

# CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM

March 24, 2019

## "HEBREWS" - Week 8

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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.

### 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?

### MY STORY

1. We've often heard that "faith is trusting God enough to do what he says." We all have had different experiences with trust and have certain levels of mistrust in different areas. Mark anything you would have trouble trusting below:

Parachute    Airplane    Food truck food    Elevator

Bungee cord    Tap water    Christmas treats from a neighbor

Cats/Dogs/Birds

2. Pastor Jeff asked the question, "If you stopped acting out your faith this week, how would your life be different?" Was there anything that came to mind?

The point of this question is to help your group connect their faith with tangible actions and attitudes. This may be a wake up call to some if there are not many connection points between our faith and our actions.

### DIGGING DEEPER

1. This week we heard our faith must be much more than just a belief or understanding of God, it must be an action. As we look at the life of Jesus and watch the calls he made to the crowds following him, we get a better understanding of what faith in action looks like.

The next four passages give examples of Jesus calling his followers to action. Read through each and answer the questions below.

*\*Group Suggestion: For a different approach, try breaking into groups of three or four, each discussing a passage and then discussing that passage with the whole group.*

**Matthew 16:24-25** (NIV) <sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

**Mark 9:35** (NIV) <sup>35</sup> Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all."

**Matthew 18:2-3** (NIV) <sup>2</sup> He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. <sup>3</sup> And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

**Luke 18:9-14** (NIV) <sup>9</sup> To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable:<sup>10</sup> "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup> The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup> I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'<sup>13</sup> "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'<sup>14</sup> "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

- In one or two sentences, how would you sum this verse up in your own words?
- How might this verse play out in a person's life?
- What keeps you from doing this?
- Can you think of any times you've done this well?

## OBSERVATIONS

**Matthew 16:24-25** - The cross was a clear and obvious symbol for death and suffering. While death and suffering are not a guaranteed outcome of following Christ. There will inevitably be points in time in the life of a Christian where their faith will enable and compel them to sacrifice. One way of rephrasing this might be to say that "If you want to be like Jesus you will have to put your agenda and desires to death, in order to follow Christ."

**Mark 9:35** - There is a paradox present in the Scriptures that goes all the way back to Genesis. God is always favoring the second son, or the servant above the master. There is an element in the Kingdom of God that upends traditional power structures. Jesus displays this paradox

in the most mind blowing and profound way by laying down all the power in the universe and becoming a victim of violence and an offering for sin. If we are align with Jesus we must be "servants of all".

**Matthew 18:2-3** - John Piper summarized this passage like this:

*"the point there is humility. What kind of humility? Well, picture a little child in a stroller standing in a line at a bank with his mom and all these people are around him fret-ting about their finances. And he is asleep in this totally public, anxious, financially driven setting. Why? Because he knows momma is right there. I don't worry about where my next meal is coming from. I don't worry about my finances, whether I am going to be able to pay for college. My momma is right behind the stroller. That is what I know. If I didn't believe that, I would panic. But that is what faith is. So child like faith is a humble faith that sits in a stroller, believes God is standing behind us, doesn't get anxious about all kinds of things. And the reason God gave us brains, mature, adult, sophisticated, hard thinking, studying, brains, is to understand the Bible and the work of God well enough to become that kind of child."*

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/childlike-not-childish>

**Luke 18:9-14** - This verse should be convicting. Quite simply, a man who admitted his sinfulness is justified before God while as someone who was highly disciplined and "devout" was at the same time estranged from God because of his pride and self-righteousness. Are we "confident in t our own righteousness" like the Pharisee or is our posture like that of the tax collector?