

CLEAN AND CLEAR

MEMORY VERSE: Hebrews 4:12-13--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. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

LESSON IN A SENTENCE: The Bible is God's precious Word--a gift— given so that our lives might be changed forever if we internalize it/

MAIN EVENT: Many Christians today take the Bible for granted because it is so readily available. However, at a time when the Bible was not in print and available in every hotel room and bookstore not to mention the internet and handheld devices, the Word of God had to be spoken through the prophets by His Spirit. It is at these times of genuine encounter with the Word that we find ourselves unable to stay the same anymore.

FOCUS: Fill a clear container with water. Pour a little detergent in and mix until bubbles form on the surface of the water and it appears cloudy.

"The container represents our minds. The cloudiness represents our thoughts."

Hold an equal amount of fabric softener over the mixture. *"This represents the Word of God notice how it alters our lives."*

Pour the softener and mix. The water should clear up— the suds and cloudiness disappear. *"We are cleansed by God."*

SCRIPTURE: Ezekiel 2:8-3:3--Son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not join them in their rebellion. Open your mouth, and eat what I give you."

Then I looked and saw a hand reaching out to me. It held a scroll, which he unrolled. And I saw that both sides were covered with funeral songs, words of sorrow, and pronouncements of doom.

The voice said to me, "Son of man, eat what I am giving you—eat this scroll! Then go and give its message to the people of Israel." So I opened my mouth, and he fed me the scroll. "Fill your stomach with this," he said. And when I ate it, it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.

SMALL GROUPS: Break into smaller groups and discuss the factors that make it difficult to study the Word of God. Come up with some ways to address the difficulties.

1. Have you experienced a time when you were listening to or studying the Bible and the words on the page seemed so applicable to your life at the time? If so why?
2. Have there been other times when reading the Bible just felt empty and dry?
3. When this happens, what is a good way to view these times?
 - a. What is a good way to deal with them?
4. If there were any differing characteristics between the ways you read the Bible each time, what were they?
5. What makes something precious or valuable in our lives?
6. What would it take to make the Word of God more precious in our life?