

**LIFE POINT**  
God's Word is  
forever.

# A PSALM ABOUT GOD'S WORD



## LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Bible truths never change.

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Psalm 119

## SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

May 30

## UNIT VERSE

The entirety of your word is truth, each of your righteous judgments endures forever.

*Psalm 119:160 (CSB)*

## WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE

The entirety of your word is truth, each of your righteous judgments endures forever.

*Psalm 119:160 (CSB)*



## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Ancient Middle Eastern sailors, merchants, and traders living in and around Israel helped spread a simple vowel-free alphabet of 22 symbols. Greeks added letters to represent vowels and may have produced the first “true” alphabet. This led to other alphabets, including Latin, which spread throughout Europe, then made its way to America and our 26 letters. Pictures, symbols, letters, and words have changed and even disappeared over time, but God’s Word never changes and is forever.

Psalm 119 is the longest of all the psalms. In its original Hebrew language, people are able to enjoy the beautiful design. This chapter has 22 sections, which represents each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Some translations include the Hebrew letters above the sections. Each section contains 8 verses, and each verse begins with the same Hebrew letter. Each verse contains a word related to Yahweh’s Word, law, ordinances, commands, statutes, precepts, decrees, and promises.

This chapter is an acrostic that reinforces over and over the importance of meditating on the Word of God. By including every letter of the alphabet, the poet seems to remind us that the instruction of God contains everything we need to know. The psalmist intended to say everything he could about the wonderful message of God.

From *aleph* or *alef* to *taw* or *tav*—Hebrew letters equivalent of *a* to *z* in English—the psalmist proclaims God’s truth. Despite the number of those who pursued and oppressed the psalmist, he never turned away from God’s precepts. The psalmist declared his love and respect for Yahweh and his commitment to His orders.

God’s instruction carries powerful and everlasting benefits for the one who delights in it. Do you delight in God’s Word?

How can you help the kids in your group understand that everything in the Bible is true and will never change? Assure them that they can trust the Bible and its message.



## PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

### CHAPTER AND VERSE

- › Assist kids in opening their Bibles near the middle and finding the Book of Psalms. Explain that boys and girls will find several different Bible verses today, but all of them are in Psalms.
- › Invite a child to choose a paper strip from the bag. Call attention to the two dots between the two numbers. Explain that the number before the two dots is the chapter number. Guide kids as they find the chapter in Psalms. Tell kids that the last number in the Bible reference is the verse number. Show how the verse number looks in a Bible. Then guide kids to find that number verse in the chapter they already found.
- › Let kids continue working in the same way to find different chapters and verses in Psalms.

- › Gift bag, 1-by-2-inch strips of paper, pen
- › Print one reference per paper strip: Psalm 1:2, Psalm 52:9, Psalm 18:2, Psalm 119:105, Psalm 8:1.
- › Place the strips in the bag.



## INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

### MAKING PRAISE MUSIC

- › Distribute instruments or explain how kids can use their hands to clap and slap legs. Invite kids to play their instruments as they listen to and/or sing along with your recording of praise music. If you have a variety of instruments, let kids trade instruments frequently. Encourage kids to sing joyfully.
- › Remark that kids will study a psalm from the Bible today. Comment that *psalm* is another word for song. Lead the kids to play along with one more praise song.

- › Praise Music
- › Rhythm instruments (Borrow from a children's choir, provide pencils as rhythm sticks, or let kids use their hands to clap hands and slap legs.)
- › **Option:** "A Psalm About God's Word" coloring page (Printables)



## MISSIONS EMPHASIS

- › Show the "Wilton Family Photos," and remind kids about missionaries Rob and Annabeth Wilton in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- › Invite kids to sit in a circle and play a simple game of "Hot Potato."
- › Play "We're Gonna Follow" as kids pass the ball around the circle.
- › Pause the song. Invite the child holding the ball to tell one thing he has learned about missions in this unit or a way that kids can be on mission and spread the good news right where they are.
- › As time allows, play several rounds.
- › Explain: "Christians have a wonderful message to tell others. It's the message of Jesus, and all people need to hear it."
- › Pray, asking God to encourage and help the Wiltons and other missionaries in Pittsburgh as they spread the good news.

- › **Printables:** "Unit 3 Missions: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania," "Wilton Family Photos"
- › Music, foam or soft ball
- › Print the missions story and the photos.



