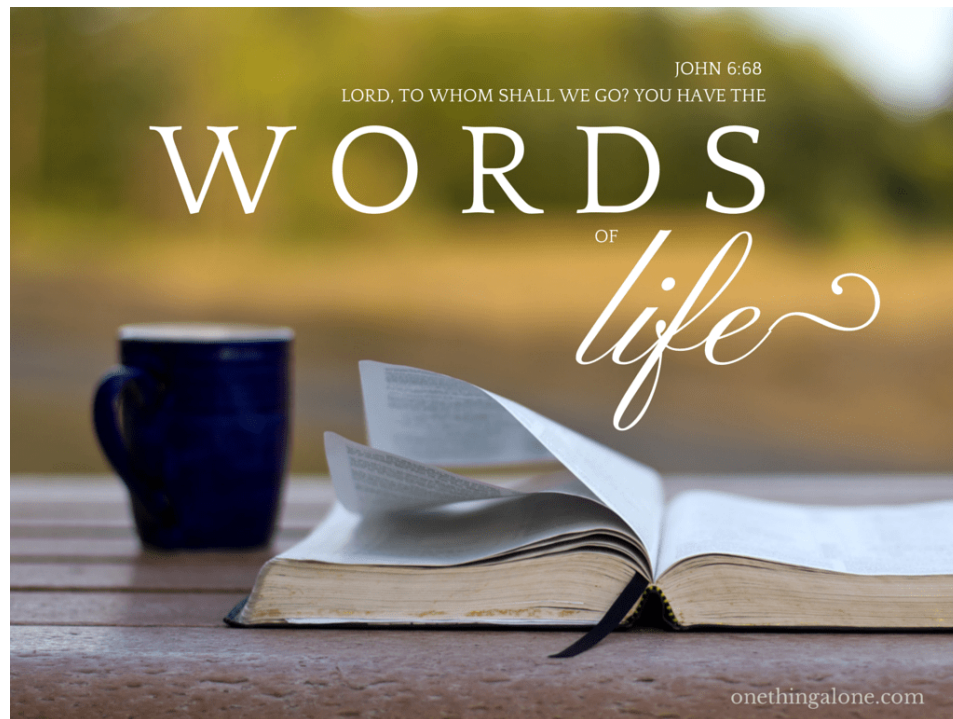




LOVING THE WORD OF LIFE



Ezrah Community Training and Development NPC
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LOVING THE WORD OF LIFE

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Note: It is recommended that the Amplified Version of the Bible be used with this study guide.

SESSION 1: CHRIST, THE ETERNAL WORD

1. Key Scriptures

- a) John 1: 1-18

2. Let's reflect

- a) How is the origin of the Word of God described (John 1:1-2)?

- b) Who is the Word of God (John 1:1, 14)?

- c) What is the nature of the Word and how is it able to overcome the darkness (John 1:4-5)?

- d) What is the function of the Light of the Word (John 1:9-12)?

- e) How has God revealed Himself as no one has seen him (John 1:14, 16-18)?

3. Personal application

- a) What is your understanding of the origin of the Word of God?

- b) How important is it to study the Word of God in order to know God?

c) What is your relationship with the Word of God?

d) How are you applying the Light and Life of God in order to overcome darkness?

4. Prayer response

Our life-giving Father in heaven

Thank you that I may know that your Word is a Person – Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Guide me to put my trust in Christ and to build my relationship with Him through studying and applying the Word of Life and Light. Help me to apply the grace and truth found in the Word and in the Person of Christ to overcome the darkness, knowing that Christ is ever living in my presence as I am in Him. Amen.

SESSION 2: THE BREAD OF LIFE

1. Key Scripture

- a) John 6:1-6g

2. Let's reflect

- a) What is the miracle that Jesus did at the Sea of Tiberias as the crowds were following Him (John 6:1-14)?

- b) What did Jesus want the disciples to learn through the miracle of the loaves (John 6:30-69)?

- c) What are the promises to those who believes in the Bread of Life (John 6:35,37,40,44,47,50-51)?

- d) What is Jesus inviting us to do in relation to the Bread of Life (John 6:27-29, 53-58)?

- e) How did Jesus describe the Spirit of God and His own words (truths) when some disciples were complaining about His words (John 6:63)?

- f) What was Simon Peter's answer to Jesus as disciples were walking away from Christ (John 6:68)?

3. Personal application

- a) What is your relationship with the Bread of Life?

- b) How are you applying the Bread of Life to your life?

- c) What will your response be when many disciples draw back and cease from following Christ?

