BEYOND SUNDAY WEEK FIVE

There may not be a better tribute to the Holy Scriptures than the one that is provided in Psalm 119. Every verse in Psalm 119 exalts the Word of God and the God of the Word. During this 10-week summer series, **Finding The Way**, we get back to the basics of allowing Scripture to help us grow in gratitude, awe, and dependence on God and His Word. In doing so, we believe it will guide us in the best way we should go in whatever comes our way. **This week in Psalm 119:81-96**, we focus on how to find the way by trusting in God, our living hope.

- Read <u>Psalm 119:81-96</u>. What words or phrases are repeated or stand out to you?
- 2. Read verses 81-84 again. What emotions is the psalmist feeling and why? Which of these emotions are you wrestling with or have you wrestled with in the past?
- **3.** The psalmist uses figurative language to compare himself to a "wineskin in the smoke" in verse 83. Why do you think he chooses this simile to describe himself?
- 4. Dallas Willard points out that the first city the Israelites came up against, Jericho, the walls miraculously fell down. The Israelites had to face many more cities where they didn't experience the same miracle but instead had to fight it out. What does this tell us about God? What can we apply to our own experience as we face difficulty?
- 5. The psalmist points to his **dependence** on God's *precepts* (his law, or his word) for carrying him through trials? In what ways can we depend on God's word to carry us through challenges and not lose hope?
- 6. Reflect: Write a prayer to God based on this line... I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have preserved my life.