

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Treat me with kindness, Lord
so that I may live and do what you say.

Open my mind:

let me discover the wonders of your law.

Your laws are my greatest joy!

I do what they say.

I am at the point of death.

**Breathe new life into me, as your word
has promised.**

When I told you my troubles, you answered my prayers.

Now teach me your laws.

**Help me to understand your teachings,
and I will think about your marvellous deeds.**

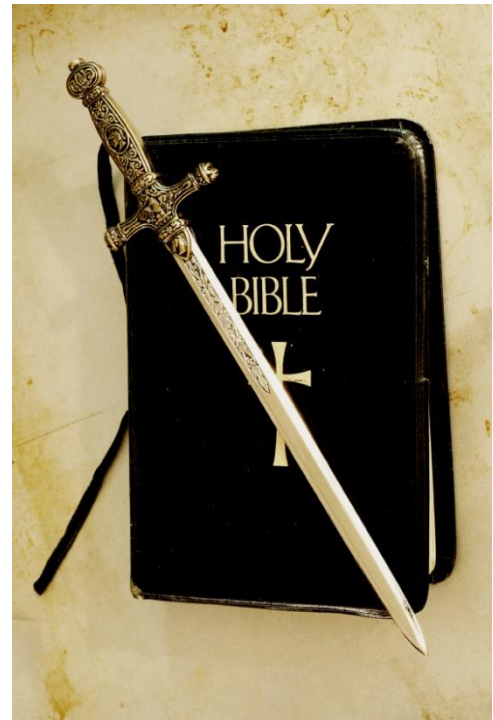
I am overcome with sorrow.

Strengthen me, as you have promised.

I am eager to do all that you want.

Help me to understand more and more.

cf Psalm 119.17, 18, 24-28, 32



2. Now in Reverence and Awe

3. Last week's scripture readings

4. Take a look at the following Bible verses. What do they have in common?

Romans 8:28-30, Ephesians 4:14-16, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 and 1 John 3:1-3

5. Talk: The Work of the Word

6. Discussion Time:

- How would you describe Jesus? How does it make you feel that God is at work to make you more like him?

7. As the Deer Pants for the Water

8. Discussion:

- Look at Hebrews 4:12 again. What does it compare the word of God to and who is helping us to change?
- What kinds of things can we ask the Holy Spirit to do as we read the Bible?
- Share in your group any passages or verses that have shaped your life. Have there been times when a particular verse of the Bible has been spoken into your life just at the right moment?

9. Ephesians 4:11-16

¹¹So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

- What do verses 15-16 reveal about becoming more like Jesus? Is it just an individual thing or something we do together?
- Part of growing up together is “speaking the truth in love”. How easy do you find it to encourage others with truth from the Bible? What can get in the way?
- If we find it hard, how could we become more intentional about this and what might it look like?

10. Time of prayer

11. Open the eyes of my heart

12. Final Prayer

Glory to God,
**whose power, at work among us,
can do infinitely more
than all we can ask or conceive;
to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

13. Reading for the Week:

31/4: Romans 8:28-30

01/4: 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

02/4: John 15:1-17

03/4: Hebrews 4:12-13

04/4: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

05/4: Psalm 29

06/4: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

14. Further Reading

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- You Can Change by Tim Chester
 - Words of Life: Scripture as the Living and Active Word of God, by Timothy Ward
 - The Cross-Centred Life: Experience the Power of the Gospel, by C. J. Mahaney