

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28TH, 2010

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Our Great High Priest

"Humility is the only soil in which the graces root; the lack of humility is the sufficient explanation of every defect and failure. Humility is not so much a grace or virtue along with others; it is the root of all, because it alone takes the right attitude before God, and allows Him as God to do all."

-Andrew Murray

"The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business."

-James 1:9-11

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: Hebrews 3:12-14

This Week: Hebrews 4:15-16

RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE

Heb 4:14 – Eph 4:10; Heb 2:17, 10:21-23; 1 Tim 6:16; **Heb 4:15** – Is 53:3; 1 Pet 2:22; 1 John 3:5; John 8:46, 14:30; **Heb 4:16** – Eph 3:12; Heb 7:19-25, 10:19; **Heb 5:3** – Lev 4:3, 9:7, 16:6; **Heb 5:4** – Num 16, 18; 2 Chr 23, 26; Ex 28; **Heb 5:5** – John 8:54; **Heb 5:6** – Psalm 110:4; 2 Tim 2:5; **Heb 5:7** – Matt 26:39; Mark 14:36-39, 15:34-37; Luke 22-23; Psalm 22; **Heb 5:8** – Phil 2:8; Heb 1:2

STUDY GUIDE

- **What observations can be made about:**
 - The significance of the title "high priest"
 - The statements about Jesus' person and work in 4:14
 - The relationship between temptation, sin and empathy
 - The posture of approaching "the throne of grace"
 - The office of priest as described in 5:1-4
 - Jesus' appointment as high priest
 - Prayer from the example of Jesus' earthly ministry
 - Obedience, suffering & salvation
- **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?
- Do you tend to approach God more frequently flippantly, or with fear? What does that say about the way you view God and relate to him?
- What difference does it make whether we view God in his transcendence or his imminence?
- How is it that Jesus reveals the imminence of God while maintaining the transcendence of God? What does this say about Jesus?
- Do you ever find yourself putting hope in people that should rather be placed in Jesus? What has been the result of that misplaced trust?
- What is following Jesus currently costing you?
- In this culture, in this city, in your particular life situation, why does following Jesus require courage? What decisions have you made recently that have been courageous ones, and ones that you would not have made if not for trying to follow Jesus?
- How does Jesus as the high priest, who has been tempted and has suffered in every way, empower you to live? What does it matter that he has been tempted and suffered?

“Humility is not thinking less of yourself but thinking of yourself less.”
-C.S. Lewis

IN THE MEDIA

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8rJnB9F5To>

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
- *Transforming Grace: Living Confidently in God’s Unfailing Love* – Jerry Bridges
- *Humility* - Andrew Murray

NEXT WEEK’S TEXT

TBD

40 DAYS OF PRAYER
COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE
WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28, 2010

PREPARING TO PRAY

"Heavenly Father, in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy City to which the nations of the world bring their glory: Behold and visit, we pray, the cities of the earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*"

The Book of Common Prayer

"Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

Jer 29:7

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOCUS

For the Vision and Direction of the church:

City – That we would have a growing love for our city and its people. That God would bring about great transformation in its industries, professions, arts and culture. That God's people would be active and integral in its blessing and growth.

Before praying, you or someone else in the group might introduce this focus by sharing briefly about what it means to live out the mission of the church by extending the hope of the gospel to our city.

Pray for*:

- The peace of our city
- The economy of our city: that jobs would be created, that industry would proliferate, that the rich would not trust in riches and that the poor would be empowered
- Our local officials: for honesty, integrity, discernment, wisdom and perseverance
- Churches in our city: that they would be strengthened, protected, empowered to preach the gospel, and growing
- Families and children in our city
- The schools and students in our city
- Our artists, actors and performers
- Our civil servants: firefighters, police, sanitation workers & medical workers

*Consider having some applicable passages read as part of the above prayers

Praying In Response to the This Week's Text:

- Praising God for both his holiness and his accessibility
- Confessing our immense need of grace and forgiveness
- Thanking Jesus for serving faithfully as our perfect high priest
- Asking God to empower us in persevering with great courage