

LIFE GROUP – WEEK NINE



Jesus Is Our High Priest

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

This Winter, we are experiencing God's presence together by encountering Jesus in the Book of Hebrews. This week, we began to look at one of the major themes of the entire book of Hebrews: Jesus as our High Priest. This is good news for all of us, because it means that through him, we can draw near to God with confidence, and find mercy and grace to help in time of need.

GETTING STARTED

We start each week by intentionally being present to one another. If you need a little help getting the conversation going, consider starting with these questions...

Ice Breaker

Who is the person you've never met that's had the biggest impact on your life? (Besides Jesus - you've met him!)

Going Deeper

Have you begun any new practices to experience God's presence this year? If so, how's it been going?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Our discipleship to Jesus is meant to be a holistic way of living, involving our whole selves - **head, heart, and hands**. While each person will likely gravitate to one of these over the others, it's important we all consider how God's love affects our minds, our hearts, and our actions.

REMINDER: These guides are meant to facilitate PRESENCE - to God and one another - not to check boxes. Feel free to let conversation naturally flow to whichever questions connect with you personally. As the Spirit leads you, feel free to set aside this guide to pause, praise, and pray together.

HEAD

What do you know about the role of priests (especially the High Priest) in the Bible? Based on what you know, what do you think the significance is that Jesus is called our Great High Priest?

Hebrews 5:9 says, "he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him." How do we reconcile this emphasis on obedience (works) with the invitation to rest (faith) from last week?

HEART

Do you ever feel the pull to turn to false "priests" (political priests, self-help priests, beauty priests, financial priests, pleasure priests, etc.)? What does that look like in your life? How can you reject the false priests of culture to embrace Jesus as your Great High Priest?

Jesus is a high priest who is able to "sympathize with our weaknesses." How do you feel weak? How does it impact you to know that Jesus sympathizes with you in your weakness?

HANDS

Pastor Bubba gave some practical examples of how we can "draw near to the throne of grace": praying, reading Scripture, meditating, worshiping, etc. Which of these come most naturally to you? Which is more of a challenge?

Have you ever spent time meditating on the throne of God? If so, what's that like for you? What do you notice about God in those times?

PRACTICE OF PRESENCE

Close your discussion with a time of extended prayer, meditating together on the throne of God (10-15min).

Have someone read each of the following passages of Scripture, giving 1-2 minutes between each reading. Imagine yourself in the throne room of God. What do you see? Hear? Smell? Feel? Who else is there? What are you noticing about God? What do you want to do or say? Share these things aloud and pray into them.

Scriptures: Isaiah 6:1-6; Ezekiel 1:26-2:2; Daniel 7:9-10; Revelation 4:2-11