

Compose New Songs of Praise: A Family Discipleship Study

A companion bible study to the CD

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Give Me Your Heart

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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

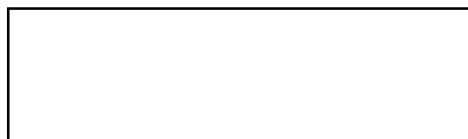
The Psalms are first person. They are written using the pronouns I, me, we, us, You and Your. These are personal, raw, heartfelt responses to the real life circumstances of at least 7 different men from the same nation over a period of 900 years. They celebrate God's constant presence, unchanging nature 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.

Compose New Songs of Praise

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!

Lesson 2

Today's To Do List

Gather

- Study Bible
- Box of colored pencils to share
- Pen or pencil for each family member
- A screen connected to the internet for as many as wish to use one

Print

- Workbook Pages 2-4
- You will be underlining words in a passage of scripture. You may choose to mark in your bible or on worksheet page 3.

Welcome to lesson 2. Are you enjoying Psalm 119 as you read it before your family meal times? In Matthew chapter 4 verse 4 Jesus said, "It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" It has been a challenge for a while in our home to read some spiritual food when we sit down to eat our physical food. We are not 100% in this area, but we are trying to form this excellent habit because it is a good reminder of Jesus' words. We hope the idea blesses you.

Begin today's study by having mom or dad pray the 5th section of Psalm 119 over your family.

Now, let's begin. Ancient meets modern as we study an ancient text with a modern tool. Grab a screen that is connected to the internet. Any computer, tablet or smartphone will work. Each family member also needs a copy of worksheet pages 2 and 3 and a pen or pencil. Provide a box of colored pencils to share. Here we go!

1. Open blueletterbible.org
2. Search for Psalm 119 in any translation
3. Click on the tab "tools" next to verse 33
4. A box will open with 6 colored tabs running across the top. The tabs are entitled interlinear, bibles, cross-references, commentaries, dictionaries and miscellaneous. Today we are going to read this verse in several different translations so click on the orange *Bibles* tab.
5. Several translations of the Bible will appear. If you click on the little hand you may re-order the translations. *Note you will not find the Living Bible Paraphrase which is what our songs use. It was chosen because of its age – appropriate vocabulary for older preschoolers and early elementary aged children allowing the *entire* family to understand. The Living Bible Paraphrase has been revised into an actual translation and is now named the New Living Translation.
6. Read several translations aloud making note of the

Compose New Songs of Praise

Psalm 119: 33 & 35

different words the translators used to say the same thing.

7. X out of the *Bibles* tool and click on the tab *tools* next to verse 35.

8. Once again, click on the *Bibles* tab and read the different translations of verse 35.

9. X out of the *Bibles* tool and click on the tab *tools* next to verse 33.

The Psalmist uses 8 different terms referring to Scripture in Psalm 119. In verse 33, the word *statutes* is used in almost every version you read. The NLT used a different word. What was it? _____

The first five sections of verses in Psalm 119 are printed on worksheet pages 2 and 3. Use your colored pencils and shade the words referring to Scripture following the chart in the box. For example, every time you read the word *Law* shade it in dark blue. You may shade the words in your personal bible or use the printed sheets.

Once you have finished marking your sheet, return your attention to the screen and blueletterbible. Resume your instructions by starting with number 10 below.

Law	Dark Blue
Testimonies	Green
Precepts	Red
Statutes	Yellow
Commandments	Orange
Judgments	Purple
Word	Light Blue
Ordinances	Brown

10. Click on *tools* next to verse 33. The screen that opens is the *Interlinear* tool box. There are Hebrew words at the top. The rest of the box is organized in columns containing, from left to right, the English words in the verse, the Strong's Concordance word numbers and the root form of the Hebrew.

11. Read down the column of English words on the left side of the box and find *And I shall observe*. NOTE: we searched for NASB. If you searched for a different translation you may have a different word than *observe*. For instance, the KJV says *keep*. Regardless, it will be on the 5th line down. Look to the right and click on the numbers H5341.

12. This box is full of helpful but overwhelming information that we will pick apart piece by piece throughout our 5 lesson study. For today, scroll down to the *Outline of Biblical Usage* box and copy the information into the identical box below then answer the questions which follow.

