

SENIOR BIBLE FELLOWSHIP ASSIGNMENT: JANUARY 27, 2026

It was great to see your faces and fellowship again in the New Year. Since we did not have time to address all the questions I had for our Jan 13th meeting, we'll discuss them in this lesson.

NOTICE: SBF PLAN CHANGE

Our last meeting on January 13th affirmed a feeling I've been getting in our journey through Psalm 119. I realize now that I should have done a better job on how to unlock the riches contained in Hebrew poetry. As we saw, this requires the use of various poetic techniques as well as the ability to juggle multiple thoughts contained in various verses... this is not easy. This was an error in judgement on my part and for this I apologize. In light of this, I will abandon my previous plan of spending the next 2 years on Psalm 119. Instead we will finish up Psalm 119 within a couple of sessions. That being said, I believe the exposure to Hebrew poetry and its concepts like repetition of thoughts, acrostic structure, progressive revelation, and parallelism was good to hear.

For our next SBF study, I'm going to go to a biblical subject which I believe will be engaging for everyone. Although, I don't know exactly where in the Bible we'll go, it'll most likely be in the New Testament.

Again, my apologies in taking us on this short detour of Psalm 119... may God use it for his glory.

LESSON:

The lesson for January 27th will be on the first 4 verses of Gimel, Psalm 119:17 – 20. At our January 13th meeting, we covered question #1, so in this meeting we will discuss questions #2, #3, and #4.

Psalm 119:17, 18, 19, 20

17 Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word.
18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.
19 I am a sojourner on the earth; hide not your commandments from me!
20 My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times.

QUESTIONS:

1. We discussed verse 17. For your help, here is a short summary of what was said.

V17 "Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word."

- Suzanne, got to the core of the verse by centering her comments on the phrase "Deal bountifully". Bountiful is defined as abundant grace from God. In this verse, Suzanne sees God's provision and preservation. Without God's grace we would not live a godly and fulfilling life. The psalmist equates life with keeping God's word.

- Kirie noted the psalmist is growing in intimacy with God. He calls himself a servant of God, whereas before he was seeking how to do things the right way. There is a change of doing the right thing to wanting to be with God.

- Dean pointed out the Hebrew word for the phrase “deal bountifully” is more than getting more from God, but point so thoughts like “to complete”, “wean”, and “ripen”. Understanding the importance of the words “live and keep your word” complete the desire the psalmist wants the reader to get. Notice: you don’t need to know Hebrew to come to a similar conclusion, if you use the concept of parallelism like Kirie did. Also, Suzanne’s and Kirie’s comments show the psalmist is seeking to grow in intimacy with God. He understands that intimacy with God requires we go to him. The psalmist knows he cannot do this through knowledge or his own power.

- The psalmist is getting to understand more of what it takes to please God... it’s not about works or knowledge, but letting God know you need him and want to be close to him.

2. Verse 18: “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.”

2a. In this verse the psalmist ask God to “Open my eyes”. The Hebrew word for “Open” is gala(h) which mean to “reveal”. When you read God’s word, are you able to understand it fully or do you need God to reveal what the psalmist calls “wondrous things”? Share some recent examples.

2b. When you don’t see something which may be plain to another person, sometimes they’ll use the phrase, “hey, open your eyes!”. Of course your eyes are already open, but it has more to do with how we perceive things differently. Share a time which you either said this to someone, or someone said that to you. Did you both agree on the shared perception?

3. Verse 19: “I am a sojourner on the earth; hide not your commandments from me!”

3a. What do you think the psalmist means when he tells God that he is a sojourner?

3b. Interestingly, the psalmist asks God “hide not your commandments from me!”. This is right after in verse 18, he asks God to “Open my eyes”. Also, in verse 11, the psalmist says that he will hide (or store) God’s word in his heart. Are these verses all talking about the same thing or do you see some sort of growth in maturity that the psalmist may be seeking?

4. Verse 20: "My soul is consumed with longing for your rules at all times."

4a. This verse seems to sum up all the previous verses in terms of pleasing God. Do you agree or disagree?

4b. The Hebrew word that is translated at "consumed" is "grs (gorsah)". The way grs is defined is more visceral to me than consumed... the dictionary uses words like "crushed", "broken", and "overwhelmed". Does this change the way you see the psalmist's verse and his relationship with God? How often do you think he thinks about God during his typical day?

4c. In one sentence, how would you sum up your relationship with God?