

Jesus Is Our Sacrifice

Hebrews 10:1-18

This Spring, we are experiencing God's presence together by encountering Jesus in the Book of Hebrews. This week, we explore the beautiful biblical theme of sacrifice: in Jesus, we are covered by the perfect life of a substitute sacrifice who makes us perfect before God and sanctifies us daily. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, our sins are forgiven. And where there is forgiveness, there is no longer any offering for sin.

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 your personal theme song?

Going Deeper

What's the best compliment you've ever received?

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 examples of sacrifices can you think of from the Old Testament? How do those relate to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross?

Why do you think Jesus said "sacrifices and offerings you have not desired" if God is the one who instituted the sacrificial system?

HEART

When we mistake our state (sinners being sanctified) with our standing (perfect in Christ), we usually end up making some kind of false sacrifice to try to secure our standing before God: personal suffering, self-inflicted discipline, elaborate promises, religious performance...

Which of these can you identify in your own story?

What about this passage is most challenging to you personally?

HANDS

Is there an area of your life where you have trouble embracing God's forgiveness for yourself? If you feel comfortable, share with the group and allow them to speak the truth of forgiveness over you.

Jesus and the apostles repeatedly tied God's forgiveness for us to our forgiveness of others. Who might God be inviting you to share his forgiveness with?

PRACTICE OF PRESENCE

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

When Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he explicitly tied God's forgiveness to their forgiveness - "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." And when he had resurrected, "he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'" (John 20:22-23)

Spend some time together offering prayers of confession, specifically confessing the people, situations, or sins around you that God is calling you to forgive. If you are struggling to forgive in those areas, ask the Holy Spirit for help.

Then spend time enjoying your forgiveness in Jesus - thank him for his justification, his sanctification, and his ongoing work to not only forgive you, but to redeem you fully.