## STUDY THE BIBLE

### › Pack Items:

- 25: “Unit 3 Banner”
- 26: “Psalm 119:160”
- 27: “Unit 3 Questions”
- 30: “The Bible ... God’s Word”

### › Teaching Pictures 9–13

### › Music; Videos; yardstick broom, or other long stick; gift bag, basket, or cup used in Sessions 1–3 for review game number cards

### 1. FOCUS ON THE LIFE POINT

- › Invite kids to read aloud the unit banner with you. Mention that an important fact to know is that God’s Word is forever.
- › Lead the group to sing “The Word,” as they think about God’s Word lasting forever.
- › Direct attention to the “Psalm 119:160” poster. Call on volunteers to read the verse aloud. Give other volunteers a turn to repeat the verse by memory. Explain that the verse helps people know that God’s Word is forever. Together, repeat the verse again. Ask kids how much of God’s Word will last forever. (*all of it*)

### 2. EXPLORE TRUTHS ABOUT GOD’S WORD

- › Ask how long forever is. After kids’ responses, explain that forever has no ending but keeps going and going. God’s Word is forever which means it lasts forever. Point out that another important fact about God’s Word is that the truths in it never change. Remark that truths in the Bible will still be true when kids grow up, when they have grandchildren, and on and on forever. What is true now, will always be true. Challenge kids to remember that Bible truths never change. God’s Word is forever.

### 3. TELL THE BIBLE STORY

- › Show the Teaching Picture. Allow kids to tell what they see and what they think today’s Bible story might be about.

#### USE BIBLES.

- › Guide kids to open their Bibles close to the middle to find the Book of Psalms. Note for kids that Psalms is the longest book in the Bible, and it has 150 chapters. Point out that Psalms is in the Old Testament which means the psalms were written before Jesus lived on earth. Note for kids that Jesus would have learned from Psalm 119 when He was growing up. Today, people can trust the Bible and its message that if we trust Jesus for our salvation, we can live eternally with God.
- › Assist kids in locating Psalm 119 in their Bibles. (Remember, this is a big number to kids.) Mention that this chapter is the longest chapter in the longest book in the Bible. Explain that the psalms of the Bible are the words to songs people sang in worship. Tell kids this chapter is mostly about God’s law and how the writer felt about His law.
- › Let kids put their Bibles away as you tell about the psalm. With a Bible open to Psalm 119, explain the psalm in your own words. **Option:** Show the “Notebook Bible Story” video.

**TELL THE BIBLE STORY: A PSALM ABOUT GOD'S WORD**

Psalm 119 is mostly about the law of God and how much the writer cares about it. The psalm helps people know that God's law is a guide to the right way to live. Although some people might think obeying rules is a hard job, the writer of the psalm loved obeying God.

When the psalmist thought about God's law, he felt closer to God than ever. In fact, the law helped him feel closer to God even when he was tempted to do wrong or when someone was treating him badly. The psalmist knew the way to happiness was to obey God's laws. He asked God to help him understand the law and to obey it.

Even when life seemed hard, the writer stayed loyal to God. He considered God's law to be beautiful. He thought about the law. He loved the law. He took delight in the law. He ended the psalm asking again for God to help him obey the law.

—BASED ON PSALM 119

**SHOW THE "MOOSEBERRY LIFE ACTION" VIDEO.****4. PRAY AND REVIEW**

- » Invite kids to hold their Bibles again. Suggest kids pray silently as you suggest things for which they might pray. Encourage kids to thank God for giving them His Word to know how to live. (*Pause as kids think their prayers.*) Suggest kids ask God to help them learn more from His Word. (*Pause.*) Encourage kids to tell God how they feel about the Bible, God's Word. (*Pause.*) Suggest kids ask God to help them learn more from His Word. (*Pause.*) End by saying "Amen."
- » Place all five teaching pictures and the "Psalm 119:160" poster on the floor. Give a child the yardstick or other large handle or stick. Let the child tap a different picture or the Bible verse for each letter of his first name. If the child points to a picture on the last letter, ask a Session 5 question from "Unit 3 Questions" to the whole group. If the child points to the Bible verse on the last letter, he should lead the group to read or recite the verse. Kids take turns being the one to tap the pictures and verse.
- » If time allows, play "The Bible ... God's Word" following the directions on the gameboard to review all Unit 3 sessions using the questions for Sessions 1–4 from "Unit 3 Questions."

