

# **Group Discussion Guide** for Week of **1/12/2020**

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text from Sunday Sermon; **Hebrews 1:5-14 (NIV)**

**5** For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have become your Father?" (from Psalm 2:7)

Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? (from 2 Samuel 7:14; 1 Chron. 17:13)

**6** And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." (from Deut. 32:43, potentially Psalm 97:7)

**7** In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels spirits, and his servants flames of fire." (from Psalm 104:4)

**8** But about the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

**9** You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy." (from Psalm 45:6,7)

**10** He also says,

"In the beginning Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

**11** They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. **12** You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end." (from Psalm 102:25-27)

**13** To which of the angels did God ever say, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? (from Psalm 110:1)

**14** Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

**Observation** (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)  
**Know** (what does the text say about God?) **Be** (what does it say about us?) **Do** (what does it call us to do?)

## **Discussion/Topic Starters** (Ice Breakers)

- When did Jesus become more than just a name to you? (see v.4)
- O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

## **v.5-14**

O: "Many of the Jewish believers in the early church had family members who had not accepted that Jesus was the Messiah, and they regarded the Jewish believers as dangerously misguided and disloyal. Great pressure was exerted on the Jewish believers to turn back to the law, which according to Jewish tradition had been given to Moses by angels on Mount Sinai.  
\*In what ways do verses 5–14 help establish Jesus' superiority over the law? (**Know**)

O: The first two O.T. quotes (v.5) describe the relationship with God the Father and God the Son. How do these quotes further explain who Jesus is?

O: In v. 6&7 the writer quotes from O.T. passages; how do these verses contrast Jesus and angels?

**KEY:** In v.6, Who is speaking, Who are They directing, and what are They directing to be done?  
*Hint: God the Father is commanding the angels to worship God the Son....Meaning... Jesus IS GOD!*

O: In v.8–9; Psalm 45:6–7 is being quoted. The psalm addresses the king as if he can be called God, but the writer of Hebrews applies this psalm to Jesus, the Messiah. What will the reign of the Messiah be like according to this psalm?

**Follow-up:** When you think of the condition of the world today, where do you long to see the reign of Jesus?

O: In v. 10-12, the writer of Hebrews quotes from Psalm 102:25–27; why do you think this is there?

*Hint: remember Hebrews is written to persecuted Christians facing severe persecution*

- I: God the Father, the Son, angels, are all mentioned in this passage. Humanity (you and I) are not....  
So, how is this relevant to us? (**Be**)

A: "Not many readers today, perhaps, will be tempted to abandon Christianity in favor of some form of Judaism—though it is important for us to understand why that was such an obvious pressure in the early days. But many today, including many in the churches, seem dissatisfied with what they have, and are eager to expand their spiritual horizons (as they might see it) to include angels, saints and other interesting distractions.

\*What specific ways are you and your church or faith community tempted to expand your spiritual horizons?" (**Do**)

## **Recommended Follow-up:**

- Pray: Pray together; spend time in worship giving praise to the Messiah. Focus on Jesus as the ultimate climax to all of history, and give specific prayers of thanks for the aspects of his reign.
- 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 (1/19/19) will focus on Hebrews 2:1-4. 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,...*

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\* 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).