GOD'S WORD

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What does this passage command us to do with the Word of God?
- Below is Deut 6:6-9 in The Message translation. It gives us a modern take on these verses. What are some practical ways we can apply this exhortation to our lives?

"Write these commandments that I’ve given you today on your hearts. Get them inside of you and then get them inside your children. Talk about them wherever you are, sitting at home or walking in the street; talk about them from the time you get up in the morning to when you fall into bed at night. Tie them on your hands and foreheads as a reminder; inscribe them on the doorposts of your homes and on your city gates." (Deuteronomy 6:6-9 The Message)

Read Psalm 119:1-20

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- According to these verses, what are some of the effects of living by God's word?
- As you read Psalm 119 you get a sense that the author is desperate for God's words. What are some of the verses that illustrate that?
- How can we as a community begin to foster this kind of passion for God's word?


An Over-view of the Bible

The Bible divides into two basic sections, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Testament is another word for covenant or promise. Thus, the Bible is a book about God's promises to us. The bulk of the Old Testament primarily covers a period of time from about 2500 BC till about 400 BC. It specifically focuses on God’s interactions with the Hebrew people. There are 39 books, or sections written by a number of different authors. The New Testament has 27 books, which were all written between about AD 40 and AD 90. They focus on the life, ministry, and ultimate effect of Jesus Christ. The Old Testament divides into at least three major sections. The first part (Genesis to Esther) contains the history of the Jewish people. It’s roughly chronological, and everything else that follows somehow fits back into the times described in those history books. The next section (Job to Song of Solomon) is all poetry. Much, but not all of it, was written during the kingdoms of David and Solomon (roughly 1000 BC). The last section (Isaiah through Malachi) contains the writings of the prophets. They wrote about a great deal, but mostly they spoke about two major catastrophes in Israel’s history. In 722 BC, Israel was destroyed by Assyria, and then in 586 BC,
Babylon attacked and captured Jerusalem. These events were incredibly significant in the life of Israel. By and large, the prophets wrote to warn of, or explain, these events. The final prophet, Malachi, wrote about 400 BC, and then there was silence until Jesus’ arrival.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. There is also Acts, which is a record about the first several decades after Jesus’ resurrection. Like in the Old Testament, nearly everything else that follows fits back into the era recorded in the history books. The next section (Romans through Jude), contains epistles, or letters written by early church leaders to various congregations or individuals. They struggled with and celebrated the same things we do today. The final section of the New Testament (Revelation) is also prophecy. It’s primarily about Jesus’ second coming, and the interval between His two advents.