



## GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM

February 3, 2019

### "HEBREWS" - Week 1

For more information or to join a Growth Group, please visit our Growth Group page online at [cbclife.org/groups](http://cbclife.org/groups) or call the church office at 408.288.4115.

Welcome to the sermon based leaders guide. This is your first meeting so do not feel the need to get to every question. The emphasis for this weeks group should be reconnecting with group members who were in your group previously and (this is important) connecting with the people who are new to your group. Feel free to spend more time on snacks and fellowship than you ordinarily would. It may also be a good idea to do some ice-breaker questions or activities.

#### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

In the Leader Training we talked about how this section of the curriculum is meant to do several things. First, it is purposed to frame the rest of the discussion in relation to Sundays' sermon. It should also refresh peoples memories as to the salient points from the past Sundays message. For those who weren't there or even those who didn't understand it very well it will help them to get acquainted with the text and topic. These questions are also designed to be "softball" questions in order to get people to engage and participate.

1. Tell us a little about yourself...
  - What is the best tasting food/course you are able to make?
  - How do you make yourself fall asleep when you can't seem to get to sleep?
  - What movie or book (other than the Bible) do you most often quote?
2. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

This is an opportunity to clarify the teaching for those who may not have understood it. This can also be a jumping off point for great discussion. Sometimes groups don't get past this question and that's ok! Remember, you want to "scratch where it itches" so don't feel the need to rush past this.

#### DIGGING DEEPER

1. On Sunday we learned that Jesus was a greater prophet in that He came not to tell us about God but to show us God's "character". Read Matthew 17:1-13 and consider the following questions.

- What about the passage sticks out to you?

There are several curious aspects to this verse; Jesus taking only 3 disciples, Moses and Elijah showing up, Peter's idea to start a building campaign. You may see what your group comes up with and "scratch where it itches.

- In vv. 2 we learn that Christ's face "shone like the sun", what do you notice about Jesus appearance in relation to that of the other prophets?

We want to recognize that Jesus appears different than the other prophets. Matthew clearly had in mind to accentuate this difference.

- In your own words; how would you explain the point of the passage

The point of the passage as well as the point of the Book of Hebrews is that Jesus is greater! He is a greater prophet but, he is also God's son. To be a son means (in this context) that you are the same substance as God. This is an amazing assertion coming from God about Jesus!

Matthew 17:1-13

1 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

4 Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."

5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

6 When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." 8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

10 The disciples asked him, "Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"

11 Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. 12 But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." 13 Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

3. Mark 1-3 give us a great picture of who Jesus is. Read Mark 1-3 and jot down anything that alludes to who Jesus is or what he has done (you might also want to underline in your Bible).

The goal of this question is to get us to consider with “fresh eyes” what the Scriptures say about Jesus and what He reveals about himself. His claims are absolutely astounding, then and now! He has authority over demons, forgives sins, heals, refers to Himself as God. We should recognize that it is illogical to have a tepid response to Christ.

- Looking back at what you wrote, are there one or two things that particularly caught your attention? If so, explain.

Some aspects of the text which are noteworthy in respect to the conversation may be:

John’s reverence in Mk 1:7

Angels attended him Mk 1:13

Jesus Kingdom proclamation Mk 1:14,15

The immediate response of the Apostles in Mk 1:18

The demons confession Mk 1:24

Healing Mk 1:29-34 Mk 1:41-43

Forgiveness of sins Mk 2:1-12

Self proclaimed “bridegroom” Mk 2:20

Describes himself as Lord of the Sabbath Mk 2:28

People close to him worshipped Him as God Mk 3:11

- Are there any you should pay more attention to?
3. As followers of Jesus, none of us wants to live an ineffective and powerless life for him. But one of the enemy’s strategies is to subtly distract us from who Jesus is and what it means to follow him. That’s why Hebrews 2:1 says that, “we must pay careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard so that we do not drift away.” What strategies do the following passages give to help us pay careful attention and live as God has called us to?

Psalms 119:9-11; Psalm 119:15-16; Matthew 22:37; Hebrews 10:24-25

#### Psalm 119:9-11 (NIV)

9 Beth

9

How can a young person stay on the path of purity?

By living according to your word.

10

I seek you with all my heart;

do not let me stray from your commands.

11

I have hidden your word in my heart

that I might not sin against you.

#### Psalm 119:15-16 (NIV)

15

I meditate on your precepts

and consider your ways.

16

I delight in your decrees;

I will not neglect your word.

### Matthew 22:37 (NIV)

37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

### Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,  
25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

### Psalm 119:9-11;

Mediating on God's word and its implications for us will transform us. Considering the Gospel specifically can be the basis for a life changing faith.

### Psalm 119:15-16

God's word and his commands. You may want to bring out that God's Word is actually a person (ref. John 1) and since Jesus is a personal God it will require a relationship.

### Matthew 22:37

Here Jesus is quoting the Shema from Dt 4:4,5. This was the most central prayer in Judaism. What we should notice about it is how comprehensive it is. It conveys that our relationship with God should impact everything we do.

### Hebrews 10:24-25

The Christian life should not be lived in isolation. In fact, the way we are supposed to get these hard truths worked into our hearts and manifested in our lives is through significant spiritual relationships with other believers. Christian growth is a team effort!

## **THE PURPOSE OF GROWTH GROUPS**

Growth Groups exist to promote spiritual maturity and personal growth through meaningful Christian relationships and the study of God's Word. (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24-25). Here's how it will happen:

### **SHARE**

Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include planned "sharing questions." But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as we feel more comfortable.

### **STUDY**

Each week we'll study a section from God's Word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our Christianity in everyday life.

**SUPPORT**

Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This care can take many forms, such as prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another and meeting real needs.

**SERVE**

Spiritual growth is fostered not only by what we gain through the support and input of others, but also through service to others. The role each of us fills is important to the health of the church and for us to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the community in which we live (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, it is our hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.

