

God's Word is Living

Read Hebrews 4:1-16, then briefly consider the questions below.

This week in Sunday School, the kids are learning that the word of God is active. It has the power to reveal sinful thoughts and attitudes which can prevent us from finding rest in God. This time of year, it seems our culture is anything *but* at rest. The hustle and bustle of the holiday season can lead to anxiety, financial stress, and fear. Together, let's allow God's word to examine our hearts helping us find rest in Him.

Hebrews 4:1 tells us there is a "promise of entering his rest."

- What do you think this rest looks like? Is it a season, a day, or perhaps a state of being? Is this promise something we can enter into right now, or later?

Verses 2-8 reminds us of the Israelites' journey out of Egypt. The Israelites heard God's promises of provision, protection and victory, but did not believe in them, and they lacked trust in God. This lack of trust is what prevented them from entering God's intended rest.

- Are you trusting in God's promises of provision, protection and victory? If not, how might this be keeping you from living in a state of rest?

In contrast, the author of Hebrews is telling us to hear "the good news proclaimed to us" (vs. 2) and be diligent to believe in it! We can trust and hold tightly to God's word because He has shown Himself faithful.

- How have you seen God's faithfulness this week?

Interestingly, our passage tells us to "make every effort to enter that rest" (4:11).

- How are you intentionally making every effort to enter God's rest this holiday season? In the midst of the business of the Christmas season, are you allowing God's word to penetrate your heart?

Let's pray:

Father, thank you for providing rest for our weary souls. Thank you for giving us your word to penetrate our hearts and reveal anything in us that is preventing us from entering the rest you provide. In this season of advent, please help us to seek you first and rejoice in what you have accomplished on earth.

In Your Name we pray,
Amen.