

## Sharing the Word

Discussion based on Sermon by Thomas Pruett, Sept 29

### Getting Started

1. What is a favorite passage or verse, or one that you find challenging to live out?
2. What are some transformations we see in nature (among animals, seasons, etc.)?

#### ♦ For the Kids ♦

1. What is one of your favorite Bible stories?
2. What changes do you see outside that tell you it's fall?

### Exploring the Message

#### Read John 1: 1-4 and 2 Cor 5:16-21

1. In John 1, what is the Word that John is talking about?
2. The Word brings life; God spoke the universe into existence. And 2 Cor 5 talks about a "new creation." How can God's Word (the Bible) bring transformation in our lives?
3. What is an example you've experienced in your own life, or seen in another's life, of the Word transforming a person?
4. What are some of the benefits of studying the Bible in different environments (i.e., small group study, individual study, large-group lecture style)?
5. What are some creative and/or enjoyable methods you have used to study the Bible individually -- methods that have helped you move from *knowledge* to *transformation*?

#### ♦ For the Kids ♦

1. What are some fun things you've done at home or in Bible class to learn more about God's Word?
2. Have you ever heard a Bible story or lesson and changed your actions or behavior because of what you learned?

#### Read Hebrews 4:1-13

1. How is the Bible different from other books? (It's not just a manual for life, or a textbook.)
2. The context of Hebrews 3 and 4 is that when we believe and follow, there is a reward of rest in God. Presumably, rest is part of the abundant life that God offers. If so, then what is the connection between rest and the living and active Word of God?

### Diving Deeper

1. In his sermon, Thomas talked about us as "Gospelers," (i.e., living out the continuation of the gospel story). What do you want your part of the story to be?
2. What would you say to someone who is open to religious ideas, but isn't sure the Bible is true?
3. What habits help us move toward transformation?
4. Assuming this process is never really finished on Earth, how can we make the pursuit of transforming our hearts and lives be sustainable for a lifetime?
5. What does Christian "meditation" mean to you? What might successful meditation look like and what might it accomplish in a follower of Jesus?

#### ♦ For the Kids ♦

1. How can you practice following God's Word at home? At school?
2. Who is in your life who can help you understand God's Word and become more like Jesus?