

# GOD IS KNOWN THROUGH HIS WORD

FOUNDATION: GOD IS KNOWN - GOD GIVES WISDOM

## BIG TRUTH: GOD IS KNOWN THROUGH HIS WORD

John 1:1-4; Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21

## BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 1:14

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory”*

## BIG IDEAS

- God speaks to us through His Word.
- God’s Word protects us from sin.
- God’s Word makes our hearts happy in Him.
- God’s Word helps us live for Him.
- God’s Word is most clearly seen in Jesus.

## BIBLE STORY: PSALM 119: 10-11, 33-35, 103, 105

Psalm 119 is not just a poem; it is a beautifully written meditation on the believer’s relationship to the Word of God. The psalmist expresses a pursuit of God’s Word in this extensive chapter. It’s length and language reveal the importance of the Word. The Word is living, breathing, and vital to every believer. It is worth pursuing and growing in the knowledge of it increases the believer’s understanding of and obedience to God.

## FOUNDATION: GOD IS KNOWN—GOD GIVES WISDOM

God does not hide His existence from humanity. Although sin has broken our relationship with God, He still reveals himself to us in many ways. He reveals Himself through His creation, through His Word, the Bible, and through Jesus His Son coming to earth as a man. Jesus is the image of the invisible God, and He lived on earth as a man, experiencing the world just like we do. Not only is God known by us, but He gives us wisdom to know Him. Wisdom is taking truths about God’s Word and applying them in our daily lives. Because God has revealed Himself, we can know who He is, who we are, how creation reflects His glory, and how we are to live for Him.

## BIG AIMS



**Every child should know that:**

- We can know God through knowing the Bible



**Every child should feel:**

- Awe at God’s perfect wisdom



**Every child should be able to:**

- Spend time hearing and reading God’s Word at home



**Every child should want:**

- To know more about God’s Word so that they can one day have a personal relationship with Him

## FAMILY DEVOTION: GOD’S WORD LIGHTS OUR PATH

God’s Word is our guide to knowing and obeying Him. It is the way in which God speaks to us and it helps us live in obedience to Him. The Psalmist uses the picture of a lamp lighting a dark path in Psalm 119 to show how God’s Word manifests itself in our lives.

**BIBLE VERSE: John 1:14**

*“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory”*

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**Jesus is the Word of God.**

- Jesus is the living Word of God.
- The Word of God is a reflection of God’s character.
- Jesus fully embodies this character because He is God.
- God speaks to His people through His Word and Jesus is the Word of God.

**Jesus’ life reveals God’s Word to His people.**

- Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection reveal the Word of God.
- The character of God that is revealed in the written Word of God is seen perfectly fulfilled in the life of the Son.
- God’s Word is a guide for all people to know the heart of the Father.
- The Father’s heart is ultimately displayed through the life, death, and resurrection of the Son.

**Jesus took on flesh to reveal the Father’s heart to the world.**

- Jesus, the Word of God, took on flesh to dwell among mankind to reveal the Father’s love for His people.
- Jesus reveals God’s heart through His life and sacrificial death for His people.
- Jesus’ resurrection reveals the Father’s desire for His children to be with Him for all of eternity.

**BIBLE STORY: PSALM 119: 10-11, 33-35, 103, 105***Delight In God's Word*

Supporting Scripture: John 1:14; Deuteronomy 4:8; Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 6:17

**Teacher Introduction:**

Psalm 119 is an expression of the psalmist's desire to know God. From his words, it's clear that the psalmist understands the way to know God is to know His Word. This Psalm is a beautiful expression of a desire to not just casually know the Word of God, but to be filled with it and to have the Word of God permeate every part of one's life until that life is so shaped by the Word of God that it looks a lot like the Son. This Psalm is an outpouring of the psalmist's desire to understand God in such a way that his life is always pleasing to Him and his steps always guided by Him.

John refers to Jesus as the Word of God. When we take these two passages together, we begin to understand what the psalmist knew. To know God, to get to the Father, we must know the Son, who is the Word of God.

**Teaching Guide:**

The guide below is provided to help you teach the truth: *God Is Known Through His Word*. The five points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Psalm 119 and teach the truth: *God Is Known Through His Word*. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the truth: *God Is Known Through His Word*.

**Opening Illustration:**

Acquire a flashlight prior to class. Do not show it to the children. Position yourself at the front of the room and make sure all the children know you are there. Turn off the lights or have someone turn off the lights so the room is dark. Ask the children to find their way to you. Give them a minute or two to try in the dark and then turn on your flashlight and shine it so that it makes a path of light to you.

