

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.

1. Take a moment to read the Big Idea. What does it mean that Jesus Christ is the "God-man"? What are the wonderful implications of Jesus being the "God-man"? (See Isaiah 53)

2. Read Hebrews 2:14. What does the word "destroy" mean? How did Jesus "destroy" Satan? Read John 10:7. In light of what Jesus has accomplished. How can we now look at "death as a doorway"? What "death" are you facing now, or have you faced recently, how do you view it?

3. Refer to the quotation by C.S Lewis regarding temptation. How can we live "sheltered" lives? In ways do we give into the lie that, "Jesus' life, death, and resurrection only has significance for the future but not your present?"

4. Have you been living a sheltered life? Have you given into the lie that says Jesus' life, death, and resurrection only has significance for your future and not your present? Spend some time in prayer. Confess this to the Lord and repent.

5. Jesus suffered when he was tempted, and Jesus can help those who are being tempted. Jesus did this in order that the same Helper, the Holy Spirit who strengthened Him in the precious promises of God, which were far sweeter than temptation, would forever be present in our lives to strengthen us in the sweetness of those promises during our struggles against evil and temptation. Re-read Hebrews 2:14-18.

Reflect & Pray

Praise Jesus for all that He has done and continues to do for us.

6. Have you been living a sheltered life? Have you given into the lie that says Jesus' life, death, and resurrection only has significance for your future and not your present? Spend some time in prayer. Confess this to the Lord and repent.

7. Jesus, through his life, death, and resurrection, has not only turned death into a doorway, but has also turned temptation into trust. Because the God-man, Jesus Christ, has turned death into a doorway and temptation into trust, today's full-range of emotions and circumstances are opportunities to walk in faith and not in fear. Open the doors of death and help those good folks who are living behind closed doors to open the up through the power of Jesus' blood-bought righteousness.

"The emphasis in the passage on Christ's personal experience of temptation suggests that this help includes the strength for them to stand firm in the face of their own trials, particularly the temptation to be disloyal to God."
– Peter O'Brien

"When the devil seduced our first parents into sin, he brought them under the curse of death...ever since, the devil and his minions have tormented man by means of the fear of death."
– Richard Phillips

“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 2:14 and 2:17 mention that Jesus took on flesh and became human in order for Him to be the Savior of us as humans. Talk with your children about the marvel of God the Son coming down to a sin-cursed creation. He gave up the perfection of heaven to come and save us.

- a. Ask your children what the scariest place in the world is for them. Ask them why it is scary. Then ask them to think about going there to help others.

2. In Hebrews 2:14-15 we read that Jesus’ victory included defeating death and the devil. In particular, 2:15 says that we are delivered from the “fear of death” through Jesus’ death and resurrection. This fear of death has to do with our sins and the punishment that is due to us from our sin. We see in Hebrews 2:17 the author mentions the forgiveness of sins.

- a. Talk with your children about a time in your life when you feared a punishment that was coming maybe at school or at home. Ask your children if they have ever been afraid of a punishment that was coming.
- b. Talk with your children about the wonder of the gospel of Jesus and how He took our punishment for us on the cross. Read 1 John 4:18 and Romans 8:1. Take time to praise God for salvation that we have in Jesus.

3. Hebrews 2:18 says that Jesus is able to help us when we are tempted because He too experienced temptation.

- a. Ask your children if they know what it means to be tempted.
- b. Read Hebrews 4:15-16 with your children and point out that Jesus faced temptation, but never sinned. Also talk about that Jesus invites us to come to Him through prayer when we need His help.
- c. Talk with your children about what it means to trust in Jesus and how that is not a one-time action. Trusting in Jesus is something we need to do every day, especially when we face temptation.

Big Idea

Because the God-man, Jesus Christ, has turned death into a doorway and temptation into trust, today's full-range of emotions and circumstances are opportunities to walk in faith not in fear.

