

DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These "Sermon Discussion Questions" are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

Scriptures for further study:

Hebrews 1-13

Hebrews 7:27

Hebrews 11:32-38

1. Look up Hebrews 12:1. What does the word "persevere" mean? Think about "the cloud of witnesses in your world". List and discuss examples of persevering faith? How might we have a faith which causes us to be daring?

2. What does the word "supreme" mean? What are the things that I consider "supreme" (beyond pizza)? From the sermon, in what way is Jesus supreme? What are the implications of being a "son" or a "daughter"? How is Jesus' status as Son unique? (Hebrews 1:2-3)

3. Pastor Bill shared in his sermon, "That is whole Bible is ultimately about Jesus...and pointing to Him as the culmination of God's plan for redemption". How might this reality bring refreshing new opportunities and fresh insight to personal Bible study (especially when following a Bible reading plan)?

4. Hebrews 11 describes heroic examples of daring faith, and these examples are in part what the preacher of Hebrews is referring to in Hebrews chapter 12. It is easy to disconnect our time and our circumstances from such incredible examples of daring faith from the passage. But in no way are these present moments of Christian daring any less important just because we don't face being "sawn in two". Pause and reflect on moments from your life where the Lord gave you the opportunity to trust him daringly. (It could be that you worked at a restaurant, and you saw your direct report mishandle resources and you risked hardship from them to let the operator of the store know what was happening.) What daring opportunities lay ahead?

Praise to Jesus

Reflect: Pause right now (and when prompted by the Holy Spirit during the week) to praise God that the One who has a supreme and unique status is our savior and brother Jesus. Take the time to rejoice that His Gospel helps to bring clarity and motivation to all of life's situations and circumstances.

Repentance through Jesus- Create space this week to reflect and confess to the Lord the many ways that we often look to other things to console and comfort us when trials and sufferings come our way So often, we make more of our circumstances than we do of the Savior on the hill who says, "look to me, fix your eyes on me." We resolve that the race we're in just isn't working for us, rather than developing the endurance to keep running. Confess that we often look more for situational changes than changes of the heart.

Consecration for Jesus - Why not mark on a calendar today's date as the day you committed your life to running the race that God has placed before you? As you do, resolve to keep the eyes of your heart fixed on Jesus Determine that your vision of His greatness and glory, His supreme and unique status as God's son and your Savior is all the grace you need to endure (daily and daringly) whatever is placed before you.

Scriptures for further study:

Luke 9:23

Luke 24:13-35

“Pastoral discipleship from the pulpit for you through the week.
Each of our pastors has designed content with you in mind.”

FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

If you want to connect with our family ministries, contact Pastor Ken (kenc@fpcrome.org)

1. Play a game with your children where you cannot speak but must communicate a word or phrase. After each of your family members tries it, then talk about the experience and the difficulty of communicating without speaking.
 - a. In Hebrews 1:1-2 we read of God speaking through prophets and then through His Son, Jesus. Ask your children what they think is the significance of God speaking to His People.
 - b. This is an important part of understanding God. He is a God of revelation. He wants us to understand who He is.
 - c. Ask your children about why God speaking through His Son would be the most important communication from God.
2. Ask your children to pick out descriptions of the person and work of Jesus from Hebrews 1:2-3 (Son, heir of all things, Creator, radiance of God’s glory, exact imprint of his nature, upholds the universe, made purification for our sins, sits at the right hand of the Father).
 - a. Ask them which of these descriptions is their favorite. Why?
 - b. Ask them which of these descriptions they do not understand. Take time to discuss the ones they don’t understand.
 - c. During Jesus’ ministry He asked His disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” Talk with your children about the fact that this is the most important question we will answer in our lives. Depending on the ages of your children, this may be a great time to talk about what it means to repent of our sins and place our trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior.
 - d. Take time to praise God for sending the gift of His Son, Jesus.
3. The book of Hebrews is all about persevering through life by the promises of God in Jesus Christ. We will discover the repeated theme of Jesus being better or greater than anything else in which we could place our trust.
 - a. Ask your children how they see that theme in this passage.
 - b. Take time to tell your children about how knowing and trusting in Jesus has strengthened you at different times of your life.
 - c. Pastor Bill talked about how we can be more daring in our lives because of knowing and trusting in Jesus. Talk with your children about why that is and what that looks like.
 - d. Talk with your children about why Jesus is a greater Savior than anything else we try to look to save us.

Scriptures for further study:

John 1:1-14

Colossians 1:15-20

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 8:27-30.

Big Idea

Because of Jesus’ supreme and unique status as Son, let us look to the Gospel to illuminate all that God has said in His word in order that we might persevere in faith daily and daringly.

Outline

1. The Supremacy and Uniqueness of Jesus’ Status.

2. The Revelation of God.

3. The Daily and Daring Perseverance that God calls us to in Jesus.

4. Praise to Jesus

5. Repentance through Jesus

6. Consecration for Jesus

“JESUS: OUR DAILY AND DARING ENDURANCE”

Hebrews 1:1-3 ESV

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

Purpose of Hebrews

“The Jewish Christians to whom this letter was sent were in the author’s view in serious spiritual danger...the striking sequence of warning passages, combined with the repeated exhortations to persevere suggests their continued allegiance to Christ was in doubt and the author was seriously worried they might give up their Christian profession altogether. One reason for concern was the suffering and persecution they had already faced...these Jewish Christians might well look over their shoulders and wonder whether they had taken the right step, and the more so when following Jesus seemed only to have brought greater suffering...so the writer’s argument from the opening salvo to the middle of Ch. 10 consists of a series of comparative studies in each of which the glories of the OT religion are shown not to be succeeded by something “better” the ultimate fulfillment that has come through ‘the Son’ ...surely there can be no going back to the old way when the new is in every way better.” -*Tremper Longman, EBC, 23-25*

FOR STUDENTS

If you want to connect with our student ministries, contact Pastor Jimmy (jimmyl@fpcrome.org)

1. Look at verse one of our passage again. What has taken place “long ago”? What is the author of Hebrews referring to here? To whom did God speak and whom did he speak by? What does this tell us about how God spoke in the past?

