



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 74

GOD'S WORD IS LIVING!

The Word of God is active.



MONDAY

THE STORY: HEBREWS 4:12

The living Word of God judges our hearts. It is true that the words of Scripture never change and that no one can add or take away from them. But that does not mean they do not speak today. The Word of God is active. When we hear it, something wonderful happens. The Word of God probes us. Its truth judges our hearts. Even our attitudes, hidden in the depths within, are uncovered.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does the writer compare the active work of the word of God to? (He compares it to a sword penetrating to our very souls.)

Have you ever been convicted by the Word of God actively working in your heart? (Parents, take time to lead in confession of your sin and speak of how God has used His Word to affect your life. Your younger children may not have had this experience. If you have younger children, encourage them to aspire to read and listen to the preached Word of God as well.)

PRAY:

Thank God for His Word.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: HEBREWS 4:13

Nothing is hidden from God's sight. His Word reveals what is hidden to us or to those around us, but nothing is hidden from God. We might fool ourselves into thinking a sin we committed is hidden, but God knows everything we have done. His word will expose it. If a person has stolen something and hidden it away, he might think he has gotten away with his crime. But every time he reads the words "Thou shall not steal," he becomes freshly aware that God knows he is a thief. One day we will all need to give an account before God for all we have done.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How can this Scripture help us live godly lives? (When we realize that none of our sins can be hidden from God, we are more likely to fear the Lord and not commit sin. For example, no one speeds on the highway when they see a policeman holding a radar gun at the traffic. They don't speed because they fear the consequences.)

What is a good thing to do when we do sin? (It is a good thing to confess the sin, bringing it out into the open, and ask for forgiveness. Doing that honors God, who sees all we do.)

PRAY:

Ask God to help you be quick to confess when you sin.



WEDNESDAY WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

THE STORY: HEBREWS 4:13

Immediately following the description of the probing work of God's Word, the writer of Hebrews turns our attention to Jesus our great high priest. This is not an accidental transition. Verse 14 begins with "therefore," connecting it to the verses before. In other words, God's Word exposes our sin, making us aware of our need for forgiveness. Therefore we should run to the throne of grace.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why do we need a high priest? (We need someone to stand before God and appeal for our forgiveness. That is what a priest does. Jesus continually pleads our case before the Father. His wounds settle our case. God judged Jesus in our place.)

What sinful things have you done in your life that indicate a need for a high priest? (Take time as a family to confess your sins, thus admitting you are sinners. This is a humbling exercise that positions us to more greatly appreciate grace. Parents, lead your children in confession and then help them by drawing them out.)

PRAY:

Thank God for our great high priest Jesus, for His work on the cross, and that he is now in heaven praying for us.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: HEBREWS 4:15,16

Jesus sympathizes with our struggles. We can run to the throne of grace in our time of need because we have a faithful high priest. Jesus was tempted like us in every way, so He can sympathize with our struggles. Unlike us, He did not sin.

His sinlessness made him the perfect sacrifice for our sin. Now, in heaven, the sacrificial lamb of God stands as our high priest before God. His sacrifice pleads for us before the throne of God night and day forever. Later, in Hebrews 7:23-25, we read:

“Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest meets our need — one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.”

TALK ABOUT IT:

How is Jesus’ priesthood different from that of all the other priests in the Old Testament? (The sacrifice Jesus offered was able to take away our sins. Their sacrifices were not. Each of those high priests died and could not carry on their ministry. Jesus rose again and is alive. He is the eternal high priest interceding on our behalf forever.)

How can remembering that Jesus was tempted like us help us approach God when we are struggling with sin? (Jesus experienced the same temptations we did. He is aware of the power of temptation. He chose us and saved us with full knowledge of all our sin. We never need fear that any sin confessed to the Lord will be too evil to be forgiven.)

PRAY:

Pray that God would give you the grace to confess your sin and trust the Lord’s grace to change you.



FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

THE STORY: PSALM 45:6,7

The writer of Hebrews quotes this passage in Hebrews 1:8,9 and attributes it to the Son of God. Jesus is God, whose throne will last for ever and ever. Jesus died on the cross so that we sinners might receive the righteousness of God. Because of Christ's humility, taking on human flesh and offering Himself up as a sacrifice, God exalted Him above all.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What do we learn about Jesus from the writer of this passage from Hebrews? (We learn that Jesus is God. He tells us that when the writer of Psalm 45 says, "Your throne, O God," he is referring to Jesus.)

In what way did Jesus extend righteousness to His entire kingdom? (By dying on the cross, Jesus extended righteousness to the many sinners whom He died for.)

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for dying on the cross that we might receive the righteousness of God.