

CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM

March 17, 2019

"HEBREWS" - Week 7

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

QUICK REVIEW

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. 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.

2. What is one thing from Sunday's message you are likely to remember 2 weeks from now?

Again, the answers here can vary. Someone might answer "the Pastors ugly shirt". The goal is for everyone to work together to rekindle the salient points from Sunday's teaching.

MY STORY

1. What are your three most prized material possessions other than your home or car?
 - What might be some indicators that you're more focused on possessions than eternity?

This is a pointed question designed to help us recognize that there are likely things in our lives that compete with God for primacy in our lives.

2. Life can hit all of us hard at times and for a variety of reasons. When you were growing up, how was a crisis handled in your home? Mark any that apply.

Bring it on God's going to grow us Blame game Panic Stubborn	Don't tell anybody God's here God's not here Avoid at all costs	Don't admit it Why does this happen to us? Prayer
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- Are there any similarities or differences in how you respond now?

Difficult circumstances will either bring out our best or our worse. What we ultimately believe about the universe, our ultimate destiny, and our life's purpose should impact to a tremendous degree how we respond to trying circumstances.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Living with an eternal perspective is planning with God's kingdom in mind. One of the incentives God gives us are the rewards we will receive in heaven. How do the following verses describe what it takes to receive rewards and prepare for our ultimate assignment in heaven?

Luke 6:27-31, 35-36; Ephesians 6:5-8; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23;

Luke 6:27-31

27 "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. 29 If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. 30 Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. 31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Luke 6:35-36

35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Ephesians 6:5-8

5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 6 Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. 20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. 21 To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. 23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

- Luke 6:27-31, 35-36 - The key to understanding these texts is to focus on vv. 34 where Christ says; God is "kind to the ungrateful and wicked. If the Spirit is alive in us, He will compel us towards being kind to he ungrateful as well.

- Ephesians 6:5-8 - The context here is the relationship between a slave and a master. This was not nearly as exploitative as the slave trade in America's more recent history, but the subordinate posture of the slave is what is in view here. We are to serve "wholeheartedly" even when we are under compulsion to do so. The Scriptures tell us that this posture of submission to the will of God will be rewarded.
- 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 Paul has completely divested himself of preference, racism and self interest. As he labors to share the Gospel with people who are not like him, Paul asserts that he is growing in his appropriation and recognition of God's grace in his own life.

- How would you put the above verses in order from easiest to most challenging?

There is no right answer to this question but it may help some in your group recognize areas of sacrifice and service which may be more difficult for them. Perhaps a follow up question might be: "What practices can you implement in your life to grow in this area?"

The good news is that even though life can be hard, God not only offers us future rewards, but also encourages us today. How might the following verses serve as a comfort and encouragement when we're facing trials, frustrations or hardships?

Lamentations 3:22-24, 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Romans 8:31-38

Lamentations 3:22-24

22

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

23

They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

24

I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."

1 Corinthians 15:54-58;

54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

55

"Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"[b]

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Romans 8:31-38

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, [b] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

- Which of these verses is most encouraging to you?
- The verses above give us a lot to be thankful for as followers of Jesus. In fact, as Jesus followers we should ultimately be seen as optimists. Agree / Disagree?

There may be someone in your group that doesn't agree. It's important for Christians (especially leaders) to be able to meet people where they are. One strategy to handling an objection to this idea is to ask questions. See exactly what is causing someone to doubt. It might be someone is struggling with faith in God or the authority of the Scriptures.

3. How is Habakkuk 2:3-4 (quoted in Hebrews 10:37-38) used to help the believers face their circumstances?

- Do these words help you? If so, how?

The writer of Hebrews comes back to these words and offers something of an explanation in Hebrews 10:8-10 where he (or she) writes

“First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. 9 Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. 10 And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

The thesis here is that God was never pleased with the former sacrifices, but that Jesus sacrificed once and for all. This should strengthen and embolden anyone who believes.