4. Prayer response

Our Heavenly Father

Thank you for sending Christ as the Bread of Life as your Messenger on how to receive eternal life. Help me to put my trust in the Bread of Life and to avail myself of the promises found in the Bread of Life. May I partake of the Bread of Life through faith so that I will never hunger and thirst again, but live in union with You. Amen.

SESSION 3: THE BLESSING OF THE WORD

1. Key Scripture

- a) Psalm 119:1-32

2. Let's reflect

- a) How are blessed persons describe and what do they do (Psalm 119:1-3)?

- b) What has the Lord commanded us to do (Ps. 119:4-5)?

- c) What blessings do we receive as a result of obeying God's Word (Ps. 119:6, 25, 28)?

- d) What should our response be towards God's Word (Ps. 119:10-16, 20,24)?

- e) How does God help us to respond to His Word correctly (Ps. 119: 17-18, 26-27,29, 32)?

3. Personal questions

a) What is your attitude and commitment towards God's Word?

b) How much time do you spend to seek God through His Word?

c) When you read God's Word, how much effort do you put in to store it in your heart and to direct your ways according to it?

d) In which ways do you testify about the blessings of God's Word?

4. Prayer points

Our loving Father in heaven

Thank you for the blessings of Your Word. Help me today to respond correctly to it by receiving, loving, hearing and obeying it. Remove all unfaithfulness in me and impart Your Law to me so that I may keep it ever before me. Give me a willing heart to obey Your precepts so that I may not only walk in the way of Your commandments, but run in it. May the longing of my heart be continuously to yearn for You so that I may choose truth and faithfulness. Amen.

SESSION 4: THE TWO COMPANIONS

1. Key Scripture

- a) Psalm 19:7-14

2. Let's reflect

- a) How is the commandment/law of the Lord/precepts/ordinances of the Lord described and what it is able to do (Ps. 19:7-8)

- b) What is the companion to the Lord's Word and how is it described (Ps. 19:9)

- c) What should our perspective be on these two companions (Ps. 19:10)?

- d) What do these two companions do in relation to sin (Ps. 19:11-13)?

- e) How should our thoughts and words be in response to the Word (Ps. 19:14)?

3. Personal questions

- a) Did you know that the Word of God and the Fear of the Lord are companions? How will you apply this knowledge?

b) How much do you value the characteristics and functions of the Word of God?

c) How do you apply the Word of God and the Fear of the Lord to deal with sin in your life?

4. Prayer points

Our holy Father in Heaven

Thank you for giving us both the Word of God and the Fear of the Lord as companions to restore, to make wise, to rejoice the heart and to enlighten our eyes. I so value that your Word is perfect, sure, right, pure and bright, true and righteous. Help me to desire these two companions – the Word of God and the Fear of the Lord- more than the finest gold, knowing that they will warn me, clear me from hidden sins and keep me from presumptuous sin so it will not have dominion over me. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my hear be in keeping with your Word. Amen.

SESSION 5: THE WORD OF HEALING

1. Key Scripture

- a) Psalm 103:1-5
- b) Psalm 107:10-11, 18-22
- c) Psalm 119:28, 50, 116
- d) Proverbs 3:5-8

2. Let's reflect

- a) What are the benefits provided to us by the Lord and what should our response be to it (Ps. 103:1-5) ?

- b) What may cause sickness (Ps. 107: 10-11)

- c) How great is the power of God's Word to heal and rescue, even in extreme situations (Ps. 107: 18-20)?

- d) How is the life-giving ability of the Word described (Ps. 119:28, 37, 50, 116)?

e) What are key principles in accessing the healing power of God's Word (Pro. 3:5-8)?

f) How should we respond when the Lord sends His Word to heal us (Ps. 107:21-22)?

g) What shall our response be if we don't receive physical healing (Ps. 73:24-28)?

3. Personal application

a) How often do you bless the Lord for all the benefits He gives us?

b) How are you applying God's Word of healing to your life?

c) How can you take courage in the midst of the sickness through the Word?

d) Even if you do not receive physical healing, what should your focus be?

4. Prayer response

My loving Father in heaven

Thank you for making your life-giving Word of healing available to me. Help me to confess my sins quickly and to avail myself to your loving benefits by believing in your Word. Teach me to live according to Your Word so that I may praise you constantly for your goodness, loving-kindness and wonderful works. May I confess that you are my Rock and firm Strength of my heart; my Portion forever even if my flesh and heart may fail. Amen.

SESSION 6: GOD'S WORD TRANSFORMS

1. Key Scripture

- a) 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- b) Hebrews 4:12
- c) 1 Peter 1: 22-23
- d) 1 Peter 2:2
- e) Psalm 119:9
- f) John 17:17
- g) Hebrews 5:12-14
- h) 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- i) John 14:26
- j) James 1:21-25

2. Let's reflect

- a) Where does the authority and power of Scripture come from (2 Tim. 3:16)? What does the power of God's Word achieve (He. 4:12)?

