

THEME: SYMBOLS OF THE WORD OF GOD

LESSON #4: FIRE IN THE HEART

LESSON SCRIPTURES: Jer. 20:9

MAIN EMPHASIS: The word of God is a burning word, consuming the dross in the hearer.

MEMORY VERSE: Colossians 2:7 (NLT)

“Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught...”

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: At the end of the session, the students should be able to:

1. Understand how the word of God is like a fire;
2. Identify the significance of the word of God to Christians, especially to new converts;
3. Determine the benefit of studying the Bible knowing it is like a fire;
4. Understand the effects of having insufficiency of God’s word or the lack of it;
5. Purpose in their hearts the necessity of studying God’s word; and
6. Understand and recite the given memory verse.

CLEARING OF DIFFICULTIES:

- Dross – something regarded as worthless; useless.
- Prophet – one who utters divinely inspired revelations; a person who speaks for God.
- Persecution –cruel and unfair treatment of a person or group, especially because of their religious or political beliefs, or their race.
- Stocks [punishment]- wooden or metal devices with foot holes used as punishment until the beginning of the 19th century and were used to restrain offenders' feet and hold the legs straight out.

PRE-SESSION ACTIVITY:

INTRODUCTION:

What are some ways fire is helpful?

- It gives us light, helps us celebrate, keeps us warm, looks beautiful when contained [as in a fireplace], burns away old growth to make room for new, cooks our food, etc.)

What are some ways fire is NOT helpful?

- It can spread quickly and burn down entire fields and forests and destroy all kinds of things, including homes and lives)

LESSON PROPER:

The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah was persecuted for speaking God’s Word. Among other things, he was rejected (ch13 v10) and mistreated - beaten, put in stocks (ch20 v1-2), and thrown into a dungeon (a muddy pit) (ch38:6).

Even though Jeremiah felt discouraged at times, and thought he would just give up talking about God’s Word, he could not! God’s Word was like a fire inside of him! (ch20 v9)

How is God’s Word like fire?

- It brings light into our lives [shows us right from wrong], warms our hearts [brings joy], adds beauty [beautiful things to think on], can bring comfort but can also make us uncomfortable when we have sinned, gets rid of the bad things in our lives so that new good things can grow, spreads quickly when we share it with others

LIFE APPLICATION:

God’s Word will burn in our hearts—getting rid of the bad things, making the good things better. The word of God burning in our hearts will also push us to tell others about Jesus, His grace and blessings to our lives.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY:

EVALUATION:

SEVEN SYMBOLS USED TO ILLUSTRATE THE WORD OF GOD

1. **A SWORD:** The bible is a pointed word that convicts the hearer. Heb.4:12.
2. **A HAMMER:** The bible is powerful and breaks the resistance of the hearer. Jer.23:29.
3. **A SEED:** The bible is a living word regenerating the hearer. I Per.1:23.
4. **A MIRROR:** The bible is a faithful word, revealing the individual to himself. James 1:23-25.
5. **A FIRE:** The bible is a burning word, consuming the dross in the hearer. Jer.20:9, 23:29.
6. **A LAMP:** The bible is an illuminating word guiding the believer day by day. Ps.119:105.
7. **FOOD:** The bible is nourishing food, feeding the soul. I Pet.2:2, Heb.5:12-14, ICor.3:2, Rom.10:17.

Certainly, the word of God convicts, breaks, regenerates, reveals, consumes, illuminates and nourishes the individual.