Outline of Biblical Usage

- I. to _____, _____, _____

- A.
 - i. to _____, _____, _____
 - ii. to _____, _____ from _____
 - iii. to _____, _____, _____ with

 - iv. to _____, keep _____
 - v. to be kept _____, be _____
 - vi. _____ (participle)

In your home, is there anything special that you guard or watch over?

Are there any situations where you are a guard because of danger?

Do you have anything that you keep close to you? If so, why?

Have you ever built a blockade or fort? If so, who were you trying to prevent from crossing your blockade?

Who or what were you protecting?

Go around the room and take turns reading your answers and discussing them.

Wrap it up

Over the years of our marriage, by God's grace we have grown spiritually and our convictions have changed. We have become aware of dangers that we never realized or were not wise enough to care about when we were younger. Our eyes and ears have become more precious to us because we have learned they are the gateway to our hearts. The Proverbs direct us to guard our hearts with diligence and we now protect them vigilantly. We have built a few "blockades" to keep foolishness out and praise God for the discernment He has given us to do so. We are not yet wise in many things and are thankful for the older, wiser families around us who model righteous living in front of us. But praise God we are not who we were and are no longer living in the pit we dug!

Watch over your heart with all diligence,
For from it flow the springs of life.
Proverbs 4:23

Finish by praying *HE*, Psalm 119 verses 33 – 40. I wonder, as we pray verse 33 and ask God to teach us the way of His statutes, are we prepared to observe it to the end? Will we keep it and guard it and watch over it? One thing is for certain: it is in danger of being stolen just like the seed that fell by the roadside in Matthew 13 verse 4.

ALEPH.

How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the Lord.

How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all their heart.

They also do no unrighteousness; They walk in His ways.

You have ordained Your precepts, That we should keep them diligently.

Oh that my ways may be established To keep Your statutes!

Then I shall not be ashamed When I look upon all Your commandments.

I shall give thanks to You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments.

I shall keep Your statutes; Do not forsake me utterly!

BETH.

How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.

With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments.

Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.

Blessed are You, O Lord; Teach me Your statutes.

With my lips I have told of All the ordinances of Your mouth.

I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches.

I will meditate on Your precepts And regard Your ways.

I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word.

GIMEL.

Deal bountifully with Your servant, That I may live and keep Your word.

Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law.

I am a stranger in the earth; Do not hide Your commandments from me.

My soul is crushed with longing After Your ordinances at all times.

You rebuke the arrogant, the cursed, Who wander from Your commandments.

Take away reproach and contempt from me, For I observe Your testimonies.

Even though princes sit and talk against me, Your servant meditates on Your statutes.

Your testimonies also are my delight; They are my counselors.

DALETH

My soul cleaves to the dust; Revive me according to Your Word.

I have told of my ways, and You have answered me; Teach me Your statutes.

Make me understand the way of Your precepts, So I will meditate on Your wonders.

My soul weeps because of grief; Strengthen me according to Your word.

Remove the false way from me, And graciously grant me Your law.

I have chosen the faithful way; I have placed Your ordinances before me.

I cling to Your testimonies; O LORD, do not put me to shame!

I shall run the way of Your commandments, For You will enlarge my heart.

HE.

Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall observe it to the end.

Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law And keep it in my heart.

Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it.

Incline my heart to Your testimonies And not to dishonest gain.

Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, And revive me in Your ways.

Establish Your word to Your servant, As that which produces reverence for You.

Turn away my reproach which I dread, For Your ordinances are good.

Behold, I long for Your precepts; Revive me through Your righteousness.

Lesson 3

Today's To Do List

Gather

- Study Bible
- Pen or pencil for each family member
- A screen connected to the internet for as many as wish to use one

Print

- Workbook Pages 5 and 6

When we went through this study with our children, this lesson was near the end of our work week. It reminded us to pray for you as you persevere through your family Bible study times. The end of the week is always the hardest time for us to push through in the evenings and not sacrifice our Bible study time. With 6 children ranging in age from 1 to 13 we understand just how hard it is to keep everyone focused (including mom and dad!) Never forget to pray before you start and always remember you're not alone: we are praying for you, too.

