

CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM

February 24, 2019

"HEBREWS" - Week 4

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.

MY STORY

1. Who is the most famous celebrity or dignitary you have ever met? Did you have any hesitation or reservations about approaching him or her?

What is something that might have made you less hesitant to approach that person?

2. Pastor Jeff mentioned that we can come to God confidently just as we are because of what Jesus has done for us. Despite this truth, people still think they need to get their act together before coming to God. Can you think of any things people might feel they need to do to try to make sure they are good enough to be able to approach God?

It is not uncommon for people to feel like they need to be good enough before they approach God. This isn't just a degree or two off from what the Scriptures teaches; it is completely antithetical to the Gospel. Despite the fact that we cannot keep our end of the deal, Jesus kept it at the highest possible cost to himself. The notion that we need to achieve a performance benchmark (like quitting smoking or breaking up with a boyfriend or girlfriend) doesn't have its origins in the Scriptures.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. It can be hard to grasp the reality that God understands our weaknesses and struggles and still invites us to come to him to find mercy and grace whenever we need it. Jesus

emphasizes this point in a number of places in the New Testament. How do the following passages help you gain confidence that God really does understand and still invites you into relationship?

Matthew 11:28-30; John 8:1-11

Matthew 11:28-30 English Standard Version (ESV)

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

John 8:1-11 New International Version (NIV)

8

1 but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” 8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. 10 Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

11 “No one, sir,” she said.

“Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

DIGGING DEEPER (cont.)

2. This weekend we learned that not only are we forgiven through Christ but, because of Him, God sees us as beautiful. This can be hard for many people to grasp. Consider the following verses; how do they inform our understanding of how God’s sees us in Christ.

Romans 8:1-2; 1 John 1:9; Hebrews 8:12; 1 Peter 2:9; Ephesians 1:3-7

Romans 8:1-2 (NIV)

Life Through the Spirit

8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Hebrews 8:12 (NIV)

12

For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Ephesians 1:3-7 (NIV)

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace

Possible responses might be:

Romans 8:1-2 - There is no condemnation.

1 John 1:9; - He is faithful and just and will forgive us. You may recall from this past Sunday’s message that God forgiving us because of Jesus sacrifice is not mercy. It is God’s perfect justice that demands we are forgiven through Jesus’ sacrifice.

Hebrews 8:12 - Sins are remembered no more. This challenges the stereotype that many people have that there will be shame and embarrassment when we stand before God.

1 Peter 2:9 - We are God’s special possession. The original language here suggests that we are God’s most prized possession.

Ephesians 1:3-7 - He choose us and we are blameless in His sight. Furthermore, we are adopted as sons and daughters. We are not just creations of God or His subjects, we are his children.

3. This weekend Pastor Jeff emphasized that God invites us to come to him boldly anytime we want. Several other passages in the Bible also talk about us approaching God. What do the following passages tell us about how God wants us to approach him?

Psalms 51:16-17; Luke 18:9-14; Ephesians 3:12

Psalms 51:16-17 (NIV)

16

You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

17

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart
you, God, will not despise.

Luke 18:9-14 (NIV)

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 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. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

13 "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.'

14 "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."

Ephesians 3:12 (NIV)

12 In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Which of the attitudes mentioned in these passages do you relate to most?

The heart behind this question is to help your group realize that God wants us to come to him and He will accept people not based on their own righteousness but that of Jesus. He will even accept us when we come to Him with our anger or tears.

Which is most foreign to you?

TAKING IT HOME

1. This past Sunday we learned that there are 2 aspects to our salvation; the second aspect, being the hardest for most people to comprehend. How can you be more mindful of the second aspect (how God sees us in Christ) this week?
2. Looking back at your notes from this past Sunday, what is the most important thing for you to remember.