- b) What role does the Word of God play in changing us inwardly, cleansing and sanctifying us (Ps. 119:9, John 17:17; 1 Pe. 1:22-23)?

- c) How does the Word nourish us (1 Pe. 2:2)? How do we move from spiritual milk to solid food (He. 5:12-14)?

- d) What is the role of Scripture in making us complete (2 Tim. 3:16-17)?

- e) What is the role of the Holy Spirit in helping us to apply the Scripture to our lives (John 14:26)?

- f) How is a person described who receives and obeys the Word of God as oppose to a person who walks away and does not follow in obedience (Jam. 1:21-25)?

3. Personal application

- a) How disciplined are you in studying the Scripture on a daily basis?

- b) How will you describe the influence of Scripture on your life?

- c) Which actions do you need to take to gain a deeper understanding and application of Scripture to your life to become a doer of the Word?

4. Prayer points

Our righteous Father in Heaven

Thank you for calling me to hear the Word and to become a doer of the Word. I need your Word to convict me of sin and to train me in righteousness. Help me to listen to Your Spirit daily so that I may know how to apply the Word to my own life and to grow in maturity. Remove all deception from me so that I may be quick to repent of sins and to walk in obedience to Your precepts. Amen.

SESSION 7: FAITH IN THE WORD OF LIFE

1. Key Scripture

- a) Romans 10:6-17
- b) Hebrews 3:1-19
- c) Hebrews 4:1

2. Let's reflect

- a) How does faith come (Rom 10:17)?

- b) Where is the Word of God that leads to faith? (Rom 10:8)?

- c) What does faith in the Word accomplish (Rom 10:9-10; He. 4:1)?

- d) How does God view distrust in His Word (He. 3:7-13, 15-18)?

- e) What is the warning for those who fail to enter God's rest through faith (He. 3:12-19)?

3. Personal application

a) What is the source of your faith?

b) How near is God's Word to you? How do you apply it to your life?

c) What has faith in the Word accomplished within you?

d) Are you living in God's rest through obedience to God's Word?

4. Prayer response

Our Heavenly Father

Thank you for your Word and that I can know that salvation comes from faith in the Word of God. May you help me to keep your Word near to me – on my lips and in my heart. Help me to put my trust in your Word through faith and to confess it continually with my lips, leaning with my entire personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom and goodness - with an eternal focus. Help me with any unbelief so that while the promise of rest remains, I do not come short of reaching it. Extend your grace to me so that I will share in all Christ has for us with newborn confidence, firm and unshaken to the end. Amen.

SESSION 8: STUDYING THE WORD

1. Key Scripture

- a) Psalm 119:33-35, 43-48, 57
- b) Mark 4:1-25

2. Let's reflect

- a) What should our response be when the Lord teaches us from His Word (Ps. 119:33 -35, 43-48, 57)?

- b) What is the meaning of the parable of the sower (Mark 4:1-25)?

- c) What are the different types of soil, representing different threats to the Word of God (Mark 4:15-20)?

- d) What is the core message that Jesus gave in relation to the Word (Mark 4:22-24)?

3. Personal application

- a) How do you live out your commitment to study the Word of God?

b) How do you prepare your heart to receive and welcome the Word?

c) What is the measure of thought and study that you give to the truth you hear?

4. Prayer response

Blessed Father in heaven

Thank you for the freedom I have to study Your Word. Let me never take this liberty for granted. Help me to prepare my heart as a commitment to receive and obey your Word with joy continuously. May you give me an increasing measure of studying and thinking upon the truths of Your Word and help me to be quick to respond in obedience. Amen.

SESSION 9: SPEAKING THE WORD OF GOD

1. Key Scripture

- a) Psalm 119:41-43,46, 62, 145-149,164,171-172
- b) Hebrews 4:7-16

2. Let's reflect

- a) What enable us to speak the Word (Ps. 119:41-43)?

- b) When should we speak the Word (Ps. 119:46, 62, 145-149, 164,171-172)?

- c) How can we enter God's rest by holding fast to our confession of faith (He. 4:7-14)?

- d) How is Jesus Christ, our High Priest described (He. 4:14-15)

- e) With the knowledge of the power of God's Word and the character of our High Priest, how then can we approach the throne of grace to get well-time help (He. 4:16)?

3. Personal application

a) How much is the Word of God on your lips through all circumstances?

b) In which circumstances do you speak the Word?

c) How can understanding of the power of the Word and the character of our High Priest help you to come to the throne of grace and to hold fast to your confession?