We hope you are enjoying the song *Just Tell Me What to Do* and are memorizing the verses as a family. Our oldest son Dalton is the fiddle player on the cd. His love for the violin is one of the unique ways God created him. We will be discussing character traits today, and at the end you will receive an assignment. We hope you've been thinking about the many special ways God created YOU. Here is a story that will tell you a little bit more about our life and personalities.

(From Margie) When I was a girl, I would walk through the timber with my brothers on Sunday afternoons after we had enjoyed the huge feast our grandma called lunch. After a short five minute walk to the north, I always felt miles away from civilization as if I was Laura Ingalls on the wide open prairie. I would forget my brothers and melt into an imaginary world of covered wagons, wolves and Indians. A stinging branch to the face always snapped me out of the 19th century. One thing every country kid learns early is that the person in front has to push the underbrush out of the way to clear a path; and the kid in back better watch out because when the leader lets go of that mass of tangled branches it is going to snap back at the next person. Ouch!

That 40 acres seemed like the deep woods to me until I met my husband. His family lived on hundreds of acres and their timber was thick and deep. He paid for my engagement ring by cutting truckloads of firewood out of its' inner groves and creek bottom while I slept in the cab of the truck. I mean

dutifully loaded each stick into the bed. I learned from day one if I was going to date a Campbell it very seldom meant going to town and very often meant going along to feed hogs, ride a tractor and cut firewood. Quickly, the Missouri timber grew smaller in my mind and larger in my heart. Clint was not much of a talker but in the timber he would open up and tell me the species of different kinds of trees and which ones were best for firewood or fence posts. He watched from season to season and knew which trees were healthy, dying, or already dead. There was a lot of knowledge inside this very quiet farm boy who had watched and listened and learned from his dad and grandpa and neighbors. All of that knowledge informed his decisions and he knew when to cut a tree, how to cut it so that it landed exactly where and how he wanted and how long to leave it before it was useful.

As we study the Bible as a family, I view the scriptures like the hundreds of acres on my in-laws' farm. Each book is an acre or two, each verse is a grove or thicket, and every tree or vine or wild bush is a single word. God says as we live out our days as a family we are to teach our children His statutes, laws, ordinances, precepts. We need to walk with them into the timber, help them navigate the underbrush, keep the branches from slapping them in the face, and identify the grove of oak trees for them. But that is not where it ends. We need to also classify those trees as white, bur, red, pin or live oak. The instruction goes even further. We need to get on our knees, pick up some leaves, and find a few acorns. We need to take them home and together look our specimens up in a reference book. We need to find an old – timer, ask a question and then listen. We need to take notes and keep them in a journal.

Deuteronomy
11:19

You shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up.

This is the way knowledge is kept.

Here is the verse we have been focusing on:

Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall observe it to the end.
Psalm 119:33

In our last lesson we learned that the Hebrew word translated *observe* means to guard, watch over, preserve, keep close or blockade.

The knowledge my husband learned in those woods he *kept*. He knew it was important and he *guarded* it so as not to ever forget. It informed his decisions later in life and not only prospered him but quite frankly kept him alive. Today we are going to examine a

very old leaf from an ancient tree and learn about *keeping* God's statutes. Pray for understanding as you study with your family. Even though very few of us know God's Word in the way that Clint and his family know their land God is merciful and gracious to teach us through the Holy Spirit. All God is looking for is a willing heart so spend this time asking Him for one.

1. Open blueletterbible.org
 2. Search for Psalm 119 in any translation
 3. Click on the tab "tools" next to verse 33
 4. The *Interlinear* box will open. You might recognize this screen from our last lesson. There are Hebrew words at the top. The rest of the box is organized in columns containing, from left to right, the English words in the verse, the Strong's Concordance word numbers and the root form of the Hebrew.
 5. Read down the column of English words on the left side of the box and find *to the end*. Look to the right and click on the numbers H6118.
 12. This box is full of helpful information that we will pick apart piece by piece throughout our 5 week study. For now, scroll down to the *Outline of Biblical Usage* box. There are three different outlines: noun, adverb and conjunction. In verse 33, the word *end* is used as a noun which is the first outline.
 13. Read the outline and write the three words next to the letter *B* in the blank
-

