



**Main Passage:** Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Mark 4:22-24

## Theological Theme

God's Word is living, active, and practical for daily life. We should recognize the importance of Scripture and be committed to knowing it and obeying it.

## Introduction

- ❓ Who is the best listener you know? What makes them a good listener?
- ❓ Do you ever struggle to listen to the Lord? What makes this difficult?

## 1. God's Word Speaks (Hebrews 4:12)

One of the primary ways God speaks is through Scripture. Though the words were written thousands of years ago, Hebrews makes it clear that every word still matters and is relevant today. In describing the Word as "living and effective" the writer of Hebrews stressed how applicable it still is.

- ❓ How have you seen the reality that God's Word is living and effective in your life?
- ❓ Describe a time when a sermon or teaching from the Bible seemed like it was written exactly for you.
- ❓ Application: What is situation you are facing where you need the Word to cut through the surface about and reveal truth?

## 2. God's Word is Profitable (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

How is it possible that words can be living, effective, and profitable to those who hear and live it? This passage tells us all Scripture is God breathed. This means it was inspired by Almighty God, and He gave it directly to be recorded and used by those who seek Him.

- ❓ What are some lies that the world teaches about God or people? How does the Bible speak to these same things? Why is it crucial we listen to God through His Word? How do we practice this?
- ❓ How has Scripture shown you where you need to make a change recently? How did you respond?
- ❓ Application: How is God using Scripture to equip you for His purposes? How are you seeking to listen to Him through His Word regularly?

### 3. God's Word Requires a Response (Mark 4:21-24)

In the book of Mark, Jesus taught a parable that helps us understand our responsibility when it comes to the Word of God. The Word is truth and therefore reveals and exposes truth to all people. Our job is to not to hide the light but to help others see it for themselves.

- ❓ How would you describe the difference between hearing and really listening?
- ❓ How have you responded to God's Word to this point in your life? How is God speaking to you about that today?
- ❓ Application: What godly habit about receiving and listening to God's Word do you need to commit to develop in your own life?

### Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

\*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

### Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

### Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).