

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 27, 2005

Passage: Hebrews 4:11-16

Memory Passage: Hebrews 4:12

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 4:10-11.** Why does verse 10 tell us to rest from our works and verse 11 tell us to labor to enter in?
- (b) Compare this with Philippians 2:12-13. What does Paul tell us to do with our salvation? Is he suggesting that we can lose our salvation if we do not do something (also compare Philippians 1:6)? What is he teaching us about our own efforts?
- (c) Read John 15:1-8. What principle of the Christian life was Jesus teaching his disciples? Do we do *nothing*? Discuss this principle of abiding in Christ.
- (d) Look at 1 Corinthians 15:10 and Colossians 1:29. To what does Paul attribute all that he has done? What did his understanding of God's grace cause him to *do*? What should it cause us to do?
- (e) *Family:* Read Hebrews 4:10-11 and John 15:1-8. Discuss the difference between "resting in God" and "acting in faith." Why are both important? What does it mean to live a life of faith? What is faith connected to God's Word? Should faith cause us to do nothing or to act in His strength? Discuss the difference. Pray together that you would *labor* to enter into His rest.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 4:12.** What two terms are used to describe *how* the Word of God works? How is it "*living*?" What does it mean that God's Word is living?
- (b) How is the Word *powerful*? How does Paul describe the Word of God in 1 Thessalonians 2:13? What did it do in them? What does it have the power to do in us? According to Romans 12:1-2, how does transformation take place in the lives of believers?
- (c) In 1 Timothy 3:15, what does Paul tell us about the Word of God? How does it work in salvation? What is said about the Word in Romans 1:16, James 1:18, and 1 Peter 1:23? What does this tell us about using God's Word in evangelism?
- (d) Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5. How does Paul describe the weapons of our warfare? How does the Word of God fit this description? What does this tell us about God's Word in counseling and apologetics?
- (e) Read 1 Timothy 3:15-18. Why is the Word of God trustworthy? What five things does the Word do for us as believers? Discuss how the scriptures are helpful in each of these situations.
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 4:12 and Psalm 19:7-11. Discuss the power of the Word of God for our lives? How does it work in salvation? How does the Word of God bring about change in our lives? What are you doing to keep the scriptures a priority in your lives? Pray for someone that is not a believer, that he would hear the scriptures and come to salvation.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 4:12-13.** Make a list of the various descriptions of the Word of God in these verses. How is the Word of God described in Ephesians 6:17 and Revelation 1:16? How does this illustration describe what the scriptures do in cutting through all our excuses?
- (b) How is the Word described in James 1:22-25? If someone hears the Word but does not live by it, what is he doing to himself?
- (c) What happened in Acts 2:37 and 5:33? How do these examples explain what Hebrews 4:12-13 speak about?
- (d) What do Hebrews 4:12-13 remind us about God? Compare this with Psalm 139:1-4 and Job 34:21. How should such knowledge affect us?
- (e) What does the phrase "with whom we have to do with" mean? Compare the following passages: 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10-12; and Ecclesiastes 12:14.
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 4:12-13 and Ecclesiastes 12:14. Talk about how God uses the scriptures to penetrate our hearts. How is this like a "two-edged sword?" Does God judge believers? What will He judge in our lives? How does the Word of God help us to know what God desires? Pray that God would show each of you anything in your lives that is not pleasing to Him.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 4:14-15.** What has God given to us in addition to His Word? How does having such a high priest encourage us?
- (b) What does it mean that Jesus has "passed through the heavens?" Compare Luke 24:51 and Acts 1:11. What is the importance of the ascension for believers (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 1:3; 9:12; 9:24)?
- (c) Read Ephesians 1:15-23. Summarize Paul's prayer for this church? What does he want them to know? How does the ascension remind us of who Jesus is and what He can do for us?
- (d) Why should understanding who Jesus is and what he has done encourage these believers to "hold fast" to their profession? Read Hebrews 10:23. Who is faithful according to this verse? What if we are not faithful (2 Timothy 2:12)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Hebrews 4:14 and Ephesians 1:15-22. Discuss the ascension. Explain what happened and why it was necessary. What is Jesus doing right now for us (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25)? How does knowing this help us to face every difficulty? Pray together about some difficulties that you are facing, remembering that Jesus is seated *above* all!

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Hebrews 4:15-16.** How is Jesus similar to all other high priests? How is he different? Why are both important for us?
- (b) What does it mean that he was tempted in *all points* like we are?
- (c) What is the repeated testimony about Jesus and his sinlessness (John 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 3:5)?
- (d) Read Hebrews 7:26-28. How is Jesus described in verse 26? What if Jesus did sin (verses 27-28)? How would this affect your salvation? How would this affect your willingness to come to him with your struggles?
- (e) *How* are we encouraged to “come before the throne?” Why can we come this way (Hebrews 10:19-22)?
- (f) What is this throne called? Why? What two things can we receive? What is the difference between them? How does Jesus our high priest help us with temptations and with sins when we fail?
- (g) *Family:* Read Hebrews 4:15-16. Talk about temptation and falling into sin. How does Jesus help when we face temptation? How does he help when we have sinned? What should a Christian do whenever he sins? Take time to pray for some areas of temptation and struggle that you have. Ask for His strength!

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Hebrews 4:11-16 and 2 Timothy 3:15-17. How does the Word of God help believers to handle every difficulty that they face? Talk together about how God’s Word has helped you in a difficulty. What should we do when we fail to live according to God’s Word? Talk about “coming *boldly* before the throne of God.” Spend some time praying together about tomorrow’s services.

DATE: November 27, 2005

PASSAGE: Hebrews 4:11-16

Relying on His Word

“For the Word of God is quick and powerful...”