

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE  
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21ST, 2010

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Greater than Moses

*"I don't need a friend who changes when I change and who nods when I nod; my shadow does that much better."*

-Plutarch

"Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy."

-Proverbs 27:6

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Hebrews 3:1-4:13

MEMORY VERSES

This Week: Hebrews 3:12-14

RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE

**Heb 3:1** – Eph 4:1, Phil 3:14, John 20:21, Rom 15:8; **Heb 3:4** – Eph 2:10, 3:9; **Heb 3:5** – Ex 14:31, Deut 18, 34:5, Josh 1:2, 8:31, Ps 105, Rev 15:3; **Heb 3:13** – Is 44:20, Rom 7:11, Eph 4:22; **Heb 3:16** – Num 14:2, 24-30, Deut 1:34-38; **Heb 4:2** – Rom 3:3, Ps 95:11; **Heb 4:12** – 1 Pet 1:23, Jer 23:39, 1 Thes 2:13, Is 49:2, Eph 6:17, Prov 5:4, Rev 1, 1 Cor 14:24-25; **Heb 4:13** – 2 Chr 16:9, Job 26:6, 34:21, Ps 33:13-15

STUDY GUIDE

- **What observations can be made about:**
  - The first imperative command we've seen so far in this book (3:1)
  - The calling which "holy brothers" have received
  - Jesus' nature and character as revealed in verses 3:1-6
  - The conditional statements in this passage (e.g. "if" in verses 3:6 & 3:14)
  - The author's allusion to the Psalms
  - The fragile nature of our constitution and the method for being strengthened in verses 3:12-15
  - The relationship between "faith" and "rest"
  - The present vs. future elements of "rest"
  - The word of God as described in this passage
- **What does each of these things mean? What did they mean for the original readers, what do they mean for us now?**

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?
- How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?
- What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?
- How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?
- What does it mean that following Jesus isn't easy, but it's restful? In what ways is this true for you?
- Why is it important to make a distinction between the ideas of "once saved, always saved", and "always saved, once saved"? How does the order of that phrase affect the way that we live (especially in light of what we're learning in Hebrews)?
- Practically, what does it mean for you to "watch your heart"? What are some ways you've seen others do this well, or *not* well?
- Who are you in *accountable* community with? Who are the people that have permission to call you out if you begin to drift or step out of line?
- What are the unique and distinguishing marks of "Christian community"?

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

-Jesus, Matthew 11:29

## IN THE MEDIA

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xs8nseNP4s0>

## FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- *The Race Set Before Us: A Biblical Theology of Perseverance & Assurance* – Schreiner & Caneday
- *Hebrews: A Call to Commitment* – William Lane

## NEXT WEEK'S TEXT

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

40 DAYS OF PRAYER  
COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE  
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21, 2010

PREPARING TO PRAY

"Prayer is not acting a part or going through religious motions. Prayer is neither official nor formal nor ceremonial, but direct, hearty, intense. Prayer is not religious work which must be gone through, and avails because well done. Prayer is the helpless and needy child crying to the compassion of the father's heart and the bounty and power of a father's hand.

**E.M. Bounds, The Complete Works on Prayer**

"Apart from me you can do nothing...If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

**Jesus, John 15:5,7-8**

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOCUS

**For the Vision and Direction of the church:**

**CHRIST** – That Jesus would be treasured by more and more people in our city, that he would be greater in our own lives, and that as we learn to love and follow him in greater ways we would be continually shaped by his gospel.

Before praying, you or someone else in the group might set the stage for this focus by sharing briefly about the transformation they've experienced in Jesus and the need to extend that transforming gospel to all areas of our city.

Pray for\*:

- His increase and our decrease (John 3:30)
- Our Sunday worship gatherings (Acts 2:46-47)
- That people would confidently invite their friends into the Apostles community and that the gospel would be clearly displayed (Eph 3:14-21)
- Those who are visiting/attending Apostles that do not yet comprehend the love of God through the Gospel of Jesus (Eph 3:17b-19)
- That we would become a "story-telling" community of people who compellingly express the reality of what God is doing amongst us (Rom 10:14-15)
- For favor with our co-workers, friends and neighbors (Acts 2:47)
- That we would grow in boldness and sensitivity as we tell people about Jesus (1 Pet 3:15-16)

\*Consider having some of the above verses opened for reading amongst your group

**Praying In Response to the This Week's Text:**

- Praising God for his absolute holiness
- Confessing our hard and unbelieving hearts
- Thanking Jesus for being our high priest and making for us a way to commune with God
- Asking God to give us rest now and endurance to stand until we're delivered into the final rest in Christ