Outline

1. Death into a doorway

2. Temptation into Trust

3. Conclusion

Praise to Jesus - Jesus suffered when he was tempted, Jesus can help those who are being tempted. Jesus did this in order that the same Helper, the Holy Spirit who strengthened Him in the precious promises of God which were far sweeter than temptation, would forever be present in our lives to strengthen us in the sweetness of those promises during our struggles against evil and temptation. Re-read Hebrews 2:14-18. **Reflect & Pray** – Praise Jesus for all that He has done and continues to do for us.

Repentance through Jesus- What “deaths” are you facing in your own life? Has your perspective on this “death” turned into door which has been slammed your face? Has this isolated you from others? Considering who Jesus is and the message of this sermon, reach out to a beloved brother or sister in your life, and ask them to help you open the door, by leaning on their faith to help you confess this to Lord and repent. (1 John 2:1)

Consecration for Jesus – Jesus, through his life, death, and resurrection, has not only turned death into a doorway, but has also turned temptation into trust. Because the God-man, Jesus Christ, has turned death into a doorway and temptation into trust, today's full-range of emotions and circumstances are opportunities to walk in faith not in fear. Open the doors of death and help others to open those good folks who are living behind closed doors to open the up through the power of Jesus’ blood-bought righteousness.

Scriptures for further study:

John 1:1-14

Philippians 2:5-8

1 Corinthians 10:13

1 John 4:4

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

"GOSPEL DELIVERANCE"

Hebrews 2:14-18 ESV

14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. **16** For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. **17** Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. **18** For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Historical Context - "The author of Hebrews neither names himself nor clearly designates his audience. The traditional title "to the Hebrews" reflects the ancient assumption that the original recipients were Jewish Christians. We do know that the author and the audience shared a mutual friend in Timothy. The audience's social situation can be inferred from commands to "remember those who are in prison" and who are "mistreated" (13:3). Timothy himself had just been set free (13:23). Indeed, the author of Hebrews commended his audience for their former endurance of persecution, for their compassion on those in prison, and for having "joyfully accepted the plundering of your property" (10:32-34)." ESV Study Bible

Scriptures for further study:

Zechariah 3:1,

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10,

John 10:7,

Matthew 4,

John 14:16, 26

, 1 John 2:1

FOR STUDENTS

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

1. How does the fear of death affect your life? In what ways does the truth of this passage allow you to live a more daring life for Christ?

2. Who is attempting to reign over this world? (2:14)

3. What are some of the struggles you are facing today, and how does Jesus' own experience of those same sorts of struggles encourage you?

4. How are you doing in showing sympathy and compassion to others? How does this passage help you?

5. Hebrews 2:18 says the Son suffered when tempted. Do suffering and temptation go hand-in-hand?

6. What are the implications of the work of Jesus Christ upon all parts of your life?

**Some questions borrowed and adapted from Hebrews for You by Micheal J. Kruger and 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)

1. How does it encourage you to know that God himself became man, and that he was like us in every respect: body, mind, and emotions? How might such knowledge lend itself to you developing a personal relationship with the Lord?
2. Jesus came not only to be with us and identify with our human condition, he also came to show us mercy by actually doing something about our human condition: forgiving our sins, defeating the devil, destroying the power of death, and freeing us from our fear of death. Imagine what it would be like for you to be free from all this? Would you like to receive this gift?
3. Jesus is described as a “faithful” high priest (verse 17). He was faithful to God in bearing our sin and applying his own blood for our sin. Verse 17 uses the word “propitiation,” which refers to Jesus satisfying the holiness of God and appeasing the just wrath of God. Have you ever thought about Jesus Christ taking on the full wrath of God so you and I wouldn’t have to face that punishment ourselves?
4. Verse 18 says Jesus not only experienced the same temptations you and I experience, he can help us overcome them. Is there some particular temptation in your life right now? Are you perhaps tempted to be unfaithful to God, or tempted with a particular sin of thought, word, or deed? Call on him to help!

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***

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