
CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES



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MAY 19, 2026

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

SERMON RECAP

Pastor Gary opened our new series, “**Lamplight**”, by taking us into Psalm 119 and calling us back to a living, experiential relationship with the Word of God. Not as an app, not as decoration, but as the very “lamp for our feet” and “light for our path.” Using the image of the human body’s interconnected systems, he showed that just as every physical system needs blood to function, every area of our spiritual life depends on Scripture. Without the Word, we improvise, rationalize, and mislabel our pain; with the Word, we find comfort, correction, clarity, and purpose.

The pastoral heart of this message was a **loving but direct challenge**: to move at least one “concentric circle” closer to the epicenter of God’s Word. Specifically, he called us to **begin hiding Scripture in our hearts through memorization**. Not as a religious stunt, but as a way of treasuring God’s truth in the “Cardo Maximus” of our lives so that the Spirit can retrieve it in moments of temptation, ministry, decision, and discouragement. He introduced our first memory verse for the series:

“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:11, NIV)

Finally, Pastor Gary aimed this series toward **Father’s Day**, when he plans to call men (and, by extension, the whole church) to a higher level of impact, love, patience, mercy, and biblical grounding. He warned against treating Jesus as a “side hustle”. He invited us instead into whole-hearted pursuit: delighting in the Word, meditating on it, speaking it, and letting it cleanse and declutter our paths so we can walk in holiness, integrity, and effectiveness for Christ.

2. STUDY GUIDE

KEY POINTS

- **The Word is the “blood” of every spiritual system.**
Prayer, worship, evangelism, discipleship, encouragement, and decision-making all depend on Scripture. Your prayer life is essentially saying, “Give me something to work with.”
 - **Memorization is about treasuring, not performing.**
To “hide” the Word in your heart is to store it like a treasure in the hub of your life for ready retrieval. We push back against “external brains” (phones, apps) by building an **internal library of truth**.
 - **Cleansing = decluttering your path.**
“How can a young man cleanse his way?” The answer: by taking heed to God’s Word. We remove spiritual debris through confession, forgiveness, and obedience to Scripture.
 - **Wholehearted pursuit vs. “side hustle” faith.**
Jesus is not a side hustle. God desires our **whole heart**, not occasional religious gestures. We seek Him with all our hearts, not just when convenient.
 - **From wandering to wonder.**
When we drift from the Word, we wander. When we delight in, meditate on, and declare the Word, we recover a childlike sense of wonder and curiosity about God and His ways.
 - **Knowing the Word vs. knowing the Author.**
It is possible to accumulate biblical information and still be far from God. True engagement with Scripture leads to humility, obedience, holiness, and love, not religious facades.
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KEY SCRIPTURE (FULL TEXT, NIV)

Primary Psalm 119 Focus**Psalm 119:9-16 (NIV)**

9 How can a young person stay on the path of purity

By living according to your word

10 I seek you with all my heart

do not let me stray from your commands

11 I have hidden your word in my heart

that I might not sin against you

12 Praise be to you Lord

teach me your decrees

13 With my lips I recount

all the laws that come from your mouth

14 I rejoice in following your statutes

as one rejoices in great riches

15 I meditate on your precepts

and consider your ways

16 I delight in your decrees

I will not neglect your word

Psalm 119:11 (NIV) – Memory Verse

I have hidden your word in my heart

that I might not sin against you

Psalm 119:89 (NIV)

Your word Lord is eternal

it stands firm in the heavens

Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

Your word is a lamp for my feet

a light on my path

Other Verses Explicitly Referenced or Quoted**Leviticus 17:11 (NIV)**

For the life of a creature is in the blood and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar it is the blood that makes atonement for ones life

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

For we are God's handiwork created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do

Romans 10:17 (NIV)

Consequently faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word about Christ

OTHER RELEVANT VERSES (NOT FULL TEXT)

1. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

- Thematic tie: Clarifies how Scripture teaches, rebukes, corrects, and trains us so we may be "thoroughly equipped" for every good work. This echoes the sermon's emphasis on the Word as our primary means of equipping.