**REVIEW QUESTIONS**

- » What is the longest book in the Bible? (*Psalms*)
- » What is the longest chapter in the longest book in the Bible? (*119*)
- » What is a psalm? (*song of worship and praise*)
- » What is Psalm 119 mostly about? (*God's law*)
- » How long will God's Word last? (*forever*)
- » How often do Bible truths change? (*never*)



## LIVE IT OUT

### CHOICE 1

- › Kids Activity Pages
- › Printables: “Allergy Alert”
- › 1-by-4-inch strips of paper (2 per child), pencils or pens, ziplock bags (2 per child), small candies or stickers, tissue paper, tape, ribbon (4 pieces per child), small cardboard tubes (2 per child)
- › Post the Allergy Alert.

### CHOICE 2

- › Kids Activity Pages
- › Pack Item:  
27: “Unit 3 Questions”
- › Paper cups; slick, plastic plates; dry erase markers; dry tissues; timer

### CHOICE 1

#### SNACK TUBE MESSAGES

- › Complete the Kids Activity Page.
- › Remind kids that Psalm 119 is a song of praise about God’s Word. Ask how long God’s Word will last and whether Bible truths will ever change.
- › Suggest kids make two snack tube messages, one to keep and one to give away to someone. Instruct kids to each print on two paper strips *God’s Word is forever*.
- › Guide kids to assemble their snack tubes following these directions:
  - Put a paper strip in a ziplock bag.
  - Add the candies or stickers and seal the bag.
  - Stuff the ziplock bag inside a cardboard tube.
  - Wrap the tube with tissue paper leaving extra paper at both ends of the tube.
  - Tie a piece of ribbon around the tissue paper at each end of the tube.
- › Challenge the kids to give one of their snack tubes to someone who needs to know that the Bible is forever. Remind kids to think about God’s Word as they enjoy their second snack tubes.
- › Pray together, asking God to help the person who receives the gift bag to know that God’s Word is forever.

### CHOICE 2

#### TALL TOWER GAME

- › Complete the Kids Activity Page.
- › Form two teams. (A team may be as small as one person.) Give each team a plate, a marker, and tissues.
- › Explain that team players will work together to build as tall a tower as they can. Tell kids their teams can earn cups for building their towers by answering questions about Bible stories and about the Unit Verse, Psalm 119:160. Emphasize that both teams may earn cups for each question if they both print the correct answer on their team’s plate.
- › Ask one of the “Unit 3 Questions” and wait as teams print their answer on the plastic plate. Call for both teams to show their answers. If teams answered correctly, award them two cups. If a team did not answer correctly, award one cup. Let teams erase their answers with the tissues.
- › Ask another question. Continue this process until about five minutes are left. If you need more questions, ask kids to write the Bible book name that comes after one you name. Or, repeat Psalm 119:160, leaving out one or two important words. Kids print the missing words on their plates.
- › During the last few minutes, direct kids to build their towers when you give the command to begin. Time two minutes while kids work. Call time. Decide which team had the tallest tower and declare them the winner.
- › Pray, thanking God that His Word lasts forever.

**CHOICE 3****A PSALMIST I AM**

- » Complete the Kids Activity Page.
- » Allow kids to pass the Teaching Picture from child to child as they look closely at what is pictured. Let kids tell what the person might be thinking about.
- » Ask kids to name the longest book in the Bible and to tell how many chapters the book has.
- » Remind boys and girls that someone who writes psalms is called a psalmist. Assist kids in locating the Book of Psalms in their Bibles. Point out that the *psalms* are words to songs people sang in worship. Explain that people wrote psalms for different reasons. Sometimes the psalmists were thanking God for what He had done. Other times psalmists asked God for things like wisdom or protection. They also sometimes told God about their feelings of sadness, anger, or loneliness.
- » Distribute “A Psalmist I Am” pages and pens or pencils. Guide kids through the process on the page as they create their own psalms. Remind kids that *psalms* are words of songs sung to God.
- » Kids may want to illustrate their psalms on the back of the page or on a drawing paper.
- » If any child wants to tell the others about his psalm, give him time to read it to the group.

**WRAP UP****CLOSE IT OUT**

- » Repeat Psalm 119:160 together by memory if possible. Ask God to help each child remember that His Word is forever and that Bible truths never change. Encourage the kids to read a few verses from their Bibles each day this week.
- » Remind kids to give their One Conversation™ pages to their parents.

**THIS WEEK:**

- » Pray for kids who have visited your group recently. Send a card, a Kids Activity Page, or a set of “Take-Home Cards” to each of them.

**CHOICE 3**

- » Kids Activity Pages
- » Pack Item:  
38: “A Psalmist I Am”
- » Teaching Picture 13
- » Bibles, pens or pencils,  
markers or crayons
- » Photocopy “A Psalmist  
I Am” for each child you  
expect.

**WRAP UP**

- » Pack Item:  
26: “Psalm 119:160”