

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 re-read the Big Idea. What do you think it means that Jesus is the master architect and builder? What are the implications of letting Jesus be the source of your confidence in life?

2. Read Hebrews 3:1-2. The author addresses and identifies the audience as holy. How does seeing yourself as holy change the way you live?

3. What do the holy brothers and sisters share?

4. What does it mean for Jesus to be "the apostle and high priest of our confession" (3:1b)? Look for other times "our confession" is used earlier in the book.

5. The author of Hebrews is calling Christians to persevere (3:6) Are you trusting in Christ with your present situation? What temptations are presently distorting your view of Jesus' calling in your life? How are you continuing to hope in the good news of the gospel?

“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. The repeated theme of Hebrews is to look to Jesus or to fix your eyes on Jesus. In this week’s passage, we read in 3:1 that we need to “consider Jesus”. The idea of this is to look closely or consider carefully.

- a. Ask your children to tell you some things that they know about Jesus.
- b. Go back and re-read Hebrews 1:1-3 and talk about what you learn about Jesus from these verses.
- c. Ask your children for ideas for how they can consider Jesus this week at school or home or anywhere.

2. This passage brings up Moses and compares him to Jesus.

- a. Remind your children that Moses is one of the top figures of the Old Testament. The author of Hebrews does not criticize Moses. Instead, he writes that Moses was a great, faithful servant of God.
- b. Ask your children what they know about Moses. Remind them that God used Moses to free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. God used Moses to part the Red Sea and miraculously save the Israelites. God also chose to give His Law to Moses to deliver it to the Israelites. Moses was amazing, but Jesus is greater.
- c. Read 3: 3 about how “Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses”. Ask your children how this can be. Why would Jesus be “counted worthy of more glory than Moses”?

3. The imagery used in this passage is the builder of a house and the house itself. The writer is saying that the builder is worthy of higher honor. He writes that God is the builder, and His people are His house (3:4, 6).

- a. Take time to build something with your children such as a Lego house. Ask them who should receive higher honor: them as the builder or the Lego house. Why?
- b. Ask your children if they know that the church is us as believers in Jesus and not the actual building that we go to on Sunday and Wednesday.
- c. Read 3:6 and ask your children what action do those that follow Christ as His house do. (They hold fast to Jesus.). Make sure your children know what it means to have confidence in and to boast in Jesus since they might be confusing to them.

Big Idea

Because Jesus is the master architect and builder, let Him be the source of all your confidence, remembering the house He builds on the rock of His gospel that will not be dashed by any storm.

Outline

1. Remember your Calling

2. Consider Jesus

3. Hold Fast

Praise to Jesus - Jesus is both uniquely an apostle and a priest. He perfectly bridges the gap between humans and God. Re-read Hebrews 3:1-3. Take time to pray and thank Jesus for all that He has done and continues to do for us.

Repentance through Jesus- Re-read Hebrews 3:1. The author uses “holy brothers” to address his audience. Those who belong to Christ have been set apart for God’s purposes. Thus, the effects and consequences of sin are a big deal. What areas of your life are in opposition to your status as brothers and sisters in Christ?

Consecration for Jesus – Jesus is the great high priest who reconciles us to God; nothing shall separate us. Draw near with courage and confidence to Jesus.

Scriptures for further study:

Matthew 17:1-8

1 Peter 2:5



Hebrews 3:1-6

1 Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, **2** who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. **3** For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses--as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself. **4** (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) **5** Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, **6** but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

Historical Context

"The title "To the Hebrews" is not in the text, although it is found in all the earliest manuscripts. This, along with the letter's content, argues persuasively that these were Jewish Christians who were under pressure to renounce the faith and return to Judaism."

- Richard D. Phillips

4. Remind your family once again of the glorious message of Hebrews that no matter what we face in life, Jesus is greater! Also remind your family that the greatest things on earth are no comparison to Jesus.
 - a. Take time to pray together for the week ahead and make sure to pray that we will all see the greatness of Jesus this week.

FOR STUDENTS

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

1. Read Hebrews 3:1-2. The author addresses and identifies the audience as holy. How does seeing yourself as holy change the way you live?
2. What is our calling? How can we discover it?
3. Read Exodus 12. How was Moses "faithful in all God's house" (Heb 3:2)?
4. To whom is Jesus faithful? How was Jesus appointed (3:2)? (Read 1:1-4 to find the answer.)
5. What things are you distracted by today that are keeping you from Jesus? What attributes of Jesus in this text could pull your focus back upon him?
6. What does it mean to you to know that you are in the same people of God as Moses?
7. Why do you think modern people downplay the importance of the local church? Why do you think church membership is so important in the life of the believer?

**Selected questions borrowed and adapted from Hebrews for you by Michael 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. Heb.3:1 speaks of a “heavenly calling,” which refers to God’s summoning us to salvation in Jesus Christ. He is calling you not only to salvation, but along with that to a new purpose, a new sense of belonging, and a new heavenly destination. Will you heed that call, and receive those blessings?

2. In this passage, the word “house” or “household” appears many times. This has to do with the family of people who belong to God: “and we are his house” (verse 6). When you become a Christian you become part of a family, with God as your Father and other believers as members of your family. Do you have that kind of close relationship with God, and do you have deep relationships like this in your life?

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. The writer of Hebrews urges us to “consider” or “fix” our thoughts on Jesus. This means that we set our minds on him, and think on him until we have learned something and understand what he means for our lives. Have you ever really fixed your thoughts on Jesus and given serious consideration to what having a relationship with him will mean for your life?

5. Moses was a faithful servant of God, but Jesus was even more faithful. Faithful as God’s Son, faithful in becoming man, faithful in enduring temptation and suffering, faithful in going to the cross, faithful in saving us, faithful in interceding for us, and he is personally faithful to you. Would you spend some time thanking him for his faithfulness?

6. If, as the writer of Hebrews argues, the builder of the house is greater than the house itself, then when you consider how vast and beautiful this universe is, what does this suggest about the greatness of the one who made it? That is worth pondering.

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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