2. Hebrews 4:12

- Thematic tie: Expands on the Word as a living, active, double-edged sword, connecting with Pastor Gary's comment that the Word "cuts both ways."

3. Joshua 1:8

- Thematic tie: Reinforces the call to meditate on the Word "day and night" and to be careful to do what it says, which parallels the sermon's emphasis on meditation, delight, and heeding.
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DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

DAY 1 - "DECLUTTERING THE PATH"

Reflection Question

Where does your path feel cluttered right now and how might God's Word begin to clear it?

Reading

- Psalm 119:9-11

Devotional Content

Psalm 119 is an acrostic poem built around the Hebrew alphabet. Each section meditates on the beauty and necessity of God's Word. In the ancient world, "way" or "path" referred not only to physical routes but to a person's **chosen lifestyle**.

When the psalmist asks, "How can a young person stay on the path of purity," he is not offering a technique; he is naming a reality: without God's Word, the path of life becomes **obstructed**. In an ancient Near Eastern city, a well-kept road was a sign of intentional care and governance. A neglected path filled with debris meant danger, delay, and vulnerability to enemies. Spiritually, unconfessed sin, unchallenged lies, and unexamined habits function like fallen logs across our trail.

The answer given is strikingly simple: "By living according to your word." This is more than hearing sermons; it is about **ordering life** around Scripture. Hiding the Word in our hearts is both **preventative** ("that I might not sin") and **restorative** (decluttering what's already there). The psalmist models a posture of dependence: "I seek you with all my heart... do not let me stray." He knows he cannot declutter his path in his own strength; he needs God to act through His Word.

Application & Closing

Today, name one area where your "path" is cluttered. Be specific: a relationship, a recurring temptation, a financial decision, a pattern of anger, or anxiety. Then:

- Find **one verse** that speaks directly to that area (use a concordance, Bible app, or ask a mature believer if needed).
- Write it down on paper, not just in your phone.

- Read it aloud several times.
- Ask the Lord: “Show me one practical way to live this verse today.”

Specific Challenge:

Before the end of the day, make one concrete change that aligns with the verse you chose. Let that act be your first “log removed” from the path.

1. DAY 2 - “WHOLE-HEARTED, NOT A SIDE HUSTLE”

Reflection Question

If someone looked at your calendar and your thought life, would they conclude that Christ is central... or a “side hustle”?

Reading

- Psalm 119:10, 14–16

Devotional Content

In the ancient world, the **heart** referred to the control center of a person not merely emotions. When the psalmist says, “I seek you with all my heart,” he is pledging the **totality** of his inner life to God. This stands in sharp contrast to modern compartmentalization, where faith can be relegated to Sunday services or occasional spiritual moments.

Pastor Gary’s illustration of the “side hustle” captures a cultural reality. In a gig economy, a side hustle uses leftover pockets of time to generate extra income. It’s secondary. Many people unintentionally treat Jesus that way: something to fit in when the main pursuits (career, comfort, entertainment, personal projects) are handled. But Scripture presents the opposite: Christ is the **main pursuit**, and everything else finds its rightful place under His lordship.

Notice the language of delight: “I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches... I delight in your decrees.” For ancient Israelites, riches meant stability, security, and honor in the community. The psalmist tells God that His Word provides a greater joy and security than wealth. Whole-hearted seeking is not grim duty; it is the joyful reordering of our loves.

Application & Closing

Take an honest inventory:

- List your top 3–5 weekly time commitments.
- Next to each, write: “Is Christ clearly central here, or peripheral?”
- Pray over the list, asking God to reveal any area where Jesus has become a side hustle.

Then, choose ONE sphere and decide on a simple practice that puts the Word at the center there: a short Scripture reading before work, a verse at family meals, a lunchtime meditation break, or sharing a verse with a friend.

Specific Challenge:

Tell one person (spouse, friend, coworker) what change you’re making and ask them to check in with you about it in a week. Let your whole-hearted pursuit of Christ become visible and accountable.

