



## **God's Penetrating Word**

### **Key idea:**

God's Word is living and active, and it penetrates to our deepest recesses to expose and judge and to point us to Christ, our Great High Priest.

### **Key text:**

Hebrews 4:12–13 (ESV)

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

### **Key points:**

1. God sees everything in the universe as it really exists, which means that we are naked, exposed and vulnerable before Him.
2. God's Word in Scripture is living, active and energetic, able to speak to us and to effectively work to bring about the will of God.
3. God's Word in Scripture is able to penetrate to the core of our being and to uncover, discern, and judge our thoughts and intents.
4. God's penetrating Word comes to us directly through His written Word and also through true preaching of that written Word, and we will all give account for our response to that Word and what it reveals on the day of judgment.
5. God's Word always points us to Christ, the Great High Priest Who has borne the judgment we were due and has opened access for us to come to the throne of grace.

### **Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. How does the thought of being completely naked, exposed, and vulnerable make me feel? Why?
3. How did Adam and Eve react when they realized they were naked and exposed? In what ways do I try to cover myself and hide from God and others?
4. God's Word is able to penetrate to my core and uncover my thoughts and intentions. Why is this important? Does God need the Word to do this, or do I?
5. Can I think of examples of when God's Word exposed sins in my life which I had not even realized were there? How did I initially respond? What was the ultimate outcome of this in my life?
6. How does the knowledge that God's Word is living, active, effective, and able to uncover hidden thoughts affect my evangelism? What is the most powerful tool to convict others of sin and a need for Christ?
7. Some people today say the Bible "contains" the Word of God, but that it is not the Word of God. Is this true? How would I answer this statement based on Hebrews 3:7-11, Hebrews 4:12-13, and 1 Peter 1:23-25?
8. In what sense is the preaching of the Scripture to be received as the Word of God? Can I think of times when God spoke to me through the teaching of the Scripture? Can I think of times when the teaching was in error? How do I determine the difference?
9. How surprised was I to see how abruptly the author to Hebrews shifted from the Scripture and its power to convict and judge me, to a discussion of Jesus as my Great High Priest? How important is it for any teaching to point me to Christ? Why?
10. Whom can I pray for, share what I have learned, and invite to church this week?

### **Preview of next week: Contending for the True Faith (Jude 1:1-4)**