

## WALKING IT OUT – WEEK 4 – GOD’S WORD (STUDY)

### Defining Study

Through the spiritual discipline of study, we dig deeper into the meaning of God’s Word (the Bible). It is the careful examination of Scripture. We go beyond simply reading each line by asking questions like: “Who wrote this?” “Why did they write it?” “Where are places in my life that I can apply this?” The only possible way to learn a subject and have a firm understanding of it is to study.

### **“How can a young man (or young woman... or anyone) keep his way pure?”**

The answer is given in the same passage of scripture that asks the question... Psalm 119 says that the way we keep ourselves pure is to live according to the word. That is, following the divinely inspired writings God has given us through the Bible.

*How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.*

*I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.*

*Psalm 119:9-10 (NIV)*

God wants nothing more than to have a deep, growing relationship with us. We speak to him (and listen) in prayer. We praise him and enjoy his joy through worship. But how does God communicate his heart to us? Through his own words... The Bible.

This is why it is so important for us to read our Bible daily. His wisdom, His love, His encouragement, and many, many other things are shown to us through the Bible. They are His words!

He spoke to chosen men and women in the past to write these inspired passages, psalms, and letters that have been combined to form the Bible. He did it for us – the Eternal Creator communicating with his beloved creation!

### **Questions to talk about at home with your family, and with your Growth Group**

- 1) Do you enjoy reading the Bible, or does it feel more like a chore?
- 2) How does God speak to you through His word?
- 3) What are some of the reasons that people read their Bible?
- 4) What is your favorite scripture, passage, or story from the Bible?

### Prayer

*Father in heaven, help me to explore Your word daily. Open my eyes and enlighten me. Speak to me through Your written word. Give me the wisdom and knowledge to understand what I read, and apply it to my life.*

*Thank You for giving me such a wonderful thing as the Bible. Thank You for Your desire to communicate with me, and then providing the means to do that through Your Inspired, Holy Word.*

*You are so good! In Jesus name...Amen*

### **Additional verses for study**

*Psalm 119:89-91, 103-108; Proverbs 10:14, 23:12; Isa. 40:8, Luke 11:28, Phil. 4:8, 2 Tim. 2:15, Col. 3:16, Heb. 4:12-13, 5:14-6:3*

### **Weekly challenge**

Put your Bible in a place where you can access it easily. Have two available if needed (one at work or school, and one at home – right next to your bed or desk). Read the entire chapter of Psalm 119 on Sunday afternoon or Monday. Pick 2 or 3 verses that stand out to you. Write them on post-it notes and place them around your house, car, work, etc... Memorize those verses and meditate on them throughout the week, pausing when you see one to read it again and think about what God is saying specifically to you.

