

TCC Community Guide

For the week of March 3, 2024
Greater Than: A Series in Hebrews

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from March 3, 2024.

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, slowly read the verse provided (perhaps a couple of times), allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Psalm 24:1-6

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Hebrews chapter 4:14-16. Pastor Norb taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- A high priest is an advocate, or a representative of people before God. Hebrews teaches that Jesus is our great High Priest who not only represents us before God, but who also gets us.
- Jesus gets us because he knows us (verse 13). There are no secrets before God, He is everywhere present and we are totally and fully known by Jesus. This should be an encouragement to us because while knowing us completely, He also loves us deeply.
- We might think we are too messed up, too broken, or done such terrible things, that we run away from God because we are scared that we have to give an account before Him. But we need to be awakened to His love, and instead of running from Him, run to Him.
- Jesus gets us because He is the high priest (verse 14). The Old Testament priests had to return again and again to make sacrifice for the people of Israel. But, Jesus' death on the cross, the giving of His own blood is the once and for all sacrifice for sins. His sacrifice assures our position before the Father.
- By becoming human, Jesus is able to empathize with our weakness (verse 15). He truly gets us and helps us in our weakness.
- Pastor Norb quoted Tyler Staton: "[Empathize], translated literally, means to "co-suffer." That's how Jesus deals with our sin. He suffers with us – suffers the consequences of our thoughts, actions, and disordered desires; suffers the subtle agony of hiding and pretending and presenting a preferred self that traps us in perpetual insecurity; suffers the estrangement from God we willfully chose by "managing" a sin pattern we've grown tired of confessing rather than bringing it into the light of his inexhaustible love."
- We respond by holding firmly to our confession (verse 14). What is our confession? That we cannot make ourselves right before God. We can't fix ourselves. So we need to live in total dependency on Jesus. Make a commitment to follow no matter what.
- We respond by approaching boldly (verse 16). Jesus knows our sin, yet invites us to come to Him. We can boldly approach the Father, so we need to do so. He makes a way for us. We approach boldly. This is ongoing, "constantly approach".

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Hebrews, chapter 4:14-16?
2. Can you recall a time in your life when you ran away from God rather than run to Him?
3. In what ways do you experience your actions not lining up with your confession of faith? When do you attempt to take your salvation or sense of security into your own hands, rather than bringing it to God?
4. What does it look like for you to live in total dependency on Jesus? Share examples with your group as a way to encourage one another.

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.

