

Word of God (taught in January 2019)

**Hebrews 4:12** The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit of joints and marrow, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

*Optional discussion questions/conversation starters:*

- Is “Hebrews” a history account or letter? (letter) New Testament or Old Testament? To whom was this letter written? (the Hebrews) Who are the Hebrews? (Jewish people) This letter is written to Jewish Christians and was written before 70 AD (the fall of Jerusalem and destruction of the temple).
- Who wrote Hebrews? (Let them try to offer some names. Then say, “I don’t know either.” Because...no one knows! 😊 The most commonly held beliefs are that it was either Barnabas or Apollos, both very involved in the early church and hence are found in Acts of the Apostles.)
- What is “the Word of God”? (Both Jesus and the Bible: the “Word of God” is *God’s truth*. God’s truth is revealed through Jesus, the incarnate Word – John 1:1, 14; *and* God’s truth is revealed verbally through Christian teachers – compiled together in the Bible for us today.)
- How can the Word of God be “living and active”? (answered in the remaining parts of the verse)
- Where else do we hear the Word of God being equated with a sword? (Ephesians 6:17)
- What does a sword do?
- “piercing to the division of soul and spirit of joints and marrow” = the entirety and depth of one’s being. What does this mean? What does it mean that the Word of God “discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart”?

- In what ways have you experienced this?
- Whenever I read the Bible, I not only learn more about God, the Holy Spirit also speaks to me personally through His words. God shows me things about my life that I need to be doing differently – he convicts me and helps me choose to change to be the person He wants me to be. Whenever I read the Bible, I realize once again how God knows me so very, very well!! He knows me far better than I know myself. (Read the next verse, Hebrews 4:13. It's so true!!) God loves me enough to tell me where I am lacking and challenges me to change. And the fact that he knows everything about me and still loves me?!?! That is an incredibly gracious God!!
- I am so thankful that I have the Bible so I have a way to know God better and so that He can speak to me in such a clear, direct way. What would it be like to not have a Bible? There are so many Christians in the world who do not have a Bible and want one so very badly. (I want to share a lot of facts 😊, but I'll let you visit <https://www.wycliffe.org.uk/about/our-impact/#> if you want to share some of them.)
- Ask each person to share something for which they would like prayed. Close in prayer (can be led by one person or each person can pray), specifically including everyone's prayer requests, and thanking God for giving us His Word – His Truth – through Jesus and the Bible!
- Finish by singing the song again!

*Optional activity during the week:* [Word of God is Active craft activity](#)

**Previous Weeks' Lessons:**

[May 17, 2020 – More Than Conquerors](#)

[May 10, 2020 – The Light of the World](#)

[May 3, 2020 – The Good Song](#)

[April 26, 2020 – The Word of the Lord](#)

[April 19, 2020 – Never Be Shaken](#)

[April 12, 2020 – Jesus Christ is Lord](#)

[April 5, 2020 – Out of the Mud](#)

[March 29, 2020 - Treasure](#)

[March 22, 2020 – Do Not Be Anxious](#)