

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Hebrews 4:12-13

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Hebrews 4:12-13.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

12 For the word of God

is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword,
and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit,
of both joints and marrow,
and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight,

but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him
with whom we have to do.

1. How does the 'for' in verse 12 link this passage to the previous text?
2. Why is the information provided in these two verses important based on what the author has been saying?

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3. From the immediate context (chapters 3 & 4), what is "the word of God" referring to and how do you know?
4. What does this passage tell us about 'the word of God'? List the statements found in the text.
5. What is meant by the 'word of God' being 'living and active'?
6. How might the 'word of God' be sharper than any two-edged sword?

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❖ Day 2

Read Hebrews 4:12-13 again.

7. What do you think is meant by 'the division of soul and spirit'?
8. Why would the author refer to the division of 'joints and marrow'?
9. Why is it significant that the 'word of God' is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart?
10. What specific 'thoughts and intentions of the heart' might the author be thinking of in this context?
11. Why is it significant that no creature is hidden from His sight?

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12. What is the significance of something being 'open and laid bare' before Him?

13. Why might it be important to you, in your own life, that 'no creature' is 'hidden from His sight'?

❖ Day 3

Read Hebrews 4:12-13 again.

14. What are some of the practical implications of 'all things' being 'open and laid bare' before Him?

15. The author refers to 'Him' as the one 'with whom we have to do.' What does that mean?

16. Why might the author point out this special relationship between us and 'Him'?

17. How would you paraphrase these two verses?

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18. How might the truth found in these two verses affect our evangelism?

19. How might the truth found in these two verses be useful in a discipleship relationship?

20. Now that you have studied these two verses, how would you explain the significance of these verses in light of the preceding text?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would recognize the significance of the all-knowing nature of God. Pray that we would be motivated to address our own internal sins and to live lives that are pleasing to God both in our outward actions and in our internal thoughts. Pray that we would fight against hardness of heart and disbelief, both as individuals and as a church.