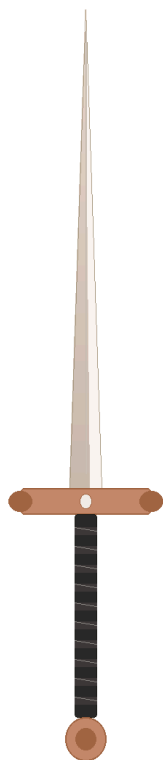


THE SWORD BIBLE STUDY METHOD

Study the Scriptures · Hebrews 4:12



HEBREWS 4:12 (ESV)

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

In Hebrews 4:12, Scripture describes the Word of God as a living, active sword — sharp enough to cut to the very core of who we are. That image gives us a powerful and memorable way to approach every passage we read. Picture a sword held upright: the blade pointing to heaven, the handle pointing to the earth, and the hilt connecting the two. Each part of the sword represents one essential question.

THE BLADE *(pointing upward toward God)*

“What do I learn about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?”

Consider what the passage reveals about His character, what He values, and how He sees or relates to people.

THE HANDLE *(pointing downward toward people)*

“What do I learn about people?”

This includes what you observe about specific people in the passage as well as what the text reveals about humanity in general.

THE HILT *(connecting the two)*

“How is God calling me to respond?”

Consider how you should think, act, or trust God differently because of what you just read. You might also ask: how does God want me to pray differently?

These three questions are simple to remember and powerful to use. They can completely transform what you take away from any passage of Scripture.

Note: Prayer is at the heart of Scripture reading. Begin your study by thanking God for His Word and asking Him to reveal Himself to you. Pray throughout — when you’re confused, when you’re moved, and when you finish. Let what you read fuel how you talk to Him.

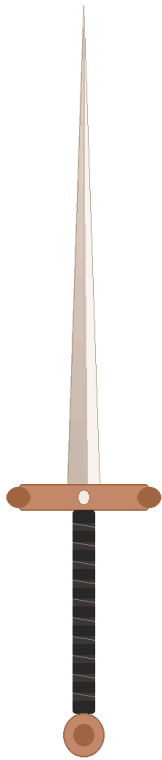
TEACHING TIP

If you are teaching the Sword Method to a group, consider having participants stand and imagine their body is a sword. Have them repeat each question while acting out the matching part — arms raised to the sky = blade = the question about God; arms at your sides = handle = the question about people; arms on hips = hilt = the question about how God is calling you to respond.

THE SWORD BIBLE STUDY METHOD

Study the Scriptures — Worksheet

Passage: _____



THE BLADE

What do I learn about God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?

THE HANDLE

What do I learn about people?

THE HILT

How is God calling me to respond?

Note: Prayer is at the heart of Scripture reading. Begin your study by thanking God for His Word and asking Him to reveal Himself to you. Pray throughout — when you're confused, when you're moved, and when you finish. Let what you read fuel how you talk to Him.