

The Voices and the Word Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Do you learn best by listening or reading? By yourself or in a group? Quietly or through discussion?
2. What is one high point from the past week?

Read the following passage: Psalm 119:89-96.

The words and messages we absorb have a profound effect on every part of our lives. Jesus, in the middle of a spiritual conflict, quoted the book of Deuteronomy: “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). God’s Word is the foundation of our confidence and faith. It is impossible to have faith in God if we do not have his message in our hearts.

Questions for Discussion:

1. The Gospels make it clear that Jesus faced a wide variety of destructive voices: criticism, slander, fear, intimidation, misguided expectations, temptation, rejection, self-pity, rage, and mockery. Do you find yourself wrestling with any of these voices in this season of your life? Explain.
2. When we feel intimidated, overwhelmed, or rejected we are often told to “believe in ourselves.” How does this advice differ from the message of the Bible? How can we go about building a proper self-identity? Do you feel that you are building your confidence on God? Explain.
3. Throughout Psalm 119 the psalmist prays things like, “I have suffered much; preserve my life, Lord, according to your word” (Psalm 119:107). The phrase “according to your word” indicates that God’s Word is the foundation of his faith. What are some promises of God that we can put our confidence in?
4. How regularly are you engaging God’s Word in this season of your life, whether by reading or listening to the Bible, listening to Bible-based sermons, confessing the Scriptures, or meditating on the Scriptures? What is one way you could practically increase how often you engage the Scriptures?
5. Have you ever used or created a set of Bible-based confessions? What topics might be most beneficial for you in this season of your life?
6. The psalmist in Psalm 119 repeatedly prays that God would help him obey God’s commands. What is your attitude toward the concept of obedience? Does obedience feel life-giving to you? Why or why not? Are there any areas in your life in which you feel

challenged to be more obedient to God?

7. What is one way you would like to see God's Word play a bigger role in your life? What can you do about that this week?

Pray