

## CREW Bible Study

### Youth XP3 Message Series – EXPLAINED – Week 4

- **BOTTOM LINE:** The Bible brings things to light.
- **GOAL:** To help students understand that while Scripture may not give them all of the answers, it illuminates our situations so we can see them more clearly.
- **SCRIPTURE:**
  - *Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light on my path. – Psalm 119:105*
  - *I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. – Psalm 119:11*

#### MESSAGE

When have you expected more, and you got less?

- Maybe you ordered a jumbo curly fries, but what came in the bag was less than jumbo.
- Maybe you studied really hard for a test and felt like you aced it. But when the grades were posted, your grade was way less than you thought.
- Maybe going into your sport season (back when you could play your sport season) you anticipated it being the best season for your team yet. You were going to win the championship. But your team ended the season with way less wins than you ever expected.

And if we're being real, sometimes the Bible can make us feel this way too – like we expect more out of it and get less. We are told that the Bible is like a guide book or instruction manual for life. And if that's the case, it seems like the Bible should work like Google or Alexa, right? Always having the answer. But it does feel sometimes like the Bible doesn't quite answer the questions we have. And that can make you wonder, "Is the Bible really useful to me?" But this is exactly why we're doing this message series, called "Explained." We're talking about the Bible, seeking explanations for how and why it *is* useful to us.

To get answers for questions that we have about what the Bible should be for us, we're going to look at a passage of Scripture from a book called Psalms. This is a collection of poems, songs, and prayers from people about their circumstances and their experience with God. It's found in the Old Testament. We're going to look at Psalm 119, which is the longest Psalm and longest chapter in the entire Bible.

The writer of Psalm 119 says this in verse 105:

*Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light on my path.*

It's easy to understand the idea of light. Nobody wants to drive at night without their headlights on. Nobody wants to go camping at night and not have a flashlight. Nobody wants the power to go out and be left in the dark at night. When it's dark, light makes all the difference.

The writer of this Psalm is saying that God's word is light for the path of our lives. The Bible can light things up for us. It can show you where you are, show you what's ahead, and show you what to watch out for. But it doesn't always tell you an exact answer. And that can be a little frustrating.

The point of any light is to illuminate your path so you know how to take the next step. Using a flashlight at night helps you see any obstacles in your way so you don't fall and injure yourself. The Bible brings things to light in life. It can illuminate your path so you're better equipped to make the best choice in whatever circumstance you find yourself in. It can help you see things more clearly, and that will help you move forward, carefully and safely.

So instead of seeing the Bible as an instruction manual, and getting frustrated that it doesn't give you super specific answers to your problems outlined in alphabetical order, look at the Bible as a light to guide you. Turn to it as a way to light up the paths in life that look and feel uncertain, and scary, and confusing. Light doesn't ever force you to go a certain way. It just makes a path easier to see.

Here's the thing, though: If you want the Bible to light your path, you've got to make a decision. You've got to bring it along with you on your journey through life. You've got to spend time with it and put it to use. And then, the more you use it as a light, the more it will show you what's ahead.

Here's a few easy steps to take:

1. **Read it.** Start by taking just 5 or 10 minutes each day to read a passage from the Bible. Try the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, or the book of Proverbs or Psalms. Sign up for a daily devotional in your Bible app that will choose a passage for you to read. The point is to dedicate a few minutes each day to having the Bible along with you in your life. Remember – it's a light for your path, right? Observe what is said in the Bible passages, then live your life in response to what you read. Let it influence how you think, what you say and what you do.
2. **Talk to someone about what you read.** For as long as the Bible has been around, there have been traditions of talking about it, debating it, and asking questions about it with other people. Reading and learning from the Bible was never intended to be a solo, "on-your-own" kind of thing. When you talk with others about it, you start to see how the Bible lights up their path too. And that can help you see how it can light up yours. Small Groups are a great way to do this. So if you're not already involved in a Small Group, reach out and let's get you involved in one.

3. **Memorize it.** We talked about this last week, and here it is again. Think of a verse that you memorize like it's a flashlight you pack when you're camping. You've got it just in case you need it. When you have Bible verses memorized, the wisdom and truth of them can come out and light up your path when you really need it. And a perfect one to help you remember that is the verse we've mentioned already – Psalm 119, verse 105: *Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light on my path.*

Memorize that verse this week and let it always be a reminder for you to bring the Bible with you on your journey through life.

The Bible may not always give you specific answers that you want in the moment, but when you commit to keeping the Bible in your life, you will see it lighting up the path for you. Let's face it – we all experience times when we don't know what to do, don't know what to say, and don't know what to think. And we feel stuck in the dark. Keep the Bible close and it will light up the way forward. It can illuminate the explanation that you need.

#### **FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What was the last thing you learned how to do by watching YouTube, TikTok or Pinterest?
2. How do you decide who to go to, or where to go, to get an answer? What makes a source credible or reliable to you?
3. Why do you think we tend to go to people we are closer to for an answer, instead of a person who is most likely to give you the best advice?
4. How does it make you feel when you have a question and can't get it answered?
5. Have you ever had a question that you hoped the Bible would answer, but never found the answer you were looking for? Share more.
6. What questions do you wish the Bible would answer for you?
7. Why do you think some people see the Bible as a place to only get answers to questions and not as something that should help us guide our decisions in life?
8. What's an area of your life that feels a little dark that could use some light?
9. You don't have to navigate the path of life on your own. Who are people you can talk to about how to move forward when you don't know what the next step should be?
10. Do you have a daily devotional that you use? If not, sign up for one through your Bible app, or click here to have one emailed to you:  
<https://studentdevos.com/devotions/daily-bible-verse/>
11. Are you involved in a Small Group? If not, join one! Email Pam at [pbentley@vbumc.org](mailto:pbentley@vbumc.org) to get involved.