



## WEEKLY STUDY

### Week Four

Our summer series called Pathways is introducing eight practices that help us get closer to the heart of God. So far, we've explored the practices of solitude, fasting and worship. This week during worship Pastor Pierce taught about the pathway of studying God's Word, the Bible.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit [prov.church/signup](http://prov.church/signup) and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this or your own prayer.

*God, your word is beautiful and leads us into life.  
We will never accomplish full awareness and knowledge of all that you are,  
But we will fall more and more in love with you as you reveal yourself to us.  
Help us to find truth and peace through the gift of Jesus who is your living Word for us.  
Amen.*

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## DAILY STUDY

### MONDAY: JEREMIAH 6.16

*This is what the Lord says:  
"Stand at the crossroads and look;  
ask for the ancient paths,  
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,  
and you will find rest for your souls.*

- It seems that it is human nature, especially in modern times, to look for the newest and most up-to-date sources or designs. But the word of God does not fit into that category. When we spend time in the scripture, we find that it is not only current and relevant to our times, but it is actually leading us into the future that God has prepared for us. It is always ahead of the times. How does this thought connect with your view of the Bible?
- *Pray for a fresh desire to encounter God in his word in the coming week.*

## TUESDAY: JOHN 1.1-4

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.*

- John writes about Jesus Christ as the Word. When we read the words of scripture, they reveal how God shows up and yet has always been here. When we look to Jesus we see how God has created and how God brought light to the world. We can not abide in Christ (the Word of God) without spending time in the words of scripture.
- *As you read, pray that you would see the ways the whole story of the Bible points to Jesus.*

## WEDNESDAY: 2 TIMOTHY 3.16-17

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,<sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

- Pierce mentioned that the Bible has been used throughout history as a weapon that has hurt people. This was not God's purpose in sharing his word with us. These words to Timothy have been used in such a way from time to time. But what they really point to is the sufficiency of God's word to help us to be formed and help others to be formed in the way of Christ. When has God's word been instrumental in changing your course or keeping you on the path of Christ?
- *Pray for a receptive heart that allows God's word to bring correction that leads to righteousness.*

## THURSDAY: PSALM 119.89-91, 96

*Your word, LORD, is eternal;  
it stands firm in the heavens.*

<sup>90</sup> *Your faithfulness continues through all generations;  
you established the earth, and it endures.*

<sup>91</sup> *Your laws endure to this day,  
for all things serve you.*

*To all perfection I see a limit,  
but your commands are boundless.*

- The Psalmist writes about the eternal nature of God's word including the laws and commands of scripture. We don't always view commands as good things—we often see rules and laws as limiting. But God's commands lead to our freedom from that which is not life-giving. God's commands are better than perfect!
- *Pray through these verses from Psalm 119. Allow them to form or reform your response to God's commands.*

## FRIDAY: LUKE 24.27

*And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.*

- The resurrected Jesus is sharing with some disciples on the road to Emmaus. The disciple had been trying to make meaning of the events leading up to Easter. Jesus gives them the whole story, revealing how it all pointed to Him. It could be that every Bible study since has been an attempt to understand this one that Jesus led while walking down the road.
- *Pray with imagination that as you read the Bible today you would see more and more of Jesus.*

## SATURDAY: PSALM 56.3-4

*When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.*

*<sup>4</sup>In God, whose word I praise—  
in God I trust and am not afraid.*

*What can mere mortals do to me?*

- In the New Testament letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes about taking *the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*. Centuries earlier the Psalmist claimed the same power for God's word. What can mere mortals do to us when we have the word of God? How can you practice this kind of faith today?
- *Pray through challenges and attacks you might be facing, but do so as you praise God's word.*

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- See reverse for Small Group Discussion -

## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Pierce shared this quote from St. Augustine,

*“Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.”*

What are the signs that your heart is restless? What are some of the ways you seek rest for your own heart? Are there practices that might help you find rest in God?