

Scripture Text from Sunday Sermon: **Hebrews 13:8 (NIV) - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

Discussion/Topic Starters (Ice Breakers)

- As you think about your past, present and future, which of the three weighs on you more than the others or which gives you more cause for hope? Explain.

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

***Another way to ask: "Choose one verse or phrase from the passage that stands out to you. This could be something you're intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, puzzles you, resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further." Now share it with the group.*

KNOW : What does the text say about God?)

- Remember again the commands in 3:1 and 12:2. Then think carefully about verse 8 in this chapter. What does this verse *really* say about Jesus, and why is its message important?
- As Hebrews is wrapping up, **13:8** makes a grand statement about Jesus. In looking over the whole letter to the Hebrews, what has it revealed about Jesus in each of these ways—yesterday and today and forever?

BE : What does it say about us?)

- In light of what we learn about Jesus in verse 8, what impact does this have on us?

DO : What does it call us to do?)

- How does getting our picture right about Jesus (**13:8**) in these ways affect the way we engage the practical-life issues raised in 13:1–7?

TOGETHER : What is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?)

- How does the truth in v.8 impact our church / home group communally (considering all the disruption we've had in the past 6 months?)

Recommended Follow-up:

- Pray: Spend time in AWE of Jesus in prayer; the truth revealed in v.8 really should call us to worship and awe.
- 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 (9/6/20) will focus on the ending of Hebrews 13:7-25. 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, which develops in us **“TOGETHER”**.

And since Jesus told us to “make disciples” we use the “Know, Be, Do, Together” framework in our discussion guides.

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).