



Thy Word

BY SHARI MILLER

The Psalmist proclaims: *Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path* (119:105 RSV). When we come to study God’s Word, we know that He promises to guide and direct us through His Words of mercy and life.

Share your favorite Bible passage with a partner or small group. Why is it your favorite? What Bible passage might help you witness to the Gospel news of mercy and grace in Jesus Christ? How? Share with your partner or the small group.

Opening Prayer: Father, You created the world and each of us. In Genesis, You spoke the words, *Let there be ...* and it was so. Thank You for giving us life. We know that by disobeying Your Word of Law, we were all plunged into the mire of sin, despair, and death. In mercy You sent Your only Son, the Word made flesh, to live a perfect life, suffer, and die for our sins. Because He rose from the dead, we, too, will rise to eternal life. Thank You for the gift of Your Spirit Who uses Word and Sacraments as the means by which He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies us. May He give us power to boldly witness to others about the Good News of salvation in Jesus as we live out our vocations. In the name of our Life-Giving Word we pray. Amen.

Thy Word of Mercy

Read **Romans 5:12-14** (review also **Genesis 3:1-7**). Romans 3:23 declares, *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*, and Romans 6:23a, *For the wages of sin is death*. How did sin enter God’s perfect world? _____

Faith Talk: Read **Hebrews 4:12**. What does it tell us about God’s Word?

Read **Psalms 32:3-4**. What are the physical and spiritual consequences of sin in our world? _____

See **Galatians 5:19-21** and **Ephesians 2:1-3**. Make a list of sins and their effect on our world. _____

The word “mercy” has been defined as “not getting what you deserve” because of sin. Read **Psalms 51:1-5** and

130:1-3. Describe the feelings of the Psalmist as he pleads with God. Be specific. _____

Read **Psalms 30:10-12**; **32:1-2**; and **103:1-13**. What phrases does the Psalmist use to describe the mercy of the Lord?

Faith Talk: If you are comfortable, share a time when mercy was shown to you. What did you deserve and what did you receive? How did you feel? Share with a partner or small group.

The word “grace” has been defined as “getting more than you deserve.” Read **Romans 3:23-25** and **Ephesians 2:4-9**. What does God, in His infinite mercy, give to us for the sake of His Son? _____

Thy Word of Life: Here

God desires us to share His grace and mercy here on earth. Read the parable told by Jesus in **Matthew 18:21-35**. Who received mercy? _____

What did the king expect the forgiven one to do with the mercy given to him? _____

Romans 6:11 encourages: *So, you must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus*. God has given us many passages in His Word that can be used as a model for living our lives as His people here on earth. Read the

following passages and share some characteristics of Christian living.

Romans 8:5 _____

Galatians 5:22-26 _____

Philippians 4:4-9 _____

1 Peter 2:16 _____

Colossians 3:12-17 _____

Faith Talk: The Holy Spirit uses God’s Word and Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord’s Supper) to work faith in the heart of every believer. The Spirit is at work through His Means of Grace. Share with a partner or small group specific ways that you use these Means in your daily living.

Thy Word of Life: Eternally

We are given God’s hope for eternal life in His Word. Read Jesus’ own words in **John 3:16**. Why might this be called the “Gospel in a nutshell”?

What does God promise to us in **Psalm 23:6** and **Romans 6:4-5**?

What is eternal life according to **John 17:3**? _____

How can we know Jesus and become heirs of eternal life in Him? Read **John 20:30-31**. _____

What does God encourage us to do in **Jude 21**? _____

Faith Talk: How does the hope of eternal life in Jesus affect your daily Christian life here on earth?

Read these words from Jude 24–25 together: *Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.*

Faith Walk:

1. Thank God for the gift of His Word. Ask the Holy Spirit to keep you focused on the Word and to give you boldness to proclaim the Gospel to those who need to hear the Good News.
2. Praise God for those who have shared, and continue to share, God’s Word with you.
3. Memorize Psalm 119:105. Read the verse in several different translations.
4. Pray that you remain faithful in God’s Word and Sacraments as you live with the hope of eternal life in Christ Jesus.

Closing: Sing or listen to “Thy Word is a Lamp” (LSB #973) or “God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage” (LSB #582; LW #333; TLH #283).

Shari Miller, wife of Rev. Larry, is a freelance author and musician living in Helena, Montana, and is the News Editor for the LWQ. She thanks and praises God for the priceless gift of His life-giving Word.