In our home, we made the rules very simple when our oldest boys were small. It was mainly because we were as "simple" as they were! We had no experience in child training and were not so great at training our chubby faced toddler boys. Somewhere along the way we learned the phrase, "Quickly, quietly, completely and truthfully". If they obeyed us in those four ways, there would be a happy consequence. If they did not obey us in those four ways there would be a sad consequence. We seldomed called it a spanking or a timeout or a punishment, just a consequence. They grew up hearing that word and learned that, most of the time, they were in control of their consequences. Life's all about choices, boys. They still hear their daddy say that line and others like it with a slight drawl in his quiet voice. It's not just true between our six kiddos and their daddy. It's also true for us parents and our heavenly daddy.

Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall observe it to the *consequence*.
Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall observe it to the *gain*.

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Psalm 119: 33 & 35

Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall observe it to the *reward*.

Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall observe it to the *end*.

What is the end?

Have everyone who is able open their bible and turn to 2 Peter chapter 1. Read verses 10-11 then answer the following questions by filling in the blanks according to the scripture.

What will be “abundantly supplied” to those whom God calls and chooses?

The _____ into the _____
_____ of our _____ and
_____ Jesus Christ.

Dr. John MacArthur writes in his commentary on these verses:

Peter piles up the words to bring joy to the weary Christian’s heart. An abundant entrance into eternal heaven is the hope and reality for a Christian who lives a faithful, fruitful life here on earth. Peter’s point is that a Christian who pursues the listed virtues will not only enjoy assurance in the present, but a full, rich reward in the future life.

To bring it full circle, the *end, consequence, gain or reward* is not this afternoon when you get a break after completing a day’s work. It is not this weekend when you get a day off from work because you have completed a week’s work. It is not this summer’s family vacation because you’ve completed a year’s worth of work. It is at the end of your life, after you have completed.....Hmm. Completed what?

Look back at verse 10 and in the blank write what Peter says we are to have *practiced*?

In order to discover what things Peter is referring to you will have to read this verse of scripture in its full *context*. Go back to the beginning of 2nd Peter chapter 1 and read until you discover what Peter has instructed us to *practice*.

After reading this passage, fill in the blanks below from verses 5 – 8.

Now for this very reason also, applying all _____
in your faith supply _____, and in your moral excellence,

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Psalm 119: 33 & 35

_____, and in your knowledge, _____,
and in your self-control, _____, and in your perseverance,
_____, and in your godliness,
_____ and in your
brotherly kindness, _____.

That is a long list of qualities we are to practice. One last question. What does Peter say we will *never* do if we practice these things? _____

That does not mean we will never sin. Dr. John MacArthur writes this about the word *stumble* in verse 10:

As the Christian pursues the qualities enumerated by Peter and sees that his life is useful and fruitful he will not stumble into doubt, despair, fear, or questioning, but enjoy assurance that he is saved.

Peter's list of qualities is a list we wish "came to mind" when someone was asked to describe our family. Unfortunately, we tend to need a lot of do-overs when it comes to self-control and brotherly kindness. We don't pursue knowledge as diligently as we should. There are times when dad and I rent a movie that should be taken out of the DVD player because it is not morally excellent or godly; but to our shame we do not. James 3:2 says *For we all stumble in many ways.*

Choose a family member to read further in the passage from verses 12 to 15.

Peter admits in verse 12 that his readers already know "these things" but he will always be ready to remind them. He adds that he considers it right to remind them and as long as he is alive he will keep at it. He finishes up by saying his plan is to be so diligent in his reminders that after he is dead and gone "these things" will still be stuck in their heads. Peter seems like a persistent fella. He kind of reminds me of a mother reminding her teenager to buckle his seatbelt or her preschooler to wash her hands. Mamas pass out those reminders until kiddos are rolling their eyes into the back of their brain. But those same kiddos grow into adults who can't get into a car without hearing their mama's voice saying, "Buckle your seat belt because I love you!" And hopefully they never leave a restroom without a good hand washing because they hear mama saying, "Do you know what is all over your hands right now that you cannot see? Wash those fingers and get under the nails!"

