



SUMMER in the PSALMS

June 11, 2023

THE LORD'S WORD IS...

|| Group Discussion Guide ||

1

In this psalm we move from the general revelation of nature in verses 1-6 to the special revelation of God's word in verses 7-11. We also switch from the more generic name for God, "El," to the specific, covenant name of "Yahweh." What does this shift indicate?

2

C.S. Lewis has noted the apparent abruptness with which David moves from verse 6 to 7, but he suggests there is a connection between that image of the sun moving across the earth, "nothing hidden from its heat" in verse 6 and the description of God's word in verses 7-11. He writes: "As [the psalmist] has felt the sun, perhaps in the desert, searching him out in every nook of shade where he attempted to hide from it, so he feels the Law searching out all the hiding-places of his soul." Is the sun's effect a helpful metaphor for the impact of the scripture on the human heart?

3

Notice the structure of verses 7-10. These lines contain six parallel poetic statements, each containing a different name for God's word, a characteristic of that word, and an effect. What is the overall message about scripture? Are these words merely synonyms for each other, or does each verse add a new facet of understanding?

4

Verses 7-9 list beneficial effects of the law for God's people. Have you experienced these benefits as a result of contact with God's word? What does it mean to have your soul revived or your eyes enlightened?

5

We might recognize the elements of soul, mind (“making wise the simple”), and heart from the Great Commandment: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” (Matt. 22:37, cf Deut. 6:5). Is there a connection between loving God and loving his word? How does each involve these different elements of our being?

6

When David is describing the “law” of the Lord, he does not mean just one genre of scripture, but all of God’s word. Do we find ourselves more delighted with some areas of scripture than with others? How can we see the sweetness in all of God’s word?

7

Why might David have chosen gold and honey as objects of comparison for God’s word? How do these two things stand in for all that a human might desire?

8

Verse 11 indicates that God’s word points to both warning and reward. What is the warning and what is the reward? Do these verses help us to understand the gospel and to recognize God’s word as an authoritative message to be obeyed?

