WEEK FOUR: Divided

Go online to ringgoldchurch.com/themessageconnect to watch this week's Message Connect video.

Key Scriptures:

Hebrews 4:1-2 (NIV) "Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. ² For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith."

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV) "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Main Points:

- Our Healthy Spiritual Attitude Is <u>Fear</u>.
- Our Healthy Spiritual Action Is <u>Faith</u>.
- The Bible Is Powerful.
- The Bible Is <u>Penetrating</u>.
- The Bible Is Like A <u>Seed</u>.
- The Bible Is Like Milk.
- The Bible Is Like A <u>Light</u>.
- The Bible Is Like A Mirror.
- The Bible Is A Lie Hammer.

Next Steps:

1. Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group. What do you like to do during your free time? Why do you enjoy it so much?

What did God teach you during the message this weekend? Did anything in particular stand out?

2. Start Thinking. Ask a thoughtful question.

When it comes to the Bible, we need to eat the parts that are good for us, not just the ones that taste good. Sometimes when we approach the Bible, we avoid what seems too difficult to live out.

Is this true for you? What areas of Scripture do you ignore or shy away from? Why do you think you might avoid them? What would you need to do to actively live out these difficult teachings?

3. Start Sharing. Choose questions that create openness.

A healthy fear of God is a good thing.

Do you struggle with the confidence of knowing that you are going to Heaven? If so, why?

Do you think your faith is strong or lacking? Explain. Does your life show the fruits of belief and faith? Explain and give examples.

God's Word is powerful. It is not dead or dull, stale or static.

What are your thoughts on God's Word? Does it inspire and convict you, or are you bored with it?

Does it make sense to you, or is it confusing? Do you have a hunger for it, or do you get to it when you have time?

4. Start Praying. Be bold, and pray with power.

Take some time to pray that God would give you a passion and hunger to read His Word and live it out.

5. Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

What action steps can you take to become more intentional about being in God's Word so that you "may be complete and equipped for every good work?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT) "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷ God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work."

For more information about taking the next steps in your faith, visit: ringgoldchurch.com/nextsteps.