Anything that is memorized stays with us just like the admonitions of our mothers. It is available to us when teachable moments arise: whether God is teaching us or we are

teaching our children. It is also able to stay with our children long after we are gone and no longer here to speak words of wisdom. Let's close this lesson by working on a simple exercise to memorize Peter's list of qualities as a family. Here is the list:

Moral excellence Knowledge Self-control
Perseverance Godliness Brotherly kindness Love

As a group project, take the first letter of each of these words and create a sentence that your family will be able to remember. Here is an example we came up with:

Marshmallow **K**ripsy **S**nacks **P**roduce **G**reat **B**elly **L**aughs! Write yours in the box below and then post it in a prominent place as a friendly reminder. Peter would be proud!

M
K
S
P
G
B
L

Wrap it up

Now that you have finished your *group* project, we have a fun *individual* assignment for you. Remember the acrostic I made with my name? It's your turn! Make an acrostic as a reminder of how much God loves you and wants to spend

time with you every day in His Word. Turn a piece of typing paper or cardstock sideways and evenly space out the letters of your first name. Now think of fun, descriptive adjectives that describe all the wonderful ways that God made YOU! Begin with the letters in your name and write the adjectives underneath each one going down the page. Use markers, pencils or crayons, stickers or even glitter and be as creative as you choose. Most importantly, use this acrostic as an opportunity to praise God for the unique and wonderful way that He made you. Before you close your study tonight, go around the family and have mom or dad pray a sentence prayer of blessing over each kiddo and one another thanking God for one characteristic that makes that person special and unique. Remember, we are created in God's image, so if we're celebrating us then we're celebrating God!

Lesson 4

Today's To Do List

Gather

- Study Bible
- Pen or pencil for each family member
- A screen connected to the internet for as many as wish to use one

Print

- Worksheet page 7

Begin today's study by listening to *Just Tell Me What to Do* on the CD *Compose New Songs of Praise*.

That sweet little voice who is talking with her Daddy is our almost ten year old baby girl, Mary Caroline. Of course, she's no longer a baby girl and we actually have two other daughters who are closer to the "baby stage" but she will always be our baby girl and we hope she always calls her father "Daddy". We know from the Greek word Abba used in the New Testament that God wants us to think of him as our "daddy" and relate to him like a child who trusts and loves her papa as much as Mary Caroline does Clint. Open your bible study time tonight by thanking God that He is the original Father and our forever Father. Thank Him that we can always, always, always trust Him like our sweet little girls trust their daddy.

In our first three lessons we focused on verse 33 in Psalm 119. In our last three lessons we are going to study Psalm 119:35:

Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it.

Grab your screens and let's dig into the Word.

1. Open blueletterbible
2. Search for Psalm 119:35 in the NASB
3. Click *Tools* next to verse 35
4. Click Strong's number 1869 to the right of *Make me walk*
5. Read the Outline of Biblical Usage box and fill in the blanks for i.

i. to _____,
_____,
_____.

6. Fill in the blanks for iii.

iii. to _____ (a
_____)

Do any of you remember the I Love Lucy episode where Lucy and Ethel stomp the grapes? They are in a large wooden vat or crate filled with grapes and are stomping them to squeeze out the juice. It is hilarious! When I read the word "tread" that is the image that comes to mind and the English word I think of is "stomp".

7. Fill in the blank for iv.

To _____ (_____) a

In our home state of MO, most bows are used to hunt deer or wild turkey. It is hard to imagine a bow so large and strong that a man would need to bend it by "treading" or putting his foot on it. Some Biblical scholars say it could also mean the warrior or hunter was "treading" the bow to string it rather than release it. Either way, this is a strong bow being "tread" by a strong man.

Below the *Outline of Biblical Usage* box is the KJV Translation Count followed by the *Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon*. We will explore this type of dictionary in the coming weeks, but for today read here an excerpt from the entry showing how this word is used in other verses in the Bible:

To cause to go, walk. To cause to go in any particular way. He made them go in a straight way. He led them in a straight way.

Choose two words from all of the different words we've written down in our study to re-write our verse below.

_____ me _____ in the path of Your commandments,
For I delight in it.

Here are some different ways you could have re-written the verse:

Cause me to march in the path of your commandments, For I delight in it.

