Draw Near: The Gospel According to Hebrews

Jesus: The Kingdom

HEBREWS 13:10-21

SETTING THE SCENE

In this passage we are invited to live differently: Jesus our high priest doesn't remain in the sanctuary alone—he goes out, bearing our shame and disgrace. In the same way, the church is not just a safe space, but a sending community. We live as citizens of a different city, bearing witness to another kingdom. We are called to "go outside the camp" with Jesus—to carry the truth of the gospel, serve the hurting, and live lives that show God's presence in the world.

SCRIPTURE

10 We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. 11 For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. 12 So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.

13 Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. 14 For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. 15 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. 16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. 19 I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner.

CORE TRUTH

Jesus left heaven to seek the lost. He calls us to follow him beyond our comfort—to carry the gospel into a world in need.

20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.



DISCIPLESHIP GROUP GUIDELINES

- Safe Group: We strive for an environment where everyone can be open, and honest about his or her struggles and victories.
- Confidentiality: What is said in the group stays in the group.
- Listen: We want to value one another by really listening to what is being shared. Try to avoid thinking about how you are going to respond while someone is sharing.
- Pause: Allowing a pause in the conversation after one person shares and before the next person shares gives the person sharing a chance to finish. A pause also gives the group an opportunity to consider before responding.
- Silence: It is important to allow silence in the group as it provides an opportunity for people to think deeply, to gather their thoughts in order to share, and to genuinely consider what others have shared.
- One Conversation at a Time: Be considerate of others as they are sharing. No side conversations.
- No Fixing: We are not here to fix each other; Jesus does that part. Give encouragement and ask questions, but try not to solve or fix one another.
- No Rescuing: When people are sharing something deeply personal, please resist the tendency to try to make them feel better about themselves or their situation by providing immediate condolences. This will often cause people to stop sharing.
- Be Curious: By asking the next question, we communicate genuine interest. We keep the conversation moving forward while building relationships and intimacy.
- Be Self-Aware: Be mindful of how you are personally affecting the small group environment through your words, actions, and non-verbal communication. Be sensitive about the amount of time you share, whether too much (dominating) or not enough (hiding).
- Use "I" Statements: It is very easy to talk about other people's issues, but, for our purposes, we want to put ourselves on the table. Use "I" statements rather than "them", "the church", "people", "you", "us", "we", etc.
- Resolve Conflict Biblically: As a group we commit to extend grace to one another. Conflict is not bad, it's an opportunity for growth. We are all being transformed to be more like Jesus. Conflict and change are a part of that journey. (Matthew 18)
- Manage Technology: Let's respect one another by silencing alerts on our devices.

