



# COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE

*For the week of April 23, 2023*

## Leader's Announcements

- **Next Week** – Is our last official Community Group meeting. We will have a time of remembrance, taking the Lord's supper together.
- **Important Dates** - FALL QUARTER SIGN-UPS: August 5-20 FALL QUARTER MEETING DATES: August 20 – December 2

## Announcements

- **Bible Forums** - Do you have questions about the reliability of scripture, where it came from, and how to study it? Then join us for this three-part forum held on April 23, April 30, and May 7 at our Ballast Point Campus. These forums will help you discover those answers.
- **Dominican Republic Mission Trip** - STF Missions and STF Men are headed to the Dominican Republic. Join us May 2-7 as we partner with Kenneth Balootje and Sowing for Eternity. While we are there, our main projects will be:
  - softball outreach
  - discipleship
  - village projectsFor more information, email [marc@stchurch.com](mailto:marc@stchurch.com).
- **Baptism Sunday** - If you've decided to follow Jesus and would like to take the step of baptism sign up for Baptism Sunday! We offer baptisms at each of our campuses. Baptism is a public display and symbol of an inward commitment and change for those who have made Jesus the Lord and Savior of their life. We are here to answer any of your questions and be honored to lead you in the public dedication of baptism. If you would like more information please reach out to [sharon@stfchurch.com](mailto:sharon@stfchurch.com).
- **STF Men Summer Basketball League** from June 2 - August 4. Games will be at 7:00, 8:00, and 9:00 p.m. at the Bayshore Christian School gym. Once teams are set, you will receive your schedule. The league is for men ages 16 and older. The cost of \$40 per player covers gym rental, referees, and drinks. Register at [stfchurch.com/events](http://stfchurch.com/events)

## My Story

1. Interacting with God's Word is an important part of the Christian life. Put a check mark next to the following descriptions that best describe how you are currently doing or feeling about learning the Bible.

- Going through the motions
- Consistent
- Needing more direction
- Frustrated
- Confused
- Don't know where to begin
- Not getting much out of it
- Only reading the Bible to do Life
- Group homework
- Miss it when I don't read it
- Bored
- Inspired
- Learning a lot of helpful things
- Other

*Additional Questions:*

*What have been some ways you've found helpful in interacting with the Word besides simply reading it?*

*How has your interaction with the Word changed over time?*

*Additional Question: What are some of the reasons people come up with for why they don't think the Bible is true or reliable?*

2. Despite the facts the Bible is accurate, reliable and has the power to transform our lives, it still seems many Christians struggle to make it a regular part of their lives. Why do you think that is true?

*Additional Questions:*

*What has been your biggest struggle with making the Word a regular part of your life?*

*How have you addressed that struggle?*

## Quick Review

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

## Going Deeper

The following passages all deal with the positive impact the Word can have in our lives when we are willing to obey it. Make a list of all the benefits you find in the following passages that come from doing what God's Word says to do.

### **Psalm 19:7-14**

*7 The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. 8 The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. 9 The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. 10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. 11 By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. 12 But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. 13 Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression. 14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

#### *Additional Questions:*

*Have you ever sensed God's word to be as refreshing as David did?*

*Have you ever felt confined by the Word?*

### **Psalm 1:1-3**

*1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, 2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.*

*The result of living according to the Word is a fruitful life.*

### **Psalm 119:97-104**

*Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. 98 Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies. 99 I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. 100 I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts. 101 I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word. 102 I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me. 103 How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! 104 I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path.*

### **2 Timothy 3:14-17**

*14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

*The Word is useful for teaching (which way we should go), rebuke (letting us know we're off track), correction (telling us how to get back on track), and training (telling us how to stay on the right track).*

Looking back at your list of benefits, which of these have you experienced in your life?

*Additional Question: When and how have you experienced them?*

Which of these benefits do you need the most right now?

Which of these benefits motivate you most to pursue the Word?

*This would be a good question to hear from everyone on. It will give you good insight into the needs of people in your group.*

Are there any changes you could make to experience even more of these benefits?

2. We heard this weekend that the Bible has the power to transform lives. Scripture uses various metaphors to explain this transformational power. For each verse below, jot down how the metaphor used to describe the Bible can impact people.

**Hebrews 4:12**

*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

*Double edged sword – This image is pretty graphic because it paints a picture of a sword that is able to slice people open and expose our internal organs. God's Spirit can use the Bible to expose our deepest thoughts and secrets.*

**Jeremiah 23:29**

*"Is not my word like fire," declares the Lord, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"*

*Fire and hammer – The Word is powerful and destructive to the things that are opposed to it.*

**Psalms 119:105**

*Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*

*Lamp and light – The Word provides guidance both very personally (a lamp = flashlight to illuminate a few steps on the path we're walking on) and in a more general sense of giving insight in general.*

**Ephesians 6:17**

*Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

*Sword of the Spirit – The Word is the offensive weapon the Spirit uses to reveal things that need to change in people's lives.*

How have you seen the Bible have this kind of impact on your life or someone else's life?

*Additional Question: What would it take from us for the Word to have this kind of impact in our lives?*

## Taking It Home

1. Take a moment to evaluate the level of attention you've been giving the Bible and how you're getting it into your life regularly. Are there any changes you need to make?

2. Looking back on this week's sermon and study, what is most important for you to remember?

# Prayer Requests

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