

## 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:

Isaiah 53

Romans 8:20, 2

Corinthians 4:17

Acts 16

Psalms 22

1. What does the word "devastate" mean? Has there been a time when that word devastate was applicable to your own circumstances? How does the suffering of Christ connect with your own suffering? Have you fallen into a trap of measuring your own spiritual health or the spirituality of others based upon appearances or circumstances?

2. Over the course of your life what events which have overshadowed the decades and how did culture perceive them? To what two worlds is the writer of Hebrews referring? What is a Gospel-shaped perspective that a Christian can embrace and share regarding life in this world?

3. Pastor Bill preached, "No suffering is ever wasted in Jesus Christ." What does that mean practically in the day-to-day life of a Christian?

4. To what does "the exaltation of Jesus" refer? What are the two primary purposes of Jesus' exaltation? (See Hebrews 2: 5 & 8 for the first purpose and Hebrews 2:10 for the second purpose)

5. The singing of Jesus What are some of your favorite songs? Do any of your favorite songs provide encouragement when you sing them or hear them? (Refer to Hebrews 2:12) Jesus sings over us and he leads us to sing with him. How can the singing of Jesus be an encouragement? What are some of your favorite worship songs? How can singing be a part of your day if it's not?

6. Christians have such a hope because we have such a help! Our big brother Jesus has and is fighting for us. Spend time today praising God for our suffering, exalted, and singing savior!

7. It is easy to get overwhelmed by suffering and it easier still to have difficulty seeing a purpose in it. If the idea of purpose in suffering is new, or if your circumstances are such that there seems to be no purpose confess this to Jesus and share this with a Christian friend who is outside of the circumstances for help seeing the wondrous work of Jesus during it.

8. From the sermon..."There is no more powerful testimony to one another and to the world around us, that in midst of suffering in a cursed world that Christians would find that heart and motivation to sing. Only an all-sufficient salvation...only the beauty redemption in Jesus Christ could do that." During the day today, seek the Savior to ask him for a song (or songs) that you might sing to Him and to yourself during hard times.

### **Praise to Jesus**

Praise to Jesus – spend some time praising God for the suffering, exaltation and singing of Jesus. What does that mean for you in world under a curse?

**Repentance through Jesus-** spend some time today repenting for the moments where you thought your suffering lacked purpose or you allowed your suffering to take your eyes off of Jesus and the wondrous work He has done for you

**Consecration for Jesus** – spend some time today rededicating yourself embracing the One who leads us through suffering, who through His crown of glory invited you to share in it, and to singing the songs of our savior during our affliction as a testimony to His sufficient grace above all things, including your circumstances.

One author describes it this way: "The sufferings of a Christian are so called because they are endured for the sake of Christ and in conformity to His suffering."

“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. Hebrews 2:6-8 quotes Psalm 8:4-6. Read Psalm 8 together. This psalm marvels at God’s creation and how He placed us as humans as the pinnacle of His creation and as stewards over it.

- a. Ask your children what their favorite part of God’s creation is and why it is their favorite.
- b. Talk about how humanity’s sin meant that there was a need for a Savior to come into the world that will be the perfect steward and that Savior is Jesus.

2. Hebrews 2:5 and 2:8 speak of the world being under the subjection of Jesus as Lord and King. Ask your children if they can describe what it means to be a king and to be a subject to the king.

- a. Go back and read Hebrews 1: 3-4 and point out to your children that when we read that Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven it is another way to say that He has all power and rules all things.
- b. If your children are old enough (maybe 9 years old or above), ask them about Hebrews 2:8 where we read, “we do not yet see everything in subjection to him”. Talk with them about this period in between Jesus’ First Coming and Second Coming in which we still have sin in the world. This means that we still experience tough things until Christ returns, but Christ is still in control and He has promised to be with us always (Matthew 28:20). You can also talk about how God has allowed this time so more will come to believe in Jesus.

3. Read Hebrews 2:9 and ask them what they think about Jesus being a King who freely gave His life for us. Tell them of the title for Jesus from Isaiah 52:13-53:12, which is the Suffering Servant. Make sure to point out to them that we see the extent of Jesus’ love for us in that He was willing to die in our place.

- a. Ask them if this fact causes them to want to serve Christ more or less. And why or why not?

### Outline

1. Our Cursed World.

---

---

2. The Suffering of Jesus.

---

---

3. The Exaltation of Jesus.

---

---

4. The Singing of Jesus.

---

---

5. Praise to Jesus

---

---

6. Repentance through Jesus

---

---

7. Consecration for Jesus

---

---

Scriptures for further study:

Matthew 28:18

Mark 10:45

Philippians 2:5-11

# “GOSPEL SUFFERING”

## Hebrews 2:5-13 ESV

**5** Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. **6** It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? **7** You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, **8** putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. **9** But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. **10** For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. **11** For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, **12** saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." **13** And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me."

## Big Idea

In a world where we've lost our grip on life and are devastated by the effects of a curse, best look to the One who crippled the curse and punched a hole into another world.

In Other Words:  
The context and courage to stand in faith today is the Perfect Savior who proudly calls you brother.

## FOR STUDENTS

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

1. What is the impact of recognizing who the Founder of Salvation is? (Verse 5, Hebrews 2:1)

2. The author of Hebrews quotes Psalm 8:4-6 in Heb 2:6-8. Read Psalm 8. What is the primary theme of the psalm? What light does this psalm shed on the author's argument about the Son's place in the world, and among the heavenly beings?

3. The author uses "Son of God" terminology in chapter 1. What is the author's intention in using a quote that refers to the "son of man" in this passage?

4. What is He "crowned" with? What is subjected to Him? (verses 8&9)

5. The author draws a conclusion in 2:8 from Psalm 8:4-6. What is this conclusion?

6. Does the Son's reign consist of power over your life? If so, what does this look like?

*\*Selected questions borrowed and adapted from Hebrews: How Jesus speaks into everything by John D. Barry.*

## FOR NON-BELIEVERS OR NEW BELIEVERS

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

Scriptures for  
further study:

Psalm 8

Philippians 2:6-11

1. Hebrews 2:6-8 is a reference to Psalm 8, in which the Psalmist praises God for His majesty as he considers the heavens, the stars, and the moon that God has made. Yet, considering the immensity and grandeur of it all, the Psalmist marvels at how God should care so deeply about mankind. It's true, we are all pretty insignificant in some respects. But let God's word comfort you by reminding you that in His eyes, you are immensely significant! He sent His Son to die for you because you are so highly loved and prized by Him.

2. Hebrews 2:9 says that he "tasted death," which does not mean that he simply sampled death but that he fully partook of death. He endured the fullness of suffering and death on our behalf. How does this impact you? What type of response would you offer?

3. The original audience to whom the Book of Hebrews is addressed is probably experiencing a profound sense of loneliness or the sense that the entire world was against them. Have you ever felt like this? But we are also told here that Jesus became a man and suffered, perfectly identifying with us, and gaining a perfect and unlimited capacity to sympathize with us in our troubles. How does this impact your understanding of Jesus, and your understanding of the kind of relationship you can have with him?

4. Our passage uses several references to God's people as being a family. Are you currently part of God's family because of believing in Jesus Christ? He is "bringing many sons to glory" (verse 10). Are you one of them? Do you know that in saving us, Jesus says that we actually become sons or daughters of God? Would you desire to become one of God's beloved children and have that kind of close and personal relationship with him?

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



## 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 through the Book of Hebrews. 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 30, 2022**