

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE
WEEK OF JANUARY 31ST, 2010

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

The Incomparable Greatness of Jesus

“...Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2.6-11

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Hebrews 1.1-14

RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE

Philippians 2.6-11, John 1.1-5, John 1.9-18, Colossians 1.15-22, Mark 16.19, Psalm 2.7, Hebrews 5.5, Psalm 45

STUDY GUIDE

- **What observations can be made about:**
 - The author of this passage
 - The genre of literature this passage falls into
 - The way this genre is intended to be read
 - The way Jesus is depicted here
 - The importance of his exaltation
 - The depth of his humility
 - The way his humility contributed to his own exaltation
 - The fact that chapter 1 never mentions humankind at all

- **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?
- How clearly is the greatness of Jesus portrayed here?
- How does Jesus stand before all things? In the midst of all things? After all things?
- Why is it important for the Hebrews (and us) to dwell on Christ's greatness?
- In view of Jesus' supreme greatness, what ought we think of the "Nero" (as Pastor JR described)? How does this effect our interaction with culture?
- What kind of guilt do we struggle with in our interactions with God?
- What happens to this guilt when we fully understand the implications of the almighty Son humbling himself to the point of death to make purification for our sins?
- What does the awe and intimacy we share with Jesus look like?
- How is the Christian life a holistic response to the greatness and grace of Jesus?

"All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

–John 1.3-5

MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: Hebrews 10.35-36

This Week: Hebrews 1.1-4

PRAYER FOCUS

For the Vision and Direction of the church (January):

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.

In Response to the Text:

- Praising God that Jesus is both the ultimate Message and the ultimate Messenger
- Praising God for both his greatness and his grace
- Confessing the idols that we hold greater than Jesus
- Confessing the fears that hold us back from accepting his grace
- Thanking God for sending his own Son as our Savior and Hope
- Asking God to reveal the fullness of the Gospel to us
- Asking God to grow us in walking in the resulting confidence of his love

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 2