DAY 3 – “HIDDEN TREASURE IN THE CARDO MAXIMUS”

Reflection Question

If someone could see your “inner vault,” what truths, or lies, would they find stored there?

Reading

- Psalm 119:11, 13, 15
- Romans 10:17

Devotional Content

Pastor Gary mentioned the **Cardo Maximus**, the main street in a Roman city, where commerce, conversation, and community life converged. It was the nerve center of the town. When Scripture speaks of the “heart,” it is describing that kind of center for a human life. To “hide” something, there is to place it in the **most influential, protected, and frequently traveled space** of your inner world.

Ancient people did not have external drives or cloud storage; they relied on memory, oral repetition, and communal recitation. To treasure something meant committing it

to memory, repeating it in community, and shaping decisions around it. That's the picture behind "I have hidden your word in my heart." This is not about hoarding verses for spiritual trivia; it's about **storing up what will guide you when you have no time to look things up.**

In a culture of "external brains" (phones, apps), we risk outsourcing what God designed to be internal. When temptation hits, when someone asks for counsel, when anxiety wakes you at 3 a.m., you may not grab your phone first, but whatever is hidden in your heart will speak. Romans 10:17 reminds us that faith comes by hearing the message of Christ. As we **speak** the Word (verse 13), **meditate** on it (verse 15), and **hear** it, our faith is formed and strengthened.

Application & Closing

Engage this week's memory verse intentionally:

1. Write Psalm 119:11 on a card or sticky note.
2. Place it somewhere you'll see often (dashboard, bathroom mirror, workspace).
3. Read it aloud 5 times in the morning and 5 times in the evening.
4. Each time you say it, briefly ask: "Lord, where am I most prone to sin today? Use this Word to guard me there."

Specific Challenge:

By the end of the week, recite Psalm 119:11 from memory to another believer—and then tell them one concrete way it has shaped a decision or resisted a temptation in the last few days.

DAY 4 - "FROM WANDERING TO WONDER"

Reflection Question

Have you lost your sense of curiosity and joy in Scripture? If so, what do you think dulled that wonder?

Reading

- Psalm 119:10, 18
("Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.")
- Psalm 119:105

Devotional Content

The psalmist pleads, “do not let me stray from your commands.” Straying is not usually sudden; it’s gradual. In the ancient world, a traveler who left the marked path risked getting lost, ambushed, or stranded without water. Likewise, spiritual wandering often begins with **neglect** rather than open rebellion: a neglected Bible, a skipped prayer, an unconfessed sin, a slowly cooling heart.

But the psalmist doesn’t stop with a fear of wandering; he asks for **opened eyes** to see “wonderful things” in God’s law. The Hebrew idea of “wonderful” often describes God’s mighty acts. He expects Scripture to contain **surprises of grace**, not just rules to endure. Pastor Gary warned that if interacting with the Bible feels like a chore, we may need to pause and ask why, rather than simply pushing through rote reading that only practices bad habits.

In a world of constant visual stimulation and noise, stillness with an open Bible can feel foreign. Yet God’s Word is pictured as a **lamp** and a **light**. Not a floodlight that shows everything at once, but a lamp that illumines the next step. Wonder often returns when we slow down, “park ourselves” in a single verse, and allow it to confront, comfort, and reshape us.

Application & Closing

Practice **slow Scripture** today:

- Choose one verse from Psalm 119:9–16 or 119:18, 105.
- Read it slowly, out loud, three times.
- After each reading, pause for a full minute of silence.
- Ask: “What word or phrase stands out to me, and why might the Spirit be highlighting it?”

Write down your impressions, no pressure to be “deep,” just honest. If your heart feels dull, tell God that directly and ask Him for renewed wonder.

Specific Challenge:

Set a 10-minute timer, turn off all notifications, and sit with that one verse tonight. No multitasking, no background noise. Your only goal: be present with God and His Word, asking Him to move you from wandering to wonder.

