



CROSSROADS
BIBLE CHURCH
CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH
GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM
March 3, 2019
"HEBREWS" - Week 5

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

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 of 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. 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? There is really no wrong answer to this question. Answers could range from an important point in the sermon to how much they were irritated by the Pastors shirt.

MY STORY

This section is designed to be autobiographical for 2 reasons. 1. People are generally more open to talking if they are sharing biographical information so this section can get the conversation going. 2. By sharing these persona details it will engender a spirit of trust and transparency. As a leader you may have to step out first and model an appropriate level of candor and transparency in order to encourage others to do the same.

1. This past weekend Pastor Jeff taught that Jesus came to bring an end to religion. What kind of feelings does the word "religion" conjure for you?

There will likely be several different perspectives on the topic of religion and what the word symbolizes. The goal of this question is to get your group to recognize that it is a loaded term with several different connotations.

Has this changed over time?

2. In our late modern, Western culture, many people view the topic of religion negatively. What are some of the main reasons you think "religion" is viewed this way?

This question is in the same vein as the previous one. The goal is to get your group to consider the cultural baggage that has been pinned to the term "religion" in recent years. In Silicon Valley we should expect the answers to skew differently than they would in other areas of the country or around the world.

DIGGING DEEPER

Hebrews was written to remind us that Jesus is all we need and "greater than" anything else we think we need in order to be called his son or daughter. As you read the following verses, jot down what catches your attention about Jesus and what it means to be one of his followers.

Hebrews 2:9; Hebrews 4:14-16; Hebrews 5:7-10; Hebrews 10:5-10; Hebrews 12:1-2; Hebrews 13:8, 12-15

Hebrews 2:9 (NIV)

9 But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV)

14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 5:7-10 (NIV)

7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. 8 Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered 9 and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him 10 and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 10:5-10 (NIV)

5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:
"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;

6

with burnt offerings and sin offerings

you were not pleased.
7

Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—
I have come to do your will, my God.'"

8 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.

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 13:8 (NIV)

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 13:12-15 (NIV)

12 And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. 13 Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. 14 For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come.

15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

Responses could include:

- Hebrews 2:9 - Jesus tasted death for everyone.
- Hebrews 4:14-16 - We can approach God with confidence.
- Hebrews 5:7-10; a. He was tempted but did not sin. B. He "became the source for eternal salvation".
- Hebrews 10:5-10 - We have been made Holy through the sacrifice of Jesus.
- Hebrews 12:1-2 - The atonement brought Jesus joy. He sat down; indicating his priestly duties are complete.
- Hebrews 13:8, 12-15 - Jesus suffered to make the people holy through His blood. The sacrifice we are now to offer is praise to God for Jesus.

DIGGING DEEPER (cont.)

2. The idea that we are saved from wrath and judgement through Jesus sacrifice on the cross can be difficult for some people to understand. Frequently, people come to Christianity with a self-imposed list of requirements. The Bible tells us that grace is a free

gift that we can't earn and we don't deserve. However, the Bible also tells us how we can live in light of God's grace. Read the following verses and see if you can decide what the writers are saying about what it means to live in light of God's grace.

Hebrews 13:20-25, Acts 1:4-11, Romans 5:6-10, 7:15-8:17, 2 Timothy 1:7, Matthew 28:19-20

Hebrews 13:20-25 (NIV)

20 Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, 21 equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

22 Brothers and sisters, I urge you to bear with my word of exhortation, for in fact I have written to you quite briefly.

23 I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been released. If he arrives soon, I will come with him to see you.

24 Greet all your leaders and all the Lord's people. Those from Italy send you their greetings.

25 Grace be with you all.

Acts 1:4-11 (NIV)

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Romans 5:6-10 (NIV)

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! 10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him

through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

Romans 7:15-8:17 (NIV)

15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature.[a] For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

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[c] free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh,[d] God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.[e] And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. 10 But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life[f] because of righteousness. 11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of[g] his Spirit who lives in you.

12 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.[h] And by him we cry, "Abba,[i] Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are

children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Hebrews 13:20-25 - God "equips us for every good thing" so we can do His will.

Acts 1:4-11 - The Holy Spirit will come into a believer equipping them to be Christ's witnesses.

Romans 5:6-10, 7:15-8:17 The knowledge that we are sinners and Christ died for us and the we are "justified by his blood" would give us a resource for living a life of grateful service.

2 Timothy 1:7 - power love and self-discipline are imbued by the Spirit to empower the believer to live the life that God desires for them.

Matthew 28:19-20 - He sends us out but he is also "with us".

3. On Sunday we explored the tension that some people experience when they try to balance understanding that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone and that we are still called to obedience. Read Romans 6 and consider the following questions:

Romans 6 (NIV)

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. 14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! 16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. 18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

19 I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. 20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. 21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in [b] Christ Jesus our Lord.

- The crux of Paul's argument rests in vv. 16. Think back to before you were a Christian, how might you have responded to the idea that you were a slave?

In most modern western cultures we place a premium on personal liberty. At the same time, because of a black mark in our own history, we tend to view slavery in a very negative light. It's often a challenge to get people to consider that they don't possess the level of autonomy that they thought they did. The point of the question is to help those in your group understand that there are things that motivate our decisions; it could be fear, anxiety, greed, or lust. Conversely, as we grow, God's will can be preeminent in our decisions. In either case, there is something (or someone) influencing our decisions to a surprising degree.

- As a believer, does the notion that we are "slaves to righteousness" raise any questions?

There may be a variety of questions people in your group are contending with in respect to being "slaves to righteousness." One that will likely come up is "If I am a slave to righteousness, why do I continue to sin?" Paul struggled with the same tension (Romans 7:14-25) He concludes by praising Jesus for saving Him when his deeds could not.

- How would you explain vv. 14 to someone reading it for the first time?

This passage is not suggesting that we become sinless. Rather, the Spirit will convict us of sin and empower us to change. This process is called the doctrine of sanctification. We do not arrive at perfection this side of heaven but the process has begun in the life of a believer.