Lead me to tread in the path of your commandments, For I delight in it.

Make me to lead in the path of your commandments, For I delight in it.

Now, let's switch from Old Testament to New Testament. Did your family complete the "word game" from 2nd Peter chapter 1? Here is our silly sentence again: Marshmallow Krispy Snacks Produce Great Belly Laughs! Take a minute to review the silly sentence your family created to help you remember the Apostle Peter's list of Christian virtues and practice memorizing them.

Wrap it up

That is an intimidating list. It overwhelms us to think of "keeping" that list as a family in our own strength. We are encouraged by the first phrase of Psalm 119:35 that we studied today. God says He will "Cause me", He will "Lead me", and He will "Make me" march and tread and walk on the right path. He will even "cause me" to *lead* while I am treading that path. That is comforting news that fills us full of hope in God's grace rather than despair in our weakness. Finish up this lesson by praying *HE* over your family. When we read God's Word and pray in the Spirit He will *cause* us to change more and more into His image. That is the Gospel and that is good news!

Lesson 5

Today's To Do List

Gather

- Study Bible
- Pen or pencil for each family member
- A screen connected to the internet for as many as wish to use one

Print

- Worksheet page 8

The name for our family ministry, *Give Me Your Heart*, comes from Proverbs 23:26, but we love reading the verse with its surrounding passage to fully take in what King Solomon was saying. Read verses 22 through 26 below.

Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy truth, and do not sell it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding. The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who sires a wise son will be glad in him. Let your father and your mother be glad, And let her rejoice who gave birth to you. Give me your heart, my son, And let your eyes delight in my ways.

The richest parenting tool we have ever found is the book of Proverbs. And to be honest, that's not saying much! I mean, who are we? We're pretty wet behind the ears when it comes to this parenting thing. But trust us when we say that every wise and learned parent and grandparent we have been mentored by has always led us straight back to the Proverbs for good, solid, helpful advice. There are 31 chapters in Proverbs which is just perfect for daily devotional reading. No matter what day of the month it is, you can always grab a Bible and read that day's Proverb at the breakfast table. This go-to devotion plan was a lifesaver when all of our kiddos were young and a family Bible study seemed like an unattainable goal. That's code for complete disaster that ended up in tantrums. Toddler *and* adult. Before you begin today's lesson, open up to the Psalms, flip forward to the next book which is Proverbs and locate the chapter that matches today's date. Pray for wisdom and then read the chapter aloud. When you're finished, we'll compare our verse from Psalms with a passage of verses from Proverbs.

Compare these verses.

Psalm 119:35 NASB

Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it.

Proverbs 4:10-12 NASB

"Hear, my son, and accept my sayings And the years of your life will be many. 'I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths. When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; And if you run you will not stumble.'"

Use the Proverbs passage to complete the instructions below.

Who is speaking? (Hint: not his name, just his position in the family)

To whom is he speaking?

What two actions has the father done? Fill in the blanks.

"I have _____ you in the way of wisdom; I have _____ you in upright paths."

What results will the son enjoy when he walks? Fill in the blanks.

"When you walk, your steps will not be _____; And if you run, you will not _____."

Follow the blueletterbible instructions.

1. Search for Proverbs 4:11
2. Click on *Tools* to open the *Interlinear* box.
3. Scroll down the left hand column where the words contained in verse 11 are listed. Locate *I have directed* and click on the Strong's number 3384 to the right.
4. Read the *Outline of Biblical Usage* and fill in the blanks for the outline next to number I. to _____, _____, _____ or _____
5. Read further down to the letter C in the outline and fill in the outline next to iv. to _____, _____, _____
5. Click the back arrow to return to the *Interlinear* box.
6. In the left hand column in the fourth row are the words *I have led*. Click on the Strong's number 1869 to the right.
7. Read the *Outline of Biblical Usage* box and fill in the blanks for the outline next to number I. to _____, _____, _____

Does that look familiar? What is this Hebrew word? Go to the top of the page, find the blue ribbon that says *Lexicon: Strong's H1869* and write the Hebrew word in the blank _____

In our current verse, Proverbs 4:11, this Hebrew word is translated *led*. Here is the verse.

"I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have *led* you in upright paths."