DAY 5 – “KNOWING THE WORD, KNOWING THE AUTHOR”

Reflection Question

In what ways have you been tempted to treat Bible knowledge as a substitute for actual obedience and intimacy with God?

Reading

- Ephesians 2:10
- Hebrews 4:12
- Psalm 119:12–13

Devotional Content

Pastor Gary shared a sobering story about someone who knew Scripture extensively yet lived a hidden, destructive life. This is a deeply biblical warning. The Pharisees knew the Scriptures but often resisted Jesus Himself. The danger is real: **we can know the Word and not know the Author.**

Ephesians 2:10 reminds us we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ for good works **God prepared in advance for us to do.** The Word is not meant to inflate our ego or arm us for winning arguments; it is meant to shape people who walk in those good works. Hebrews 4:12 describes the Word as living and active, penetrating to the deepest places of our thoughts and attitudes. It exposes us not to shame, but to heal and align us with Christ.

That’s why the psalmist doesn’t just study; he **praises** and **asks to be taught**: “Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees.” He doesn’t stand over the text as a critic; he kneels under it as a disciple. His lips recount God’s laws not to impress, but because his heart is engaged with the God who spoke to them. The Word in the mouth is powerful when it has first been allowed to cut, comfort, and correct the heart.

Application & Closing

Invite Scripture to search you:

1. Before reading, pause and say (in your own words), “Lord, I don’t just want information; I want transformation. Use your Word to search me.”
2. Read Ephesians 2:10 slowly. Ask: “Lord, what good works have you prepared for me that I may be ignoring or resisting?”
3. Sit with any conviction that emerges. Remember, conviction is a gift, not a curse. It signals that God is still tenderizing your heart.

SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

OPENING

Welcome everyone and briefly acknowledge that we're beginning the "**Lamplight**" series, focusing on Psalm 119 and the central place of God's Word in our lives.

Invite a group member to open in prayer using these themes as prompts:

- Thank God for giving us His Word as a lamp and a light.
 - Ask the Spirit to soften our hearts and increase our hunger for Scripture.
 - Pray for courage to not only hear but **heed** the Word this week.
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THEMATIC RECAP

This week's message called us to **re-center our lives on Scripture**. Pastor Gary reminded us that:

- The Word is like blood to every spiritual system, without it, we are weak.
- We are invited to **hide the Word in our hearts** through memorization and meditation, not as a performance but as treasuring.
- Jesus must not be treated as a "side hustle"; He calls for our whole heart and a decluttered, obedient path.

Highlights:

- Scripture cleanses our way by helping us remove spiritual "debris."
- Memorization builds an internal "library of truth" the Spirit can draw from.
- We move from wandering away from God's commands to wondering at His Word.
- Knowing the Bible is not enough; we must know and obey the God who spoke it.

ICEBREAKER (5-15 MINUTES)

Question:

Share about a time when a single Bible verse came back to your mind at just the right moment (in a crisis, a temptation, a decision, or a conversation). How did it help you?

(If someone cannot think of an example, let them share honestly and reflect on why Scripture might not yet be “hidden” in their heart.)

SCRIPTURE EXPLORATION

PASSAGE 1: PSALM 119:9-16 (NIV)

Discussion Prompts:

1. What words or phrases in this passage stand out to you the most: “cleanse,” “hidden,” “delight,” “meditate,” etc. Why?
 2. How would you describe the difference between **hearing** the Word and **taking heed** to the Word in everyday life?
 3. Where have you seen “wandering” in your own life, and how might hiding the Word in your heart address that?
 4. The psalmist speaks of rejoicing in God’s statutes “as one rejoices in great riches.” What does that practically look like in our culture, where “riches” are highly valued?
 5. Which of the practices mentioned needs the most growth in your life right now?
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PASSAGE 2: PSALM 119:105

Discussion Prompts:

