



UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

WEEK 11 - 10:18-39 - OCTOBER 21-27

LEADER NOTES

Leaders, the writer of Hebrews calls his audience to make a decision. While we will spend time discussing what this passage meant for the original audience, these verses have important implications for us today. Remember, the argument of Jesus being better has been made. Now it's time for the listener to make a decision.

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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:

WHAT COMPARISON IN HEBREWS HAS BEEN MOST HELPFUL IN YOUR WALK WITH JESUS? (FOR EXAMPLE: JESUS BEING BETTER THAN MOSES, THE BETTER SACRIFICE, ETC.) WHAT HAS GOD CALLED YOU TO DO IN RESPONSE TO JESUS BEING BETTER? HOW IMPORTANT IS ACCOUNTABILITY IN YOUR LIFE? DO YOU HAVE PEOPLE WHO ASK YOU TOUGH QUESTIONS AND PUSH YOU TO TRUTH IN LOVE? HOW HAS ACCOUNTABILITY BENEFITED YOU IN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE?

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

IF WE REALLY UNDERSTAND THE GOSPEL, IT WILL IMPACT THE WAY WE LIVE EVERY SINGLE DAY.

Hebrews 10:18-39

18 Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. 19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. 26 For if we

go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

32 But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, 33 sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. 34 For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. 35 Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. 37 For,

"Yet a little while,
and the coming one will come and will not delay;
38 but my righteous one shall live by faith,
and if he shrinks back,
my soul has no pleasure in him."

39 But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Heb 10:18-39.

STUDY NOTES

WEEK 11 NOTES : Hebrews 10:18-39

Please don't miss how pivotal this passage of Scripture is. The writer of Hebrews displays his heart for these people. He knows a life following Jesus is better than anything else. He desires these believers to understand and accept the truth that Jesus is better. Having laid out his lessons, the writer now calls his audience to make a decision. Truth from God's Word always demands a response, because if we really understand the gospel it'll impact the way we live our lives.

So, what's the writer of Hebrews calling us to do in response? He makes three appeals and then explains why we should follow them. Each appeal begins with the phrase, "Let us." The writer wasn't calling these believers to do something he wasn't willing to do himself. What's the motivation for doing these three things? The motivation, simply put, is found in verse 18. "Since there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin." In other words, the writer of Hebrews is saying, "Since Jesus offers the absolute best sacrifice, a sacrifice where your sin is paid for in full, hold onto the faith." If we truly understand the gospel and the power of Jesus' sacrifice, we'll respond in obedience to the three "let us" statements. What are they and what do they mean for us? "Let us draw near," "Let us hold fast," and "Let us stir up."

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.

The first command the writer of Hebrews gives is to "draw near." This reminds me of James 4, where we're promised if we draw near to God, He'll draw near to us. If you haven't heard it enough by now, Jesus offers us access to God because He's the Great High Priest. Therefore, we're able to draw near even when culture encourages us to run back to our old way of life.

The writer of Hebrews calls us to draw near with full assurance of faith. This doesn't mean we won't experience doubts, instead, it shows we can have assurance in the object of our faith. Jesus is trustworthy. You can trust Him with your soul, forgiveness, the future, and with doubts. One of the best ways to prove you believe Jesus is better is in the way you draw near instead of drifting away.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope.

Another way to apply the truth of Jesus being better is holding onto the confession of our hope. The writer of Hebrews acknowledges suffering and trials will take

place in this life. He knew these believers had previously faced difficulties. In verses 33-36, he mentioned when these believers were converted they immediately were met with trials. Instead of wavering in the midst of their difficulties, they decided to serve hurting people around them. Genuinely faith transforms us on the inside and invites us to hold onto the confession of hope we've made.

Let's be clear in our application. "Confession" also means testimony. First, we're encouraged to remember the moment we began following Jesus. We should hold onto who we were before we met Jesus and how He met us with His amazing grace. Hold onto the testimony of the transformation Jesus gave you. Essentially, the writer of Hebrews calls us to hold tightly to the testimony of our hope (or faith) and not waver when the going gets tough.

Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.

The final application point revolves around our outward response to who Jesus is. He says,

"Let us consider how to stir up one another." Accountability doesn't necessarily lead you into the faith, but it certainly helps cultivate your faith. He calls us to encourage others in love and good works. This only occurs as we are inwardly renewed and transformed day by day. If we focus on negative circumstances, it will be challenging to assist others in their walk with Jesus.

How should we go about stirring up other believers? First, we must consistently gather together with the saints. Verse 25 communicates the value of consistently going to church. This is also applicable in gathering together in a small group. Why is it important to stir one another up? This is a way to encourage one another and also a great way to hold one another accountable with sin. The truth is we'll never drift toward Jesus. Without other believers stirring us up, we can quickly become careless and drift away from the Lord.

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

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *Based on what we've learned from Hebrews, what should motivate us to draw near to God?*
- *What were the three "let us" statements?*
- *Who is someone in your life that has stirred you up?*
- *How can you practically stir up someone to love and good works?*
- *Discuss your conversion. How can reflecting on the moment Jesus saved you impact you each day?*
- *What is promised to those who persevere?*

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.

THANKFULLY, GOD'S WORD ALWAYS CALLS US TO MAKE A DECISION. THE THREE "LET US" STATEMENTS SHOULD BE FRESH ON OUR MINDS TODAY AS WE LEAVE THE GROUP. WHICH OF THE THREE DID YOU SENSE THE LORD IS CALLING YOU TO FOCUS ON? AS YOU LEAVE HOLDING ONTO YOUR CONFESSION OF HOPE, WHO CAN YOU SERVE?

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