

Jesus Is Purifying Us

Hebrews 9:1-14

This Winter, we are experiencing God's presence together by encountering Jesus in the Book of Hebrews. This week, we encountered Hebrews 9 - a chapter full of ancient religious relics and rituals - tabernacles and curtains, atonement and sacrifices. And yet, if we take the time to orient ourselves to God's grand story, we find that Hebrews is talking directly to us: sinners, separated from God, in desperate need of a Savior who can not only cover our sin, but purify our conscience.

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

What would be more difficult to go without for a week: a cell phone or a personal vehicle?

Going Deeper

Write down an unexpected fact about yourself. Then have one person read all the facts and guess whose is whose.

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

Read Leviticus chapter 16. (Note: this will probably take 5-10 minutes) What does it show you about the gravity of our sin and our need for purification?

How do you tend to respond when a passage of Scripture doesn't initially make sense or is not clear in how it applies to you?

HEART

How do you feel hearing that your sin creates separation between you and God? Angry? Sad? Self-condemning? Defiant? Defensive?

Do you tend to fall more into the category of having a seared conscience or a sensitive conscience? How has that impacted your relationship with Jesus?

HANDS

What is one area where Jesus is currently purifying your conscience? Think of an area where he is helping you see and embrace his truth with greater clarity.

Jesus purifies you for a purpose: to serve the living God. What is one thing Jesus is inviting you to do in this season to serve God - not in order to be pure, but because he has made you pure?

PRACTICE OF PRESENCE

Close your discussion with a time of extended prayer (10-15min).

Before praying, take a moment to have group members share a current prayer request. As each person shares, pause and pray for that person individually.