



# UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

**WEEK 2 - HEBREWS 2:1-14 - AUGUST 19-25**

## LEADER NOTES

This week, we are talking about the dangers of drifting. This should be a humbling session. Challenge people to take stock of their walk with the Lord and consider whether they are holding fast to Jesus or just drifting along.

Please continue to complete the Gospel Connection's and Conversations form. You can find the form [HERE](#).

You can find other sermons from our Teaching Pastor's [HERE](#).

# COMMUNITY

*OPEN THE GROUP BY CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER AND ALLOWING A MOMENT FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE A PLACE TO BELONG.*

**START THE GROUP BY TAKING PRAYER REQUESTS, FINDING OUT ABOUT PEOPLE'S WEEK, AND PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER.**

## OPENING QUESTIONS:

- *HAS THERE EVER BEEN A TIME IN YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU REALIZED YOU WERE DRIFTING AWAY FROM YOUR FAITH? HOW DID YOU CATCH YOURSELF? WHAT DID YOU DO TO STOP DRIFTING?*

# SCRIPTURE

**TAKE THIS TIME TO STUDY THE BIBLE TOGETHER. REMEMBER, THE GOAL IS NOT JUST TO CONVEY INFORMATION, BUT TO HELP PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP LEARN TO READ THE BIBLE FOR THEMSELVES.**

## THE POINT

**MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR SALVATION OR YOU WILL DRIFT FROM IT.**

### **Hebrews 2:1-14**

Warning Against Neglecting Salvation

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. 2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, 4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

The Founder of Salvation

5 For 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.[b] 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.”

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”

*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Heb 2:1–14.

# STUDY NOTES

## WEEK 1 NOTES : Hebrews 2:1-14

The thing that makes drifting so dangerous is that you rarely ever notice it until it's too late. One minute you're safely in the harbor. Then, after just a little bit you look up and you're miles and miles from shore and safety. That's how drifting works in your faith too. One day you're close to the Lord, you're pursuing Him and living a life that intentionally seeks to please Him. Then, you turn your head away for just a few moments. You take a couple of weeks off from your devotions and prayers. You skip church a few Sundays. No big deal. No big deal, until you look up and realize you're not safely inside the arms of your Father any more. Instead, you're firmly in the grip of Satan. It sounds extreme, but it's not. It's reality.

The author of Hebrews will not allow us to drift. He's yelling, "Wake Up! Pay Attention! Don't Drift!" To stop our drifting he invites us to pay attention to our salvation. The author of Hebrews knows that if we turn our eyes upon Jesus the drift stops immediately. So, he points to Jesus and invites us to gaze upon the Savior, reminding us:

### **Jesus Suffers.**

Jesus Christ saved us by embracing suffering on our behalf. Jesus suffered death and the wrath of God for sin so we might not ever have to suffer death ourselves. For the Christian, dying on this earth is just like going to sleep, because we know we aren't dying. We're simply entering into the next stage of life. Our eternal life was made possible by the suffering of Jesus.

### **Jesus Relates.**

We can sometimes foolishly begin to think Jesus doesn't know what it's like to be us. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Jesus understands exactly what it's like to be us because Jesus became like us. The author of Hebrews tells us Jesus became like us in every way. The next time you're tempted to take your eyes off of Jesus because He couldn't possibly relate to you, think again. Jesus can relate to you perfectly.

### **Jesus Destroys.**

There are times when we drift out of despondence. It seems like we just can't win. We are too sinful. Satan is too strong. The world is too appealing. Jesus kills

despondence by destroying the enemy of our souls. The devil is the enemy of our soul. The author of Hebrew tells us Jesus, through His life, death and resurrection, has destroyed our enemy. Don't despair. Jesus has destroyed the one who wishes to destroy us.

For more resources, click [HERE](#).

## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *What are some things in your life that lead you to drift away from God instead of holding on tightly?*
- *Does the fact we have an enemy like the devil cause you to worry? How does the truth that Jesus destroys the devil change your life?*
- *How does the incarnation of Jesus, the fact He became like us, encourage you when you are struggling?*
- *Do you ever fear death? How does Jesus' death change how we face death?*

## COMMISSION

**AS YOU WRAP UP YOUR GROUP, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EVERYONE KNOWS WE GO INTO THE WORLD ON MISSION FOR JESUS. USE THIS TIME TO FOCUS EVERYONE TO LIVE ON MISSION AS YOU LEAVE.**

***THE BIBLE SAYS THAT WE ARE TO RESCUE BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO ARE DRIFTING AWAY FROM THE FAITH. TAKE SOME TIME TO PRAY FOR OTHER BELIEVERS AS YOU LEAVE. PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE DRIFTING, AND PRAY THAT GOD WILL KEEP YOU AND YOUR GROUP FROM DRIFTING!***

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