4. Prayer response

Our gracious Father in heaven

Thank you for the power of Your Word – that I may know your Word is alive and active, operative, energising and effective. Help me to put my faith in our High Priest, Jesus Christ, Who understands our weaknesses and is full of mercy and grace. May I hold fast to my confession and speak your Word at all times as I learn to come to you throne of grace boldly and fearlessly. Amen.

SESSION 10: PERSEVERING IN THE WORD

1. Key Scripture

- a) Romans 4:17-22
- b) Hebrews 10:35-39
- c) Hebrews 12:1-3

2. Let's reflect

- a) How did Abraham persevere in faith to receive God's promise (Rom. 4:17-22)?

- b) How important is perseverance in completing the will of God (He. 10:35-39)? What is the reward of fearless confidence (He. 10:35)?

- c) How can we take courage by looking to Jesus, the Leader and Source of our faith (He. 12:1-3)?

- d) What can give us courage to continue our faith journey, even if we don't receive the tangible fulfillment of God's promises in this life (He. 11:13-16; 2 Co 4:6-18)?

3. Personal application

a) How can the example of Abraham help you to persevere in faith?

b) What steps can you implement to finish your course with endurance by looking unto Jesus, the Leader and Source of faith?

c) Even if you don't receive the tangible fulfillment of promises in this life, how will you endure in faith?

4. Prayer response

Our faithful Father in heaven

Thank you for the example of Abraham who did not weaken in faith, but grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God. He did not consider the deadness of his own body, but held fast to the promise of God and therefore his faith was counted as righteousness by You. Even more than Abraham, You have provided us with Your Son Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith, but also its Finisher. Even though Christ encountered grievous opposition and bitter hostility, He endured the cross and is now seated at the right of the throne of God. May you grant me Your grace to run my appointed course of the race that was set before me with patient endurance and active persistence, looking away from all that distracts and discourages to Christ, Who will bring my faith to maturity and perfection. Amen.

SESSION 11: FINDING CORRECTION IN THE WORD

1. Key Scripture

- a) 2 Timothy 3:16
- b) Psalm 119:33, 66-67,71,75-76, 104-108
- c) Hebrews 12:5-11

2. Let's reflect

- a) What is the ability of the Word to correct us (2 Tim. 3:16)

- b) What should our constant request be to God and how shall you receive His guidance (Ps. 119:33, 66)?

- c) What role does affliction play in learning the Word and what should my response be to it (Ps. 119:67,71, 75-76, 104-108)?

- d) What is the value of God's discipline in guiding us (He. 12:5-11)?

- e) What should your response be when God corrects you through His Word (Heb. 12:7-11)?

3. Personal application

- a) How often do you look at the Word to find correction?

- b) How do you respond during times of discipline and correction?

- c) In which ways can you testify that God's correction through His Word brings a harvest of righteousness to your life?

4. Prayer response

Our loving Father in heaven

Thank you for the ability of Your Word to provide direction and correction that it can bring a harvest of righteousness to my life. Lord, I confess that I do not always spend enough time in studying Your Word to find direction on how I need to align my thoughts, purposes, actions, decisions and words with your God-breathed Biblical principles. I also confess that when you discipline me, I do not always submit to that discipline cheerfully, but regard it as painful and grievous. Help me to see the end goal: that God disciplines us as His children so that we may become partakers of His holiness and to prepare us for eternal glory. May I always value Your Word as a lamp unto my feet. Amen.

SESSION 12: TREMBLING AT GOD'S WORD

1. Key Scripture

- a) Isaiah 66:1-2
- b) Philippians 2:12-13
- c) James 1:21-25

2. Let's reflect

- a) Who will the Lord look to and have regard for (Is 66:2)?

- b) What is our personal responsibility to complete our salvation (Phil. 2:12)?

- c) Who enables us to do this (Phil. 2:13)? How?

- d) What role does the application of God's Word play in completing our salvation (Jam. 1:21-25)

- e) What role does the application of God's Word play in completing our salvation (Jam. 1:21-25)

- f) What is the outcome for the person who applies the Word of God to his life in such a way (Jam. 1:25)

3. Personal application

- a) What is your personal attitude towards the Word of God?

- b) How seriously do you regard the application of the Word of God to your life?

- c) How diligent are you in applying the Word of God?

- d) In which ways can you testify about the blessing of obedience?

4. Prayer response

Our holy Father in heaven

Thank you for the gift of Your Word. Give me an attitude of reverence for Your Word so that I may behold it daily as a mirror – looking intently in it to work out my salvation with trembling. Not in my own strength, but in dependence on God Who effectually gives me the power and desire to will and to work for His pleasure and delight. May my eternal testimony be that it was written in Your book that I delighted to do your will. Amen.