

# More Than a Manual

*Scripture and Background Information for January 15-21.*

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

For most Christians we hear about the importance of the Bible to our understanding and growth in our faith but if we are honest, that's not exactly our experience. Instead, we find it confusing, boring, or irrelevant and instead of consistently engaging with Scripture, we find that we avoid Scripture itself. God designed Scripture for so much more than what we often experience. This series is an invitation to view Scripture the way God intended and to begin to engage with it in fresh ways that help you understand more of its purpose and find the One behind it all along.

## **Background for Psalm 19:7-11:**

Psalm 19 is a psalm of David that proclaims the fact that we do not worship an unknown God. In fact, it shows that we have a God that abundantly makes Himself known to us and, because of this, He is worthy to be praised. To demonstrate the revelatory nature of our God, Psalm 19 reflects on two of the most profound ways in which God shows us who He is: creation and Scripture.

Psalm 19 begins in Verses 1-6 by focusing on God's revelation through creation. He exists eternally outside of creation, yet God reveals Himself intimately through it. The Psalmist uses imagery like the sky, heavens, and the sun to describe the way in which God proclaims who He is. These are great ways in which God communicates Himself to us, but, in verses 7-11, our passage for today, God is shown to take a more direct and personal approach by revealing Himself through the written word of God. His scriptures reveal many great aspects of who He is but are especially helpful in creating life-change for those who respond well to His word. Because of this, the Scriptures are to be valued highly as God's perfect and transformative words to us. Then, after all this reflection on God's revelation to us, the psalmist in verses 12-14 seems to become very self-aware of his own imperfection and asks for God to help him stay away from sin and asks that God accept his prayer.

## Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. What do you see as the most important things God has revealed to us about Himself through Scripture? Why?
2. Out of all the results of God's revelation through Scripture listed in this passage (refreshing the soul, making wise, rejoicing the heart, etc.), which ones have you experienced the most in your life? Which do you wish you could experience in a greater way in your life now?
3. In what ways have truths about God that come from the Scriptures specifically impacted the way you live or think? How should they impact the way you live or think?
4. How have you responded to the challenge of reading Luke? What have you seen about God? What questions do you have?