1. In what ways has God's Word been a "lamp for your feet" in a recent situation showing just the next step rather than the whole journey?
 2. Where in your life right now do you feel you are **walking in the dark**, uncertain, anxious, or confused? How might specific Scriptures bring light there?
 3. How do you typically make major decisions (job, relationships, finances)? What role does Scripture play in that process?
 4. Pastor Gary contrasted using the Bible as an app vs. a well-worn book you know and carry. What does that image say to you about familiarity and dependence?
 5. How can this verse shape the way we respond when we wake up in the night with anxiety, fear, or heaviness?
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PASSAGE 3: EPHESIANS 2:10 (NIV)

Discussion Prompts:

1. What does it mean to you personally that you are "God's handiwork" created for specific good works?
 2. How might a deeper grounding in Scripture help you discern **which** good works God has prepared in advance for you?
 3. Where do you feel under-equipped for the works God is calling you to? How can the Word address that?
 4. How do we avoid the trap of using Bible knowledge to build a façade instead of fueling obedience as God's workmanship?
 5. What is one "good work" you suspect God has prepared for you in this current season?
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GRAND SYNTHESIS PROMPT (ALL PASSAGES)

Bringing these passages together, how would you describe the relationship between:

- **Hiding** the Word in our hearts (Psalm 119:11),

- **Walking** by the light of the Word (Psalm 119:105), and
- **Doing** the good works prepared for us (Ephesians 2:10)?

What would change, in you and in our church, if we lived this relationship out more fully?

APPLICATION: STEPS FOR PERSONAL & COMMUNAL GROWTH

Brainstorm and agree on 2–4 specific, practical steps your group can take:

Personal Practices:

- Each member commits to memorize **Psalm 119:11** this week and share how God used it next meeting.
- Set aside **10 minutes daily** for “slow Scripture”, reading a short passage and sitting quietly with it.
- Choose one area of life (money, parenting, work, relationships) and intentionally seek 2–3 verses to guide decisions there.

Communal Practices:

- Start each small group meeting with one person **reciting a verse** they’ve memorized and briefly testifying how it has shaped them.
- Pair up group members as **Scripture partners** to check in once during the week by call or text, simply sharing a verse that is meaningful that day.
- Once a month, dedicate part of a meeting to collectively meditating on just **one Psalm 119 stanza**, reading it aloud multiple times and sharing insights.

Encourage the group to pick at least one personal and one communal step to implement before the next meeting.

CLOSING

Prayer Needs:

Invite each person to share:

- One area where they need the Word to **cleanse/declutter** their way.
- One area where they desire greater **delight and hunger** for Scripture.

Make space for brief, honest sharing. Then invite several group members to pray spontaneously, using these prompts:

- Thank God for specific truths from the passages discussed.
 - Ask for grace to hide His Word in our hearts and to heed it.
 - Pray for courage to move from wandering to wonder and from knowledge to obedience.
 - Lift up any specific life situations mentioned where God's light is needed.
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LEADER NOTES

- **Foster Safety:**
Remind the group that not everyone is at the same place with Scripture. Normalize struggles like forgetfulness, dryness, or lack of discipline. Encourage honesty, not performance.
- **Guard Against Shame:**
If people haven't memorized verses or feel behind spiritually, reassure them: this is an invitation, not a test. Celebrate small steps.
- **Model Vulnerability:**
As a leader, share your own challenges with consistency, distraction, or seasons where the Bible felt like a chore. Show how God has been patient and faithful with you.
- **Keep Discussion Grounded in the Text:**
When conversation drifts, gently bring it back to, "Where do we see that in the passage?" or "What does this verse say about that?"
- **Encourage Participation, Not Pressure:**
Invite quieter members by asking non-threatening questions ("What word stood out to you?") and leave space after questions. Avoid dominating the conversation with your own insights.
- **Follow-Up:**
At the end, clarify any agreed-on practices (e.g., memory verse, Scripture partners) and briefly check in at the start of the next meeting on how it went. This builds a culture of shared growth around the Word.

Use these resources flexibly. Adapt the questions, shorten or expand sections as needed. The aim is not to "get through" all the material but to let the **Word of God dwell richly among you** as a group.