



**After God's Heart, week #4
Love for His Word**

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, read [Psalm 1](#) and [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

SOCIAL TIME (10-15 minutes)

Use the ice breaker [Stand Up If You've....](#), choose from one of the other ice breakers on Emmanuel's [leader tools](#), or create your own.

CHECK-IN (15-20 minutes)

Ask your group members to share how they completed their action step and what it has taught them. Last week's question was, *"Going forward, what will your response to sin look like?"*

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Everyone seeks something – friends, a spouse, a new job, more sleep, acceptance, adventure, relief, more money, etc. Seeking can provide hope, motivation and purpose. It can also provide heartache, pain, and discontentment if we're seeking the wrong things. To experience abundant life, seeking God's heart above all else is the priority.

1. Read [Matthew 6:31-33](#). Why does God instruct us to seek after His kingdom and not our own?

Describe the different ways you've witnessed others prioritizing God's kingdom over their own?

2. As we review the life of King David, we discover he loves the word of God. Read [Psalm 1](#).

To live in God's kingdom, we must not only know the word of God but also delight in it. Why is knowing the word of God important to living in His kingdom?

What does it mean to "delight" in the word of God?

The Psalmist describes the person who loves God's word as a tree that "bears fruit." What is meant by this, and how does "bearing fruit" connect to experiencing life in God's kingdom?

3. There are so many benefits to falling in love with the word of God.

The word of God revives your soul. Read [Hebrews 4:12](#). We have a tendency to drift away from God, but reviewing God's word has a way of bringing us back so that we don't stray for long. When and how have you experienced this?



The word of God gives you wisdom. [Read Psalm 19:7](#). What is wisdom?

Share a bit of wisdom you've received from the word of God that would benefit the others in your group.

The word of God brings joy to the heart. Read [Psalm 19:8](#). What is joy, and how is it different from happiness?

Share a passage from the word of God that brings joy to your soul.

4. Read [John 8:31-32](#). The word of God blesses us beyond measure. What keeps you from doing the very thing that will bless your life and set you free from your own kingdom?

Going forward, will you create the daily habit of connecting to the word of God? Describe your plan.

ACTION STEP (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the following or create your own.

- **Daily time with God.** Determine the type of routine you'd like to have to spend time learning about what pleases God. Here are some ways to do this:
 - o [Download the Emmanuel app](#) and read the One Year New Testament daily.
 - o [Download the YouVersion app](#) and find a devotion you can do daily.
 - o Purchase a [Jesus Calling](#) devotional and read it daily.
 - o Devote time daily to using the [Bible Project](#) and the video teaching offered.
- **Pray.** Seek discernment in God's approval by devoting time every morning and night to prayer. If able, get on your knees. A proper position can change the way you pray.
- **Worship music.** There are many songs written about the unconditional acceptance Jesus has for us. Make a playlist and listen to these songs daily.

FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW FOR THIS UPCOMING WEEK'S ACTION STEPS.

My action step is _____.

This coming week, I will encourage _____ to complete their action step.

Their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I will pray for the group's following prayer requests:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



PRAYER (5-10 minutes)

Give everyone in your group an index card. Ask them to write their name and action step on one side and a prayer request on the other. When finished, have everyone pass their cards to the left. Everyone in the group now has someone to connect with throughout the coming week for three reasons:

- 1) To build the relationship
- 2) To encourage to accomplish their action step
- 3) To pray for in a specific way

Ask them to place the index card on their night stand or another place that would allow them to see it and use it every day.

GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

To determine how your group can serve together in the surrounding community, email Breanne Schafer, Emmanuel's Outreach Coordinator, at bschafer@eclife.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 3 | Father Daughter Dance

September 12-16 | Impact Week

September 13 | VERB

September 17 | 1824

More Info at eclife.org