

# Love God: Bible discussion guide

based on **Psalm 119.97-120** (Linked to sermon from 25/2/18)  
which can be accessed at [www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series](http://www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series)

*This was part of our 'Love is an action' series, unpacking what it means for us to 'Love God, Love each other, Reach the world'.*

Intro: Individually, skim read through Psalm 119 until you reach a verse that stands out to you. Share what you've chose and why.

*Psalm 119 is an acrostic song – every 8 verse stanza starts with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet, working through all 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet in turn.*

## **Read Psalm 119.97-112**

v97-100 For this song-writer, the 'law' meant the first 5 books of the Old Testament. How might the content of those books give the song-writer wisdom, insight and understanding – so much so that he 'loves' them?

v101-102 The song-writer isn't claiming to be perfect – compare them with v5-6. What *does* he mean then?

v103 How have you found the Bible to be sweet to taste?

How have you found your relationship with God has grown through listening to God speak in the Bible?

Dan encouraged us to think of the Bible as God's love letter to us, rather than as a history text book. Do you find that image helpful? Why / why not?

v105-112 What real-life situations is the song-writer facing?

In what ways might God's word be a lamp and light (105) for him in those situations? Dan encouraged us to think of the Bible less as a rule-book and more as a guidebook for getting the most out of life. Do you find that image helpful? Why / why not?

If one way of expressing our love for God is through listening to his word in the Bible, why don't we listen more? What obstacles stop us listening? How could we overcome those obstacles?

One way of meditating on God's words all day long (v97) is to memorise key verses. How would you feel about learning a verse a week for the remainder of Lent?

How does Psalm 119 speak to our desire to be a God-dependent, grace-filled, Bible-based, mission-focused, authentic community?

**Up (love God):** Is there some fresh resolve you should make about listening to God through the Bible (eg setting a goal about the number of times each week to read or listen to Scripture / using Bible notes or apps to help you / listening to sermon podcasts / watching DVD portrayals of the gospels etc)?

**In (love each other):** In what ways can you help each other overcome the obstacles you mentioned earlier, and achieve anything you resolved in the previous question?

**Out (reach the world):** A friend who isn't a Christian dismisses the Bible as irrelevant. How would you respond?