

LESSON 74

God's Word Is Living

HEBREWS 4:12-13



BIBLE TRUTH

THE WORD OF GOD IS ACTIVE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 152)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 74—one for each child; markers or crayons

God’s Word Is a Sword

SUPPLIES: a ceremonial sword (Make sure the sword isn’t sharp. If you cannot get a real sword, use a play sword or even a picture of a sword.)

Cutting Out the Rotten Spot

SUPPLIES: an apple with rotten spots or bruises; a paring knife or vegetable peeler

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn that God's Word is more than words on a page; it will change lives.

Use the following questions to guide the discussion:

- **How can you tell if something is alive or dead?**
(Take any answer.)

- **Are there things you know of that may look dead but are actually alive?**
(a sleeping person, a sea sponge, etc.)

God's Word is said to be living and active. It is also compared to many other things, like a sharp sword and bread.

- **Why do you think God describes his Word using so many different words?**
(The Scriptures are so rich no single description or analogy will suffice.)

Take time to pray and thank God for the richness of his Word. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 152, "God's Word Is Living," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION **5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What is this story about?**
(These verses are about God and his Word.)
- **What is God's Word compared to (in Hebrews 4:12)?**
(God's Word is compared to a sword.)
- **Why does the Bible tell us that God's Word is like a sword?**
(Just as a sword can cut through something, so God uses the Bible to cut into our hearts to take out the sin.)

SNACK QUESTIONS **10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Who does the Bible say can hide from God?**
(No one can hide from God. The Bible tells us that God sees all of us.)

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

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. God's Word exposes our sin, making us aware of our need for forgiveness. Therefore we should run to the throne of grace, where we can find mercy from God.

There is only one way for God to show us mercy. God can't simply overlook our sin. As a just and righteous judge, he must punish sin. But instead of punishing us, God poured out the punishment for our sin upon his Son. Now everyone who places their faith in Christ's work on the cross can rest from their labors.

- **How does God speak to us today?**

(He uses the Bible to speak to us.)

- **How does God use the Bible like a sword to take out the sin he sees in our lives?**

(When we read the Bible, the Spirit of God uses the words to show us what we are doing wrong and then helps us to change.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5-10 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS **20-30 MIN**

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 74—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **What do you see in this picture?**

(a sword, a heart, and a Bible)

- **What did our Bible passage today tell us about these three objects?**

(The sword is another name for the Bible and it is used to divide or cut open our heart to reveal the sin inside.)

- **How does the Bible show us our sin?**

(In the Bible we learn what sin is and how we can obey God. God doesn't hide the truth from us. He has given us the Bible so that we can know how to please him and live for him.)

God's Word Is a Sword

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a ceremonial sword (Make sure the sword isn't sharp. If you cannot get a real sword, use a play sword or even a picture of a sword.)

Have the children gather around and touch the sword. Ask them the following questions:

- **How does this sword relate to our Bible passage?**
(The Bible compares the Word of God to a sword.)
- **What do you do with a sword?**
(A sword is used in battle to attack and kill your enemy.)
- **What do you do with the Sword of God, the Bible?**
(You use the Word of God to attack and kill your spiritual enemy, which is the devil and sin.)

Explain to the children that the Word of God tells us what sin is. With the Holy Spirit God's Word convicts us of our sin and helps us to repent. It is also able to save us, just like a sword in battle can save a person from an invading army.

Cutting Out the Rotten Spot

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ an apple with rotten spots or bruises
- ✓ a paring knife or vegetable peeler

Tell the children that the apple is like a person's heart. Show them the apple from a distance. Ask them to describe it. They will likely not see the bruises, but instead describe it as a perfectly good apple.

Take your paring knife and peel the apple, revealing the bruises. Ask the children to describe the apple again. They are likely to change their description to include comments about the rotten parts.

Explain to the children that God can see the sin inside our hearts, like the rottenness inside the apple. God uses his Word like a sword to help us change and

cut the sin out of our lives. As you describe the following effects of God's Word, use the knife to cut out the rotten spots.

- God's Word tells us that we need to honor our father and mother and helps us to be respectful.
- God's Word shows us the times we are disrespectful.
- God's Word tells us that we should love our brothers and sisters and cut out all hatred and anger.
- God's Word tells us that Jesus is the Son of God and that we need to place our hope and trust in him alone and turn away from all other gods—all the other things we love.

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