2. To what other places do you sometimes turn to hear God “speak” besides Jesus and the prophets?

3. What is God’s Son the heir of? What did God do through His Son? (Verse 2)

4. What is the identity and role of the Son?

5. What characteristics of Jesus stood out to you from this passage? How did those encourage you?

6. How should Jesus’ position of power and exaltation affect your everyday life?

**Selected questions borrowed and adapted from Hebrews for You by Michael J. Kruger and Hebrews: How Jesus Speaks into Everything by John D. Barry.*

Scriptures for further study:

1 Peter 1:10-12

Colossians 1:16-17

John 1:3

FOR NON-BELIEVERS OR NEW BELIEVERS

If you want to know more about Jesus and Christianity, contact Pastor Jonathan (jonathans@fpcrome.org)

1. If one were to conduct some man-on-the-street interviews with people regarding "Who is Jesus Christ?" What sort of responses do you think you would get?

2. What does this passage teach about who Jesus really is? What claims does this passage make about Jesus' divinity, his power, and his role as both Creator and Savior?

3. According to one commentator, the Book of Hebrews addresses three distinct groups of people: 1) believers; 2) unbelievers who were convinced of the basic truths of the gospel but who had not yet put their faith in Jesus; and 3) unbelievers who were not convinced of the gospel's truth but had had some exposure to it. In which of these categories do you currently find yourself?

4. The central motif of the Book of Hebrews is the idea of "better" or "more" or "greater." That is, that Jesus is better and superior to anything with which one might compare him. I encourage you throughout this coming journey through Hebrews, to consider how a relationship with Jesus Christ is far better and superior to anything you have experienced before. Would you open your heart to receive all the superior blessings he offers?

Like Christina. But even more so...we need something to fix our gaze upon...we need a home to pull us forward...and according to Hebrews, that is Jesus Christ...like the home on the hill in the painting, Jesus is the pinnacle of God's plan of redemption...so considering this painting and background, here these words afresh from Hebrews chapter 12, verses 1-2:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and the sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

And so, church, let's begin this journey in Hebrews together...which is not disconnected from our humanity and our struggles...for we to live in Christina's world...a world of suffering, pain, and hardship...but we are in a relationship with the savior, Jesus, who has overcome the world...and because of His supremacy, calls us to fix our eyes on Him in order that we might persevere in faith. -Tremper Longman, EBC, 23-25

About the artwork

Andrew Wyeth is perhaps the most famous American artist of the 20th century. He, along with John Singer Sargent, are the only two American artists invited into the Academy of Fine Art in Paris, France. President Kennedy awarded Wyeth the presidential medal of freedom, the only visual artist to receive such an award. He was also awarded presidential medals from George H Bush and George W Bush.

His art is connected to his humanity. He was a man that experienced loss and grief in this broken and fallen world and often expressed his pain in visual form through art.

His most famous work, and the one that best expresses his struggle with pain and grief, is a painting called Christina's World (1948). Christina is a friend of Wyeth and had a disease that left her unable to walk. Instead of choosing a wheelchair, she preferred to crawl using her arms. The painting is a picture of her struggle...but it is also a picture of her hope...in the painting her hands are gripped to the ground portraying her daily suffering, yet her body is leaning towards the farmhouse, which was her home. Life was a struggle, but her gaze and hope were on her home, which kept her moving forward and not giving up.

The book of Hebrews has a very similar theme...the writer expresses the hope and gaze of home in the person and work of Jesus Christ...the struggle to give up or turn back was very real for the audience...most scholars believe the original audience was Jewish Christians who were facing persecution...it would have been a struggle for them to keep moving forward in the profession of Jesus Christ because with that profession came pain and hardship.

ADDITIONAL NOTES



FPC

ADULT DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

GOD'S WORD • GOD'S PEOPLE • GOD'S MISSION

What is Pulpit Driven Discipleship?

Discipleship from the pulpit to communities therein pressed into the head, heart and hands of image bearers of God every day.

Pulpit Driven Discipleship is the name of a process of discipleship. Discipleship begins on Sunday with the sermon faithfully preached by our pastors then the message of sermon is digested and pressed into the heart throughout the week through prayer reflection and discussion in the home or in smaller discussion groups. It is in this context that life transformation and growth occur.

The pastoral leadership team and the Adult Discipleship Ministry Team are excited to walk together this Fall through the message of the Book of Micah. Please prayerfully consider incorporating PDD as your primary means of discipleship. We believe that PDD is appropriate for individuals, couples, families, and groups of all kinds. This great resource can be found in the bulletin on Sunday, and will be available on-line and via email each week.

Director of Adult Discipleship Rob Davis welcomes discussion, questions, and comments of all kinds. Rob Davis 706-252-5216, RobD@fpcrome.org

PULPIT DRIVEN DISCIPLESHIP



Andrew Wyeth, Christina's World, 1948 ;

Perseverance by Promise ***A Study of the Sermon to the Hebrews***

January 9, 2022