- Was it easy to find your way to me in the dark? (No, it's not easy to walk in a dark room because there are obstacles, or things in the way.)
- What helped you find your way to me? (The flashlight helped.)
- God's Word is a light to our path. It helps us find God and it helps us know how to live for Him.

**BIG IDEA: GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WORD. (PSALM 119:33-35)****We know God by knowing His Word.**

- The psalmist asks God to teach him His Word, or statutes.<sup>1</sup>
- God's Word is the manner in which He chooses to communicate with His children.
- The psalmist understands this and asks God to teach him His commands.
- The psalmist desires to know God through His Word.
- To know God's Word is to know God.



Bring in a box labeled "My Special Toy". Place black and white pictures of different aspects of the toy on the outside of the box. Inside the box place the actual toy. Ask the children to describe what is inside the box by looking at the pictures. Once they've done this, open the box and ask them to tell you more about the toy. You can see what color it is, feel how much it weighs, what it feels like, etc. Remind them that we can know things about God, such as He is real and He created the world, but when we read His Word, we get to really know what He's like.

**We can store God's Word in our hearts.<sup>2</sup>**

- The psalmist asks God to teach him His Word so that he can store it in his heart for all of time.
- God's Word is our pathway to know more about God.
- We receive wisdom and understanding from God's Word because it is God speaking to us.
- We can store God's Word in our hearts through memorization and meditation.
- When we do store it, we are storing knowledge and understanding of God in our hearts.

**We receive instruction and guidance from God through His Word.**

- God's Word is our source of wisdom.
- As the psalmist notes, it is the way he can observe God's law with his whole heart.
- We, too, can obey God best when we are hearing from God through His Word.
- We can know God and hear God by reading and studying His Word.

*How does God speak to His people? (He speaks to His people through His Word.)*

1. Deuteronomy 4:8, 44-45; 6:1; 33:9: All the words, except for "precepts", used for God's law or Word in Psalm 119 are found in these Deuteronomy passages as they refer and relate to God's law.

2. Colossians 3:16: The Word of God should dwell within our hearts, guiding us to be more like the Son in order to please the Father.

**BIG IDEA: GOD'S WORD PROTECTS US FROM SIN. (PSALM 119:10-11)****Knowing God through His Word helps us obey Him.<sup>3</sup>**

- The more we know God's Word, the more we know Him.
- The more we know God, the more we love God and our love will cause us to obey Him more.
- The psalmist understands this when he proclaims that he has sought God with his whole heart.
- The psalmist's pursuit of God is not half-hearted. Instead it is a full pursuit of the creator of all things.



Help the children understand that God's Word is our shield by reading Ephesians 6:10-18 to the children. Show them pictures of swords or a toy sword. Remind them that the Word of God is our spiritual sword and we can use it to fight off the temptation to sin.

**Knowing God's Word builds a shield around our hearts as we seek to live for Him.**

- God's Word is a sword that protects us from sinning against Him.<sup>4</sup>
- We can use this sword when we know God's Word and we hide it in our hearts.
- The psalmist sought God and His Word and stored it in his heart because he wanted to fight against sin.
- We can do the same when we store God's Word in our hearts by reading, studying and memorizing it.

**God's Word is a treasure to those who know Him.**

- The psalmist expresses his delight in storing God's Word in his heart.
- He grasped that God's Word is a treasure and a gift to His people; therefore, he pursued it wholeheartedly.
- When we understand the treasure of God's Word, we, too, will pursue it with all of our hearts.
- We will seek to store it in our hearts much like we store our earthly treasures in safe places.

*What protects us from sin? (God's Word protects us from sinning against Him.)*

3. John 14:23: Jesus taught the truth that our obedience will be fueled by our love for the Father. When we know God, we love God and we will obey His commands.

4. Ephesians 6:17: The Word of the Spirit is the Word of God and it is a sword that is sharper than any two-edged sword. It holds the power to protect us from sinning against God.

## **BIG IDEA: GOD'S WORD MAKES OUR HEARTS HAPPY IN HIM. (PSALM 119:103)**

### **Knowing God brings true joy to our lives.**

- We can know God by knowing His Word and this brings joy to our lives.
- The psalmist likened God's Word to honey, a substance that is naturally sweet.
- He declared God's Word to be sweeter than honey revealing the joy he felt in knowing God's Word.
- We experience a true joy and happiness when we know God's Word.
- God's Word is sweet to those who know and love Him.

