



NOTE: Our lesson questions are based on the NIV 2011 edition. Our preference is your first time through the questions, you answer without consulting commentaries - delight in what the Holy Spirit will reveal to you.

LESSON 8

HEBREWS 4:12-13

1. What truth, verse or insight from your study of **Hebrews 4:1-11** has stuck with you and what circumstance caused you to enter the better rest in Jesus?
2. Read and then re-read **Hebrews 4:12-13**. In the prior lessons we learned that a hardened heart is an obstacle to entering into God's rest. In these two verses, we see that the Word of God can do the necessary spiritual surgery. What has it meant to you to have someone speak Biblical truth into your life, even if it was cutting and painful?
3. **V12a** states: "For the Word of God is _____ and _____." What do you think those two words mean in terms of the Bible's influence in a person's life? See **Isaiah 55:8-11** for further insight.
4. a) How is the Word of God like a sword from **Hebrews 4:12b**, and what does it ultimately reveal?

- b) When have you felt the penetrating cut of His Word through your thoughts and attitudes?
5. Contrast the use of the sword to judge in **Hebrews 4:12** with how it is pictured in **Ephesians 6:13, 17** and **Jeremiah 23:29**. How do these images enlarge your view of the power of the Word of God?
6. a) What does the writer of Hebrews confirm about God and our relationship to Him in **Hebrews 4:13**?
- b) When or in what situation have you attempted to hide from God, only to experience the reality of **VI3**?
7. Find nuggets of truth about the Word of God, its benefits or qualities according to the following:
- **Psalm 19:7-11**
 - **Proverbs 4:20-22**
 - **Proverbs 30:5**
 - **Isaiah 50:4**
 - **Jeremiah 15:16**

8. a) According to **2 Timothy 3:15-17**, what is the source of all Scripture and for what purpose is it useful?

b) Describe a time when the Word of God was useful for you or someone close to you?

9. CONSIDER JESUS: THE BETTER WORD

The Word of God is not merely words from God. Jesus is the Word. According to **John 1:1**, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." Additionally, "the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." **John 1:14a**. See also **Revelation 19:13**.

Reflect on how Jesus perfectly revealed God to humanity and redeemed all who believe in Him. Write a prayer of thanksgiving for the Living Word of God, Jesus our Messiah.

MEMORY VERSE

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST