

## **Faith Foundations**

### **Spiritual Hunger and God's Word**

“The New is in the Old contained; the Old is in the New explained.”

Geocaching is a man-made activity of treasure hunting designed to encourage people to explore areas they may not have otherwise explored, to follow clues and coordinates in order to find hidden treasures of limited value, and to highlight the joys, frustrations, and delights in the process of discovery. (Ray's definition before looking it up in the dictionary).

Dictionary definition: 1. the recreational activity of hunting for and finding a hidden object by means of GPS coordinates posted on a website. (Shorter and more technically accurate.)

Theocaching is a God-designed activity of searching the Spirit-breathed word of God to discover life-giving, life-changing truths that are priceless to all who value truth; to equip the believing explorer to overcome life's obstacles and encourage fellow seekers; to fulfill the finder's hunger for meaning; and to reward the life-long learner with wisdom, understanding, and discernment that is embedded in the Manual. (Ray's definition before looking it up in the dictionary)

Dictionary definition: No dictionary definition was found, but a Google search did reveal that at least one other team has created a Theocache website designed to lead individuals on a spiritual journey in their North Carolina community related to physical sites that have important meaning, meant to be shared with other participants. (So much for being clever and original!)

Homework: Read the Preface of The Purple Book. If you have already done so, reread it to anchor in your mind the importance of this activity that we are doing together.

Class input: What are different ways some of you have organized your study of the Bible?

The Bible:

- discovers sin and convicts us
- helps cleanse us from the pollution of sin
- imparts strength
- instructs us in what we are to do
- provides us with a sword for victory over sin
- makes our lives fruitful
- gives us power to pray

## Chapter 5 Spiritual Hunger and God's Word

### Lesson 1 The Authority and Power of the Word

1. the word of God
2. the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers
3. to prayer and to the ministry of the word
4. the number of disciples multiplied greatly  
many of the priests were obedient to the faith
5. grew mightily and prevailed.
6. the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.  
  
by inspiration of God,
7. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)
8. Who is "the Word." (John 1:14) Jesus!

**9.** What Scriptures teaches about God's word: **Read**

Psalm 119:89 \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 119:160 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 40:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 55:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 24:35 \_\_\_\_\_

John 17:17 \_\_\_\_\_

10. What the writer of Hebrews says about God's word. Hebrews 4:12  
living and powerful, division of soul and spirit, a discerner of the heart.
11. What Jesus says we will be judged according to on the last day John 12:48:  
\_\_\_\_\_ the word that I have spoken

## Lesson 2 The Benefits of the Word

1. meditate in it day and night,  
For then you will make your way prosperous,  
and then you will have good success.
2. He will be blessed  
He will be fruitful  
He will prosper.
3. profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,  
that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.  
(Kind of like a spiritual Leatherman multi-tool!)

### 4. HOW JESUS OVERCAME TEMPTATION AND DEFEATED THE DEVIL (Matthew 4:1-11): Vs 4, 7, 10

---

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

- Q. Who led Jesus?
- Q. Who tempted Jesus?
- Q. Why would God allow Jesus to be tempted?
- 
- 
- 

- Q. What scripture did Jesus use to respond to Satan?  
Deut. 8:3; Deut. 6:16; Deut. 6:13 & 13:4

(The Hebrew title of Deuteronomy is Haddebarim, "The Words," taken from the opening phrase in 1:1, "These are the words.")

2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

4 But He answered and said, "*It is written*, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:

'He shall give His angels charge over you,'

and,

'In their hands they shall bear you up,

Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

7 Jesus said to him, “*It is written again*, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’ ”

8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

10 Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For *it is written*, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”

11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

### CONNECTING THE DOTS

- Adam was tempted in the garden.
- Jesus (the second Adam) was tempted in the wilderness.
- Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness and withstood Satan’s temptations with the word of God.
- The Hebrews wandered 40 years in the wilderness as a result of their rebellion to God’s instructions.
- The Hebrews depended on Heaven-sent manna in the wilderness
- Jesus called Himself the Bread of Life; we depend on His word

5. By taking heed according to His word.  
By hiding His word in our heart.

### 6. SOME OF THE WAYS GOD’S WORD BENEFITS THE BELIEVER:

119:98 \_\_\_\_\_

You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies;  
For they are ever with me.

119:99 \_\_\_\_\_

I have more understanding than all my teachers,  
For Your testimonies are my meditation.

119:100 \_\_\_\_\_

I understand more than the ancients,  
Because I keep Your precepts.

119:105 \_\_\_\_\_

Your word is a lamp to my feet  
And a light to my path.

119:165 \_\_\_\_\_

Great peace have those who love Your law,  
And nothing causes them to stumble.

Proverbs 4:20-22

20

My son, give attention to my words;  
Incline your ear to my sayings.

21

Do not let them depart from your eyes;  
Keep them in the midst of your heart;

22

---

For they are life to those who find them,  
And health to all their flesh.

### **Lesson 3 Spiritual Hunger**

[Read section intro](#)

1. Salvation, God's word
2. Panting for God like a deer pants for water;  
with a thirsty soul for more of God
3. Longing with great desire
4. those who hunger and thirst for righteousness
- 5.
6. Psalm 119:72  
of greater value than gold or silver  
  
Psalm 119:103  
sweeter to his soul than honey to his mouth.  
  
Psalm 119:27  
He cherished it more than fine gold.
7. greater than hunger for natural food.
8. It was to Jeremiah joy and rejoicing of his heart.

## **Lesson 4    Obedience**

- 1.** We can deceive ourselves if we don't act on the Word.
- 2.** Like a man who looks in the mirror, walks away, then forgets what he looks like. (He has no lasting identity! Our identity is found in Christ.)
- 3.** He is blessed in his activities.
- 4.** Openly and eagerly received the word. They searched the word daily to discern the truth.
- 5.** Obey Jesus' (God's) word.
- 6.** His faith foundation is so strong that the storms of life and the contrary winds of man's doctrine will not destroy him.
- 7.** That person will fall, and his life will be in ruin.
- 8.** We will become his disciples who know the truth, which will make us free.
- 9.** We will keep His commandments; we will keep His word.

If we are faithful to read God's word and do what it says, we will fulfill God's plan for our lives: to love God, love people, and make a difference in this world. We will understand our identity in Christ, will be fruitful and fulfilled, and as Jesus said, we will have fountains of living water flowing out of our lives.