

Compose New Songs of Praise: A Family Discipleship Study

A companion bible study to the CD

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Day 1

Today's To Do List

Gather

- A study Bible for each person who is old enough to use one
- A pencil for each person

Print

- Workbook Page 1

Parenting Prep

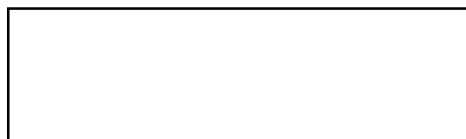
The Psalms are first person. They are written using the pronouns I, me, we, us, You and Your. These are personal, raw, heartfelt responses to the real life circumstances of at least 7 different men from the same nation over a period of 900 years. They celebrate God's constant presence, unchanging nature and inability to do wrong through the lens of personal affliction, family adversity and national tragedy. Psalm 119 is specifically the author's personal reflections on the unchanging nature and constant relevance of God's Law and what it has meant in his life. Its' authorship is not certain but King David, the prophet Daniel and Ezra the priest and scribe are credible possibilities. Whomever penned the verses was in a state of distress because many of the verses speak of his being conspired against, reproached, derided, encircled, afflicted, subverted, persecuted, almost destroyed, waited for, oppressed, troubled and anguished. Take time this week to read Psalm 119 on your own or with your spouse. It is long, but if you divide up the sections it can be done in 5 minutes a day.

The Book of Psalms is a book a praises. It is the longest book of the Bible which tells us that God really, really wants us to praise Him. The first and last songs on our CD *Compose New Songs of Praise* are from the Psalms. Please know that while our scripture memory songs are catchy and fun they are only a tool to help us remember the *greater* message of the chapter and book from which they come. To truly understand a verse of scripture we must read what comes before and after it and pray for God to give us understanding. Take time now to pray as a family and ask for that understanding before you begin.

Have every family member who is able open a bible to Psalm 119. A helpful trick for finding the book of Psalms is to place your closed bible on its spine and your thumbs on the very center of the closed pages. Use your thumbs to open the bible at the very center and you should be close to the book of Psalms. After you locate chapter 119, find the word ALEPH at the very beginning. This is not actually a word. It is an English *transliteration* of the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In the coming weeks we will learn more about transliteration and begin writing transliterations in our word studies. For today, we are going to have a little fun drawing some Hebrew letters.

Look to the left of the letters ALEPH and find the little artistic symbol. That is the first letter in the Hebrew alphabet. If Hebrew children sang a song like our "ABC's" to learn their alphabet, they would start with this letter.

Practice copying this symbol into the box below and write ALEPH next to it.



Now choose a family member to read the first 8 verses aloud.

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Psalm 119: 33 & 35

After verse 8 there is another Hebrew letter with the English transliteration BETH. This is the second letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Copy the Hebrew letter and its corresponding English letters into the box below.

Now choose a family member to read the *next* 8 verses aloud.

After verse 16 there is another Hebrew letter. This is the third letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Once again, copy the Hebrew letter and its corresponding English letters into the box below.

Again, choose a family member to read the next 8 verses aloud.

Great job! The pattern you have discovered continues throughout the entire chapter. The composer used every letter in the Hebrew alphabet when he wrote this Psalm. Start with Aleph and count to find out how many letters are in the Hebrew alphabet. Write your answer in the blank. _____

If each of those sections has 8 verses, how many verses are there total in Psalm 119? _____

That is a lot of verses! At the beginning of this lesson I told you that the Book of Psalms is the longest book in the Bible. Psalm 119 is the longest *chapter* in the Bible. Our Dad read it aloud to us and it took almost 20 minutes. That is a lot of reading and while we tried to pay attention and follow along it was hard to stay focused. It probably was not as difficult for the Hebrew people to read this long Psalm and stay focused because when it is printed out in Hebrew letters it forms an acrostic.

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Psalm 119: 33 & 35

Here is an example of an acrostic Margie made of her name.

Instead of the author using his name to build the acrostic he used the Hebrew alphabet.

Remember the Hebrew letter you copied in the first box for ALEPH? Imagine that letter written across the top of a paper 8 times. Now imagine 8 sentences written underneath each of those letters. Every time we write a sentence in

English it begins with a capitol letter. Well, those 8 letters written across the top of your imaginary paper are the first or capitol letter of each verse in the section ALEPH.

M	A	R	G	I	E
u	d	e	o	m	c
s	v	a	d	a	c
i	e	l	f	g	e
c	n	i	e	i	n
a	t	s	a	n	t
l	u	t	r	a	r
	r	i	i	t	i
	o	c	n	i	c
	u		g	v	
	s			e	

The second section in Psalm 119 is BETH. Every one of the 8 verses in this section begins with the Hebrew letter you copied into the second box. The third section of Psalm 119 is GIMEL. Each of these 8 verses begins with the Hebrew letter you copied into the third box.

This is the pattern for Psalm 119 in a Hebrew bible. It continues through the chapter until all 22 letters have been used. This may have been a teaching tool to help the author himself or the Hebrew people remember the Psalm. In a later lesson, you are going to make an acrostic with your name. Be thinking about what words you might use.

Listen to *Just Tell Me What To Do* from the CD *Compose New Songs of Praise*.

Each verse in the Bible has two separate parts that are important to memorize. The first part is the words and the second is the book name, chapter number and verse number. At our house we call this second part the address because it shows where the verse is located in the bible just like your address shows where your house is located on a map. That is our eleven year old son Luke singing the address in the scripture song. We always have the most trouble remembering the addresses for our verses so we make sure to include them in the songs. We hope it helps you as well, because reading a verse with all of the verses written before and after it is necessary for correct understanding. No verse is an island and every verse is meant to be interpreted by the scriptures surrounding it.

Write the address for the two verses in our scripture memory song in the blank below.

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Psalm 119: 33 & 35

Locate these verses in your bible and read them aloud together. They are at the beginning of one of the 22 sections of Psalm 119. Write the Hebrew letter and its English transliteration for this section in the box below.

A close study of Psalm 119 reveals the composer's constant, daily dependence on God's Law. In verse 147 he focuses on it before dawn. In verse 97 he is thinking about it all the day. In verse 164 he praises God 7 times a day for His law. In verses 55 and 148 he mentions thinking about God's law during the night and in verse 62 he even gets out of bed at midnight to thank God for His law. This man must have believed that God's law was very, very important because he chose to focus on it. We are going to show God we believe His law is important too.

HE is the section of Psalm 119 we are going to focus on while we study Psalm 119:33 and 35. Here is the plan:

- Pray. Read the verses of HE aloud as a prayer every time you begin your family bible study this week. Either have mom or dad pray or take turns with a different family member praying each verse.
- Read. Place a bible near the table and bookmark the section HE in Psalm 119. Before every family meal this week read HE aloud.
- Sing! Listen to *Just Tell Me What to Do* on your CD and sing along.
- Write. Print the copy work pages and write the verses down. Older children and adults might copy all of HE.

Wrap it Up

Our goal is to read this section of verses so many times that we find ourselves talking about it during the day and thinking about it at night. As we close our study for today, pray through this section of verses as a family.

Have one person pray verse 33, the next person verse 34 and continue until all the verses have been prayed. The opening verses of ALEPH say we are blessed when we observe God's testimonies. Be blessed!

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Psalm 119: 33 & 35

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