



# UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

**WEEK 14 - 12:18-29 - NOVEMBER 11-17**

## LEADER NOTES

Today's study is a solemn reminder of God's holiness, as well as a joyful reminder of access to God in Christ Jesus. The passage starts like a scary movie talking about darkness, gloom, and a blazing fire referencing humanity's approach to God, but turns into hope in Jesus Christ. Therefore, during this study, do not be afraid to feel the weight of God's holiness and the seriousness of what it means to reject the gift of salvation. Then, realize the complete opposite feeling of hope because Jesus brought us into fellowship with God.

\*To understand the significance of Mount Sinai, it will be helpful to read Exodus 19-20 and Deuteronomy 4-5.

Leaders, please continue to be diligent in taking group attendance and completing 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:

- *DO YOU HAVE ANY STRANGE FEARS? WHAT ARE THEY?*
- *HAS THERE EVER BEEN ANYTHING THAT YOU WERE ONCE AFRAID OF BUT YOU NOW ENJOY? HOW DID IT CHANGE?*

# 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

**ENDURANCE FINDS ITS COMPLETION IN AN UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM.**

**Hebrews 12:18-29**

18 For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest 19 and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. 20 For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." 21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly[a] of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. 25 See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. 26 At that time his voice shook the earth,

but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." 27 This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Heb 12:18-29

# STUDY NOTES

## WEEK 14 NOTES : Hebrews 12:18-29

Hebrews 12:18-29 is one of the most straightforward and powerful passages in all of Scripture. The author begins by detailing the contrast between access to God with and without Christ. He looks back at a moment when God displayed His presence to the people on Mount Sinai. The people reacted in such complete fear they wanted God to stop talking.

They caught a glimpse of God, realizing the vast chasm between God's holiness and their insignificance. They understood that a mere human could not approach God. As a matter of fact, they were even afraid to touch the Mountain where God revealed Himself as an all consuming fire. We are reminded here of how unworthy we are to be close to God. The gloom in the passage shows how destructive and dangerous it is to attempt connection with God through our own merit.

As the author continues, the tone turns from fear to hope when he mentions another mountain where God dwells, Mount Zion. The reference to Mount Zion points forward to the work of Jesus on the cross and the Kingdom of God. This is where we are made worthy by His blood. Mount Sinai is where we see God's holiness and our inability to touch the mountain. Mount Zion is where we experience the work of Jesus and gain access to the Kingdom of God.

The idea of access to God is a recurring theme in Hebrews, but this passage reveals a practical and emotional perspective on what that access truly means. Without Jesus, God is untouchable, and we are left in fear. However, through Christ, we experience freedom, joy, and fellowship with God. We can now approach Him with excitement and anticipation, eager to draw near to His presence.

In application, the message is clear: without Jesus, God will consume us. Therefore, do not reject Jesus. Simple! There is coming a day when God will shake the universe and anything impure will fall away. The only thing left will be God's unshakable kingdom. All who are part of His kingdom experience the presence of God and all His blessings.

The chapter ends with a clear response for the people of God. We must be grateful for an unshakeable kingdom and reverently worship God. Reverence, in this context, means approaching God with humility, understanding He is holy and we didn't earn a spot in His kingdom. We are unworthy to be close to God, but here we are, sitting in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

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

# QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *Is there a difference between fearing God and being afraid of God? What is it?*
- *Does the way God is described on Mount Sinai change the way you view God? Explain.*
- *Will you share a time when you felt the distance between God's righteousness and your unworthiness?*
- *What does it mean to worship God with reverence and awe (verse 28)?*
- *How can we cultivate a more reverent attitude in our worship practices?*

# 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.**

***ALMOST 2 MILLION PEOPLE LIVE IN THE UPSTATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA. A LARGE PERCENTAGE ARE ONE BREATH AWAY FROM A MOUNT SINAI EXPERIENCE WITH GOD. THAT SHOULD MOTIVATE US TO ENGAGE IN THE MISSION AND VISION OF UPSTATE CHURCH AND ENCOURAGE EVERY PERSON WITH JESUS TO CHANGE THEIR WORLD. WE'VE BEEN COMMISSIONED BY GOD TO REACH THEM AND POINT THEM TO MOUNT ZION WHERE THEY CAN EXPERIENCE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM.***

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