

## Leader's Guide

The objective of this Bible study is to help our members get God's message of His power and perfection and our sinfulness and need for a Savior. This is the Gospel presented in a Psalm.

### **Sermon Title: Getting The Right Message**

**Sermon Series: The Psalms of David: In Pursuit of God's Heart**

**Sermon Text: Psalm 19**

Sermon-Based Discussion

## INTRODUCTION

To win our affection God "shows up and shows off" by displaying His glory in the Heavens. To reveal Himself to us He has written to us the Bible. If we get the right message, He will have won our hearts. If we don't, we will face His wrath. In this study we will discover the message God is sending as He courts us.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When was the last time you stopped to look at the sky as the sun was setting? What thoughts did you have as you watched it set?
  - This question is to help break the ice and to get the small group members reflecting on how Creation displays God's glory and power.
  - Maybe as a result of reflecting on this, the next time they see a beautiful sunset they will glorify God and praise Him for His beauty and creativity.

## Read Psalm 19

2. David writes in v. 2, "Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge." When you look at the heavens, what other characteristics of God do you see besides His glory and power?
  - From Gerard Wilson's commentary on the Psalms:
  - The creative power of God reflected in the grandeur of the heavens.
  - The relentless goodness of God – "God causes His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." Matt 5:45
  - The enduring faithfulness of God as reflected in the fact that the heavens have been there since the beginning of time and don't seem to be going away. Ps 119:89-90 "Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations." As the heavens stand firm above the earth since the beginning of creation, providing the protective environment in which humans can live, so Yahweh's word is eternally trustworthy – present to lead and guide.
  - The divine judgment of God. The heavens unleashed the Flood that cleansed the earth of sinful people. Burning sulfur rained down on Sodom and Gomorrah in divine judgment. Rain is withheld from the earth in divine judgment.
  - The protective care of God as reflected in the way the Heavens protect us from the harmful rays of the Sun.
3. When David says, "the Law of the Lord is perfect," he is saying that it is so complete that it covers every aspect of life. How is the Bible complete if it doesn't specifically address every situation we could ever face in life? How would you apply the Bible if you were to ever face one of these situations?
  - Though the Bible doesn't address every specific situation, we can learn enough principles from it to know what is consistent with God's character and what He expects of His people.
  - The Bible does give a complete enough picture of who God is, what He likes, how He would do things for us to draw principles that we can apply to every possible situation we can face in life.

4. In vv. 9-11 David states that God's rules are true and righteous, warning His servant and providing him with great reward. What does it warn us against? David doesn't say that we will be rewarded for keeping the rules but that there is great reward *in* keeping the rules. How is this true?
  - It warns us against the subtleness of sin and its pervasive grip on our lives.
  - While it is true that God does reward those who keep His rules, just the keeping of those rules is reward enough. You are rewarded by the feeling of
  
4. As the psalmist ends with the prayer, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer" what is he praying for?
  - That his will and being is completely submitted to God and aligned with His will.
  - He is also praying for help because in light of God's perfection we are as sinful as can be and totally unable to save ourselves.

### **GOING DEEPER**

How often do you read the Bible? When you do, are you pleasantly overwhelmed by its sweetness? Do you find it more desirable than anything else you can have? What makes it so sweet and desirable? Or, what prevents it from being so?

- John Bunyan wrote of the Bible, "This Book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this Book."
- This is a question that would allow the group to really be transparent and helpful in raising the need for accountability partners.

### **WHAT WILL YOU DO?**

It is imperative for us to get the right message as God courts us. How will you respond to what He says about Himself and about you? Are you willing to begin looking at the world and reading the Bible to see God's glory and power? Are you willing to let your life be examined by His word and your sinfulness fully revealed so that you cling to Him as your rock and redeemer?

### **CHANGING YOUR MIND**

*"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6-8)*

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