

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Mar 18, 2018

“Hiding God’s Word” Pastor Johnson 8:15 Pastor Hook 9:30 & 10:55

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Is there anything that came up this past week in regard to the previous witness or application points that you would like to share? (A Life of Prayer, Phillipians 4:4-9)
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- If you were to write a letter to God, what would you be sure to include in it?

Review the Sermon (25 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below. As you go through the discussion questions that follow, know that it is ok to skip questions in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

<p>⁹ How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.</p> <p>¹⁰ I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.</p> <p>¹¹ I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.</p> <p>¹² Praise be to you, LORD; teach me your decrees.</p>	<p>¹³ With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.</p> <p>¹⁴ I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.</p> <p>¹⁵ I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.</p> <p>¹⁶ I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%; margin-top: 5px;"></div>
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- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- There are 22 stanzas in Psalm 119, each which begin with a different successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet in order, many of them including positive references to the Lord’s commands, decrees, precepts and laws. Why do you believe the ancient Jews had such a love and desire for God’s law?
- Verse 9 begins stanza two with the question, “How can a young person stay on the path of purity?” How does this question introduce the need for and benefits of God’s word?

- Would a volunteer please read Matthew 5:17-20. What do you think Jesus meant by him not coming to abolish the law but to fulfill the law?
- How do God's law and the ministry of Jesus both orient the people of God to the path that leads to life, freedom, peace and blessing? How might these messages differ in general from the those of the \$10 billion dollar self-help industry?

Personalize the Sermon (15 min)

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon?
- What does verse 11 mean to you, "I have hidden your Word in my heart?"
- How might we hear God's voice through the noise of the world?
- How does following God's Word require trust on our part?
- How has God's word, when properly interpreted through the study of its original language, culture and context, served to confront, correct and shape an aspect of your everyday living?

Apply the Sermon (15-20 min)

- Christ Church's daily devotionals and challenges for this week was provided on the Sunday morning handout, and is available at www.christchurchsl.org/lentscripture. You can also subscribe to receive daily emails at www.christchurchsl.org/lent. Please join the community in learning about and practicing the discipline of reading scripture this week!
- In what times and locations would you be able to spend time in God's word this week?
- Would acquiring a new Bible or a digital Bible resource in contemporary English help you to engage God's Word in a deeper way or in a more consistent way the weeks ahead?
- Have you considered reading through portions of the Bible with others in an online group through the free www.youversion.com reading plans? (note: it allows for group comments and reflections that others can see for group learning and accountability).

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- Over the last couple of weeks, have you had any spiritual conversations with others who appeared to be disconnected from the church that you would like to share about?
- Are there names of others whom you would like to lift up before the group for prayer to grow closer to the Lord?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.