In our scripture memory verse Psalm 119:35 this word is translated *walk*. Here is that verse.

"Make me *walk* in the path of your commandments, For I delight in it."

In the Proverbs verse, the earthly father is saying to his son, "I have led you in upright paths."

In the Psalms verse the Psalmist is asking Father God to "Make me walk in the path".

Wrap it up

In our previous study we learned that the Hebrew word *darak* required some heavy foot stomping. This word wasn't referring to a little preschool girl tip-toeing through the wildflowers while she chased butterflies. It talked about stomping and pounding with our feet to press grapes or olives and a warrior or hunter stepping with all of his weight to bend a strong bow. This type of "walking" or "leading" will create a path. How many times would you have to tread or march from one point to another before you created a path? How many times would your Dad have to tread or march with his big, heavy feet from one point to another before *he* created a path? Talk about it.

(From Clint) Growing up we raised row crops like soybeans and field corn and we custom combined wheat for other farmers. We also raised cattle and farrowed hogs. The animals roamed through our

hundreds of acres of timber and pasture. The cows would calve just about anywhere and the hogs had huts where some would drop litters of pigs. Animals leave distinctive marks on a piece of land. It was always interesting to see the way cattle would create and then follow a path. Whether it was from a water supply or to a certain part of the pasture where they liked to graze, most of the time the path was the safest route to their destination. When they walked up a hillside they would always walk at an angle which gave them more stability. If there was a briar patch, the path always went around it, not through it. In thick timber, they would navigate around steep ditches. When they crossed the creek they would cross at a wide open spot rather than a steep bank. The heavy stomping of the cattle cut away the grass and wore the paths down to bare dirt. After winter snow thaws or heavy spring rains the paths would turn to mud and with 800-1200 pound cows plodding along them, deep ruts would form. The paths were direct, safe and well-marked. They marked the land long after those cattle had moved on.

Mom or Dad, do some stomping and work on creating a path or pattern for your family to follow. Set aside personal time to pray and study your bible. Let your children see you and they will learn that it is important to you. Pray with your family in the morning to start the day and at the end to finish it. Pray before meals. Go to church and learn together as a family. Start right now before you end this study for today by praying *HE* from Psalm 119 over your family to close.

Lesson 6

Today's To Do List

Gather

- Study Bible
- Pen or pencil for each family member
- A screen connected to the internet for as many as wish to use one

Print

- Worksheet page 9

Our baby girl Daisy is 18 months old. Just like all the Campbell Kids before her, she is an endless supply of entertainment for the rest of us. One of her favorite past times is to try on the shoes of other family members. Some people, especially her 3 year old big sister Michaela, have a small enough shoe size that she can toddle around without wiping out. However, when she tries on Bubby's big size 10 boots or Daddy's even bigger boots it's all she can do to hold herself upright, grin and squeal "Cheese" for whomever is trying to capture the moment for her high school graduation slideshow! Parents, whether we like it or not, our children will eventually fill our shoes and walk in the paths we have led them in. The sobering question for us is, "Will they be upright paths?" Today, pray Proverbs chapter 4 over your family before you begin.

1. Open blueletterbible and search for Proverbs 4:12
2. Click on *Tools* to open the *Interlinear* box.
3. Scroll down the left hand column where the words contained in verse 12 are listed. Locate *will not be impeded* and click on the Strong's number 6887 to the right.
4. Read the *Outline of Biblical Usage* and fill in the blanks for the outline next to number 1.

to _____, be _____, be in _____,
 make _____, cause _____, besiege, be straitened, be _____

5. Click the back arrow to return to the *Interlinear* box.
6. In the left hand column on the bottom row are the words *you will not stumble*. Click on the Strong's number 3782 to the right.
7. Read the *Outline of Biblical Usage* box and fill in the blanks for the outline next to number 1.

to _____,
 _____, _____
 Also fill in the blanks for the outline next to the letter C.
 to cause to _____, bring _____ or _____ to,

Read verse 12 again. "When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; And if you run, you will not stumble."
 Where is the son going to walk? Where is it that he will run? Look back at verse 11 to find the answers and then fill in the blanks.
 I have directed you in the _____ of _____;

I have led you in _____.

