

### Words

*My lips are moving and the sound's coming out  
The words are audible but I have my doubts  
That you realize what has been said  
You look at me as if you're in a daze  
It's like the feeling at the end of the page  
When you realize you don't know what you just read*

*What are words for when no one listens anymore  
What are words for when no one listens  
What are words for when no one listens it's no use talkin' at all*

Terry Bozzio & Warren Cuccurullo, *Words*

God's word, the Bible, gets ignored like this by many people. This week we will explore how important it is to study God's word, develop a steady habit of reading it, and attend to what God has to say to us.

#### Monday – Word of God

*"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."* Peter's confession to Jesus, John 6:68

1. Read Hebrews 4:12-13. How is God's word described here? Verse 13 is an extension of verse 12. How does verse 13 fill out the ideas introduced in verse 12?

2. Please read 1 Thessalonians 2:13. What distinguishes the "word of God" from the "word of men"?

**Digging Deeper** – In 1 Kings 18:16-39, the words of men are contrasted with the life of Elijah, a man who lived by the word of God. What do you think the onlookers thought at first as Elijah and the prophets of Baal made their preparations? How did they respond at the end?

**Making it Personal:** Do you find yourself being influenced by the vocal crowd, so that you miss the quiet word from a single godly person? Seek out God's voice, even when the world is noisy, and allow it to work powerfully in you.

#### Tuesday – The Word that Works

*"Measure not the work until the day's out and the labor done."* Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh*

1. Please read 1 Thessalonians 2:13. What do you think it means that God's word "works"?

2. How is the work of God's word described in Isaiah 55:10-11?

**Digging Deeper:** Read Luke 4:1-14 and describe the ways that Jesus relied on God's word.

#### Wednesday – Wise for Salvation

*"A world of nice people, content in their own niceness, looking no further, turned away from God, would be just as desperately in need of salvation as a miserable world--and might be even more difficult to save."* C.S. Lewis, 20<sup>th</sup> c. Anglo-Irish writer

1. Please read 2 Timothy 3:14-15. Why is it so important that our scriptural instructors are trustworthy? What does it mean to "continue in what you have learned?"

2. In 2 Peter 2:1-3, what danger do false teachers pose to people who seek God?

3. How did God respond to Solomon's request in 2 Chronicles 1:7-12? How did Solomon's exercise of this God-given wisdom bring glory to God in 2 Chronicles 9:1-9?

**Making it Personal:** Spend time each day studying the Bible, becoming wise from the word of God.

#### Thursday – Breathed by God

*"How sweet the words of Truth, breath'd from the lips of Love."* James Beattie, *The Minstrel* (1774)

1. Please read 2 Timothy 3:14-16. How does the fact that scripture is God-breathed support its ability to teach, rebuke, correct and train someone in God's righteousness?

2. What importance is put on God's word in Psalm 119:1-8? What does the psalmist recognize about himself in verses 5-6? What is his intent for God's word in verse 7?

**Making it Personal:** If you were to write something about God's word, as the Psalmist did in Psalm 119, what would you say? Try writing two or three verses that express your attitude and thought about God's word.

#### Friday – For Every Good Work

*"The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works."* Augustine, 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> c. North African Bishop

1. Please read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. What do you think it means to be scripturally equipped for "every good work"?

2. In 2 Timothy 2:15, how does correctly handling God's word coincide with pursuing God's work?

3. Trace the way Jesus uses the words "greater things" in John 1:50, 5:20 and 14:12-14. What does this tell you about your role in creating good works for God's kingdom?

**Making it Personal:** What is one truth from today's study that you want to remember throughout your day?

**For the Weekend:** Psalm 119 is a collection of 8-verse reflections on the word of God. Read through some or all of them and add your own thoughts of what God's word means to you.