

Group Discussion Guide for Week of 1/19/2020

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text from Sunday Sermon; *Hebrews 2:1-4 (NIV)*

¹ We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. ² For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, ³ how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴ God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

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

Discussion/Topic Starters (Ice Breakers)

- Describe a time when someone gave you a warning that you didn't pay much attention to. What happened?
- O: 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

- O: In what different ways, according to **2:1-4**, was the message of salvation in Christ emphasized?
Follow-up: How does this compare and contrast with the message that came through angels?
Note: "according to Jewish tradition the law came to Moses through angels"
- O: How is each Person of the Trinity involved in the delivery and confirmation of salvation (**v.3-4**)? (**KNOW**)
- I: How would you summarize in your own words the *warning* given in **v.1-3**? (**BE**)
- I: Look at the author's mention in **verse 3** of our "great salvation." What exactly is so "great" about it?
Look together at Ephesians 1:19 and 2:4 as you form an answer together.
- I: What does it look like to "drift" from salvation? How does neglecting salvation differ from rejecting salvation? (**BE**)
What are the dangers of neglecting salvation?
- A: How do you tend to "drift away" from God, or fail to "pay the most careful attention" to what Jesus said?
Follow-up: What restorative steps would you advise for those who have drifted away from God or failed to pay attention per this passage? (**DO**)
- A: How susceptible do you think Christians in general are today to what the author of Hebrews warns against in **v.1-3**?
- A: What evidence is there in your life or in your Christian community that the message of Jesus is true and powerful? (**BE**)

Recommended Follow-up:

- Pray: Pray for each other, that we would get real with ourselves and get real with God about the way we are living (are we following Jesus or drifting). Commit to pray for each other this week, that the Holy Spirit would work in our lives.
- 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 (1/126/19) will focus on Hebrews 2:5-18. 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).