had a lot of thoughts in my heart that seems right to me, but turned out to be a horrible mistake.
 - That's why the psalmist says v11, "I have hidden your words in my heart that I might not sin against you."
- **The bible ought to contradict you and make you mad sometime.** I know I'm like a professional Christians and all, but the bible makes me mad all the time and then I get up here and act like I love it.
 - If it's not convicting you, then maybe you're not reading the word of God, **but instead projecting your own idea of what's right and wrong, and calling that God.**
 - Or maybe you actually don't want to summit to God, **instead you prefer a god-like version of yourself to worship and serve.**
 - It's popular today to say, "Well, I believe in Jesus, but not all the stuff written in the Bible."
- **If you say that, you don't really believe in Jesus.** Because Jesus believed in all of scripture.
 - He said that "heaven and earth will pass away but not one syllable of his words will pass away." Luke 21:33
- **The bible is God's life breathe in us.** So whatever part of your life that is not built on God's words will be on sinking sand. You will not be able to withstand the storms from the enemy.
 - Psalm 119: 50, "My comfort in my suffering is this: your promise preserves my life."
 - Nothing will be able to shake me or bring me down because God's promises preserves my life.
 - Can you say that about your life?

3. God's deeds done for us

- V 27 "Cause me to understand the way of your precepts, that I may meditate on your wonderful deeds."
- Wait what? Whose deed? Mine or God's? God's Deeds.
 - As a little boy, I **thought of the Bible as a book of heroes** for me to reflect.
 - "Be a man after God's own heart like David; dare to be a Daniel; forgive like Joseph; be persistent like Noah." Basically, living very virtuous.
 - Then I **thought of it as a book of rules to obey**. Rules about what to do and what not to do. 613 laws in OT and 1,050 commands in the NT with a total of 1,663 rules. That would have been crazy to follow.
 - **As I got older, it became the book of practical advice**. To help me be happy, sane and successful.
- I hope this year, you see that the Bible is not any of those things.
- **The Bible is a story of one hero, who came to rescue us, because we had broken all the rules** and rejected the advice and were now so messed up that we couldn't put it all back together again. Is this the story of a God-Man that came to reconcile all things to himself by taking on the mess that we have created.
- This story is so big, so captivating, that when you finally learn it, **your life will start to make sense, and you will gain a motivation to live...**
- This is not a book of duties you need to do for God; it is the story of his love for you.

4. God's truth given unto us

- What you have to decide for yourself is if this is the word of God or not. Is it true or false?
- As a Christian it's so important because **the only way you can confront a lie, is if you know the truth.** And the truth will set you free.
- Look at **verse 65-72.**
- **The bible is God's truth given unto us.** While we belonged to Satan, the father of lies, Truth came to set us free by adopting us as his children. This truth was with God, this truth was God. This truth was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkest lies, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- **"Jesus says, I am the way the truth and the light no one comes to the father but through me."**
- If you don't follow Jesus than you don't have truth, and if you don't have truth than you follow lies, and if you follow lies **than you are not a child of God.**
- So, I challenge you, to be saturated in the living truth and see what he will do through you. I bet you, that **you will not be in the same spiritual state at the end of this year if you keep this up.**

-And if for some reason, you cannot commit to bringing your bible, or reading the bible plan, or participate in small groups, **I encourage you to just come to class every week to hear this beautiful story coming together.**

-So this year, instead of trying to fix "your story" lets **fix your eyes on Jesus and He will show you, your place in His story.**