

## Confidence | Psalm 119:41-80 and 2 Peter 1:1-20

### January 6th/7th, 2024

#### My Story Questions

*These questions/activities help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion. Choose one. OR.... You might start the meeting with one person sharing highlights of their story. Set up a rotation.*

- 1) What is your favorite book or author?
- 2) Do you remember one of the first books that helped you enjoy reading?

#### Study Questions

*These are meant for personal preparation and group discussion. Use all or pick a few to discuss.*

1) Our church defines **Word-dependent** with the following language: *“To be dependent upon the Word, we seek to understand what God has spoken through the Scriptures by the illumination of the Holy Spirit. We then diligently apply what the Spirit has revealed to our individual lives. Our lives are built upon doing what Jesus says, not simply building an archive of information of what God has said. To be Word-dependent is to believe in the authority, inerrancy, and sufficiency of the Scriptures for life and practice under the power of the Holy Spirit. Being Word-dependent is inseparable from being Spirit-empowered.”* What part of the definition causes you to think in a new way?

2) **Read Psalm 119:41-80. Maybe a different member read one of the five paragraphs.** The vision to make disciples of all nations includes being and teaching others to be Word-dependent. What phrases in Psalm 119 stand out to encourage your Word-dependence?

3) **Read Hebrews 1:1-2** God has chosen to reveal himself through the written word and the Living Word. How do you understand the two working together? (See also John 1:1,2,14)

4) When have you had an encounter with God in His Word that changed you?

5) Psalm 119 repeatedly refers to the laws, decrees, and statutes as “Your laws, Your decrees. Your statutes.” What does that tell you about the origin of the scriptures and how does that give you confidence? (See also 2 Peter 1:19-20)

6) What is the role of the Holy Spirit in helping us understand and apply what we read? (Psalm 119:66,68,73, John 16:12-14). What difference does this make in how you approach the Bible?

7) What is our role in understanding and applying God’s Word? (See 2 Peter 1:5-11) What new practices will try to implement in 2024.

8) Ps 119:51 & 69 speak of being insulted because of trusting in God’s Word. What commands of God seem to be most countercultural and invite ridicule? What helps you to be patient when mocked for God’s Word?

9) Ps.119:67 & 71 tells how being “afflicted” leads to closer following of God’s Word? How have you seen this true in your life? What encouragement does this provide in your present struggles?

10) What warnings, promises, or commands stand out to you from this portion of Psalm 119?

#### Responding to Jesus

*Offer these questions for personal reflection before your group prayer time. Practice listening for God’s voice.*

- 1) Lord, “What verses of Ps 119 do you want me to pray for someone in this group?”
- 2) Lord, “How can I have a more vibrant encounter with You in your Word?”