8. Click the back arrow to exit the *Lexicon* and close the *Interlinear* box. Click *Tools* next to verse 11.

9. In the *Interlinear* box locate *you in the way* in the left hand column and click Strong's number 1870 to the right. Fill in the entire *Outline of Biblical Usage* box.

Outline of Biblical Usage Box

I. _____, _____, _____ _____
A. _____, _____, _____
B. _____
C. _____
D. _____, _____, _____
E. _____
F. _____

10. Exit the *Lexicon* screen and locate the word *paths* in the left hand column and click on the *Strong's* #4570 to the right. Fill in the blanks using the two words in the *Outline of Biblical Usage* box next to the number I. _____

11. Scroll down to the *Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon* and read the entry aloud.

Clint loves history. He is the history teacher in our homeschool and he enjoys learning about a broader range of history than he was taught growing up. In the autumn of 2010 he helped to build a pipeline in Wyoming and we had the wonderful privilege of living in Gillette, WY. The history of the *Cowboy State* is rich and diverse and the geography only adds to the magnificence of this region's story. While we were there we discovered national caves, forests, parks and natural landmarks like Chimney Rock. One Historic State Site we missed, that Clint wants to go back for, is the Oregon Trail Ruts near Guernsey, Wyoming. Due to the impassable North Platte River to the north and treacherous mountains all around hundreds of thousands of emigrants chose the path over the sandstone rock a half mile south of what is now the town of Guernsey on their journey west during the mid-19th century. The wagon ruts are up to four feet deep in the solid sandstone caused both by continuous rutting and also deliberate cutting by the pioneers to lessen the grade their animals had to climb as they pulled the wagons. This is one of the only remaining evidences of the path our forefathers literally paved with their hands and feet as they walked across the continent.

This year, 2015, Clint is helping build a pipeline in Ohio and we are blessed to live right across the state line in Greene County, Pennsylvania. One of our favorite state history sites here is The National Road. In 1803, the state of Ohio was admitted to the Union and the Congress had a problem. Our nation had a state that could only be reached by trails that had been used during the French and Indian War.

Construction of a new road was approved, and in 1811 the work finally began in the heart of Maryland with the road projected to end in Ohio. Due to the ruts made by wagon wheels dirt roads were nearly impassable; therefore, the new road would be made of stones. The National Road was a success and went much further than Ohio, continuing all the way to Vandalia, Illinois. Work eventually stopped in 1839 as the construction of railroads took priority. There are still sections of the National Road that can be traveled today. We had the joy of celebrating our anniversary dinner in an Inn that had served as a stop on the National Road for weary travelers. We guessed at who had eaten there before us and soaked up the history of our nation's founding fathers.

History is fascinating. It connects us to a time we never saw and people we never met. Someday, if the Lord tarries, our great-great-grandchildren will talk about us; people they never met who lived in a time they never saw. With fear and trembling, we ask ourselves what kind of path they will be walking. As a father, have I, Clint, stomped and beaten down a path that my family can safely walk and even run along? As a mother, have I, Margie, worked with diligence to chisel down four foot grooves into the stone of my bad habits and attitudes? Four foot grooves that last 175 years for my great – great – grandchildren to say in their distress, "Ah! Here it is! Here are her tracks! We're on the right path!"

Wrap it up

We are all leading. The important question is are we leading in upright paths? Are we stomping and marching diligently and with deliberate action? The only advice we have is to form simple, doable, daily habits as a family. Read the Word together, sing a song of praise or worship together and pray together. Doing these three habits as you walk

through life will form a path. It is HARD to do these three things. We have to trudge and stomp and march HARD on our "walk" to accomplish these things. But we trust Psalm 119. In the very beginning, the Psalmist says that those who walk in the law of the Lord and observe His testimonies are blessed. We hope you are prepared to be blessed, because that is what we will do for the next four sections: walk through the Scriptures and observe everything we can. Let's all pray *HE* together over our families as we close out this first section of lessons in *Compose New Songs of Praise*. Be blessed. You are loved and prayed for by our family and you are loved by the God of all Creation.

Compose New Songs of Praise: A Family Discipleship Study

A companion bible study to the CD

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Compose New Songs of Praise

Psalm 119: 33 & 35

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