

Small Group Discussion Questions

Spirit and Truth: Rediscovering Christian Worship

These questions are designed to invite group reflection on today's Bible passage and life application of the themes introduced in today's sermon.

Week 7: Living and Active

Hebrews 4:12-16

1. Recall a time in which you had significant difficulty communicating with someone else (due to a difference in language, culture, ability, age, etc). If you were able to overcome this difficulty, how did you do so?
2. Have you ever wondered why God doesn't communicate more clearly?
3. According to the Belgic Confession, what two methods (or "books") does God use to reveal Himself?
4. What two barriers to communication with God did our fall into sin produce?
5. How did God respond to our inability/unwillingness to hear Him?
6. What is the primary reason we accept the Old Testament as God's Word?
7. What were the criteria for books included in the New Testament (i.e., who were they authored by)?
8. Based on New Testament evidence, how did the Apostles and first Christians treat the Gospels and New Testament letters?
9. What are two convictions of the church that critics attack?
10. What is one piece of New Testament evidence that affirms the early church's position regarding Jesus' divinity?
11. What pieces of evidence support the assertion that our New Testament books accurately reflect the writings of the 1st century Apostles?
12. If we accept that the Bible is God's Word, what two ways *might* we respond to it?
13. Today's passage compares the Bible to a "double-edged sword". Is the metaphor one of warfare? What are two alternative metaphors implied by the "sword" in this passage?
14. In what ways do the words of the Bible "cut" us? Is God's purpose to hurt us, or heal us? Recall a time in which you experienced being "cut" (opened up or confronted) by the Bible.
15. The Bible is not God's only word. What is the other "word of God"? What does John say about this "word"?
16. What three ways are we invited to receive God's written word, the Bible?
17. What is God's ultimate objective in giving us His written word?

Pray: Ask God to show you the ways you have "cut and pasted" the Bible; invite God to open your heart to His word and open the entirety of His word to you; ask God to use His written word to draw you into right relationship with the Living Word, Jesus Christ.