

Group Discussion Guide for Week of **2/2/2020**

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text from Sunday Sermon; **Hebrews ch.3 (NIV)**

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

Discussion/Topic Starters (Ice Breakers)

- Give an example of when you were really passionate about something but over time that passion faded away.
Why did the passion fade?

O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

Before reading the ch.3 passage, listen and reflect on the ending of ch.2 (context is key) - “...he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.” **Heb. 2:17-18**

- Now, while reading today's passage (**Heb. 3:1-19**) keep in mind who Christ is and what he has done for you/us.

Ch.3 Question Bank*

O: How does the writer compare and contrast Moses and Jesus in v.1-6? **Know**

In what ways are Jesus and Moses similar? In what ways is Jesus greater? Why is this important?

O: The writer of Hebrews uses Psalm 95, which chronicles the desert wanderings, to make his/her point in v.7-11. How is the experience of the Israelites wandering in the desert similar to and different from the position the early Christians were in?

O: What is the main challenge the writer of Hebrews is making to the early believers in v.12-13? **Be**

Follow-up: Summarize in your own words the warning given in v.12

I: What does it mean to share the life of Christ, the Messiah (v.14), in the context of this chapter? **Know**

Another way to ask: How did the Israelites experience God's provision? How do we experience God's provision in our lives?

I: The writer returns to the desert wanderings with three probing questions in **verses 16, 17 and 18**.

What point is the writer trying to make with these questions?

Note: “Psalm 95:7–8 (quoted in Hebrews 3:7–8 and repeated in 3:15) emphasizes that people face a choice. The challenge becomes more urgent with the word today. Along with the other early Christians, the writer believed passionately that God had acted once for all in Jesus the Messiah, and that as a result the new day had dawned for which Israel had been waiting. They had been living in “tomorrow mode” for long enough. Now it was “today mode,” the moment when suddenly it was all happening. If they would remember that, they would stay on track.”

I: How can a focus on the fact that Jesus is at work right now in our world/lives help us to live more faithfully as followers of Jesus? **REFLECT/REMEMBER** upon the first command given in this chapter (see v.1) **Know**

A: How can we (you and I, right now) fight spiritual complacency? **Be**

A: Discuss the role that Christian community play in keeping each other firm in Jesus (v.13). **Together**

Follow-up: How can we as a group/church put v.13 more into practice?

Note: As John spoke about our hearts on Sunday, he reminded us that God repeatedly states he cares for our hearts. Consider how God may feel about sinful or unbelieving hearts. Take a moment to look at how you may have a sinful heart in areas, or how your heart may not fully believe what God can do, is doing, or has done. Remember v.1 and know God desires us to fix our eyes on Jesus.

A: How susceptible do you think you/us are today to what the author of Hebrews warns against in v.12?

A: Look again at **verse 13**. What would you say are sin's most powerful deceptions today ... in our church? (c) in your life?

A: From what you see in this chapter, discuss together how you would complete this sentence:

What God really wants from/for me is ...

-How WILL you respond this week? What one question do you want us to ask of you next week in regard to this? **Do**

Recommended Follow-up:

- **Pray:** Pray together, pray about how we are tempted to drift back to old ways of relying on other things or people besides Jesus. Ask God to keep you/us from complacency and to help us keep a firm, tight grip on him.
- **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 (2/9/20) will focus on Hebrews 4:1-11. 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.

* This guide relies heavily upon the following resources: *Hebrews: Tom Wright (978-0-281-06379-6)*

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 (978-0-781445665), MacArthur (978-0-7180-3515-0).