### **Obeying God's Word fosters a right relationship with Him.**

- The more we learn about God, the more we want to know.
- This knowledge produces true joy in our hearts.
- As we read and study God's Word, we grow in Him and our hearts are made joyful.<sup>5</sup>
- Knowing God's Word increases our knowledge of God, which brings happiness to our hearts.
- When we know God and how to please Him, we are obedient and this brings us joy because we love Him.

*What makes our hearts happy? (God's Word makes our hearts happy.)*

## **BIG IDEA: GOD'S WORD HELPS US LIVE FOR HIM. (PSALM 119:105)**

### **The Word is a guiding light to us.**

- Jesus is the Word of God.
- Jesus is the light of the world and His light guides us to right living.
- Jesus' life, death, and resurrection serve as our guide to the right way to live for God.
- Knowing God's Word helps us live for Him because it is full of His wisdom.
- As the psalmist understands, it is a lamp for his feet and a light for his path.

### **We can live rightly when we know the correct way to please God.**

- We know the right way to please God by knowing His Word.
- We see clearly how best to please Him when we look at our lives through the lens of God's Word.
- The psalmist understands this as he wholeheartedly seeks to know God's Word and to store it in his heart.
- The result for the psalmist is true happiness and right living.
- We, too, can experience the same happiness when we know God's Word.

*What helps us live for God? (His Word helps us live for Him.)*

**BIG IDEA: GOD'S WORD IS MOST CLEARLY SEEN IN JESUS. (JOHN 1:14)****Jesus is the divine expression of God's Word.**

- He is the embodiment of God's Word. His life is God's Word on display.
- John refers to Jesus as the Word in his gospel.
- The Word is referred to throughout Scripture, as a sword or described as sharper than a two-edged sword.<sup>6</sup>



Recite John 1:14 aloud with the children. Remind them that Jesus is the Word and He took on flesh that He might save us from our sins.

**God speaks to the world through His Son.**

- Everything that God reveals to the world is seen in the life, death, and resurrection of His Son.
- John states that the Word became flesh, meaning that Jesus is the Word of God.
- God speaks to the world through His Word and Jesus is the Word of God.
- We can look to Jesus to know God's heart. It is a heart that is for His people.

*How is God's Word most clearly seen? (It is most clearly seen in Jesus.)*

6. Revelation 1:16: In John's vision of the return of the Lord, Christ is pictured with a double-edged sword coming out of His mouth. This reference is similar to the expression of John in his gospel when he refers to Christ as the Word.

## HOOKS

**God's Word is a Treasure to His People.**

Bring in a bag of "treasure". It could be a bag of candy or small, inexpensive toys. Give each child a paper sack to store their "treasure" in. Take turns having the children recite the Bible Verse for the week (John 1:14). When they do, allow them to come to you to receive some "treasure". Tell them to place their treasure in their bags to store it up.



Ask the children:

- Do you know what else is like a treasure to us? (God's Word is a treasure to us. It brings us true joy and happiness.)
- How can we store God's Word in our hearts? (We can memorize verses just like John 1:14 and it will bring us true happiness.)

**God's Word is a Light to Our Path**

Gather several small flashlights that you can hand out to the children. Gather the children around you in a circle and place the Bible in your lap. Open it to John 1:14. Then have someone turn the lights off.



Ask the children:

- Can we read the words in the Bible with the lights off? (No, we can't see in the darkness, so we don't know what God's Word says.)
- What could we use to see the words in the Bible? (We could turn on our flashlights and shine them on the page.)

Ask the children to turn on their flashlights and to shine them on the page. Read John 1:14 to them aloud.

Ask the children:

- How were we able to read the verse? (We used the light from our flashlights to see it.)
- Who is a light to our path? (Jesus is a light to our path. He guides us and shows us the way to God and helps us live for God.)

**God's Word Protects Us From Sin.**

Bring in a shield and small, soft ball. On the shield write the words "God's Word" or write them on a piece of paper and attach it to the shield. (You can make a shield using poster board or cardstock.)

Ask the children:

- Do you know what my shield represents? (It represents God's Word or the Bible.)
- Allow the children to take turns trying to hit the shield with the ball. (You'll want to make sure the ball is soft and not hard at all.)

Ask the children:

- How did I keep the ball from hitting me? (I used the shield.)
- We can use God's Word as our shield from the temptation to sin. It is our protection from sin.