

Group Discussion Guide for Week of 1/5/2020

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text from Sunday Sermon; *Hebrews 1:1-4 (NIV)*

¹ In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

Observation (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

Discussion/Topic Starters (Ice Breakers)

- Many opinions about who Jesus is. List some common ideas in our culture about the identity of Jesus that you've heard.
- : What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

Know (what does the text say about God?) **Be** (what does it say about us?) **Do** (what does it call us to do?)

v. 1-4

- : How does the writer invite us in verses 1-4 to look at the whole sweep of biblical history and see it coming to a climax in Jesus?
Consider: Compare verses 1-3 with the opening verses of the John's gospel (John 1:1-5 and 1:14-18). What similarities do you see in the way the two writers present God's Son?
- : Summarize and then expound (in your own words) all the ways that Jesus is described here (*Keith on Sunday categorized them in 7 descriptions*). **(KNOW)**
- l: Hebrews is a book of many *comparisons*. Explain in your own words the comparison being made in verse 4. **(KNOW)**
Note: we are going to talk about angels next week, so don't get too bogged down by that this week ☺
- A: Of all the descriptive statements about Jesus in verses 2-4, which phrase is the most significant to you, and why? **(BE)**
- A: On Sunday Keith mentioned how the book of Hebrews was likely written to folks facing significant persecution because of their faith (we don't know their specific context, but we know this general context from the content of the book). In light of Hebrews empowering folks to stand firm in their faith, what in these opening 4 verses do YOU sense the need to hold onto to help YOU become firmer and more founded in your faith? **(BE)**
- A: This opening section is clear: God is a God that speaks. How are you listening to God these days? What practical response do you sense God wants from you in terms of listening to Him? **(DO)**

Follow-up: In light of our discussion and this passage, how will you respond this week? What one question do you want us to ask of you next week in regard to this?

Recommended Follow-up:

- **Pray:** Pray together, and really focus in on that we are meeting with God, He's in the room, and He wants us to KNOW Him. Specifically keep the descriptions of Jesus from Heb 1:1-4 in front of you; lots of adoration and worship to be had in response to the revelation from these opening 4 verses.
- **Respond:** Spend this week responding to God's word as fleshed out in the group time, as well as journey through this week's companion devotional guide.
- **Read:** Next week's sermon (1/12/19) will focus on Hebrews 1:5-14. Take time prior to next Sunday to read & study the passage, pray through the passage, meditate on the passage, as well as journey through this week's companion devotional guide.

An explanation on how Riverside structures these discussion guides*:

Riverside defines a disciple of Jesus as a **“Know, Be, Do”** person. And since Jesus told us to “make disciples” we use the “Know, Be, Do” framework in our discussion guides.

Riverside leadership regularly asks questions around these areas:

- “What do we need to **know** about God?”
- “Who do we need to **be**?”
- “What do we need to **do**?”

Here is what we mean by “Know, Be, Do” (based on Colossians 1:9-10, see below)

Know – *“to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives..., growing in the knowledge of God”* Not just knowing about Jesus, but knowing Him personally, intimately, and deeply. This is also about knowing the scriptures, knowing the voice of the Holy Spirit, even knowing yourself.

Be – *“so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way”* Becoming more like Jesus (sanctification). This is about our character and our heart and our motivations, our passions and convictions change the more we get to Know Jesus (and others).

Do – *“bearing fruit in every good work, ...”* Knowing Jesus and Becoming like Jesus practically will change our actions. As we grow in these areas we will naturally DO the things that Jesus did while in the flesh on earth (living and loving like Jesus). Some broad categories around DO are evangelism and justice and service.

Notice *“bearing fruit in every good work”* then yields more *“growing in the knowledge of God.”* In other words, while “Know, Be, Do” are three distinct words, they are deeply interconnected.

As a side note, the next chapter states: *“⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Col. 2:6-8)* To aid in this process Riverside also has a **daily devotional guide available each week**.

Colossians 1:9-10, NIV

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,...

* As discussed in Riverside's HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid “go through this guide word-for-word.” There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guide relies heavily upon the following resources: Thomas, Mack. *The Complete Bible Discussion Guide: Old Testament and New Testament*, Serendipity Bible for Personal and Small Group Study, Zondervan, along with the following group studies specific to Hebrews: Tom Wright (978-0-281-06379-6), Kay Arthur (978-0-7369-2306-4), Wiersbe (978-0781445665), MacArthur (978-0-7180-3515-0).