

Message Discussion Guide RECIPIENTS OF A NEW COVENANT (PART 1)

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

March 1, 2009

Hebrews 10:19-39

This guide is to help you facilitate discussion with your Small Group. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering and owning the truths of God's Word. There may be questions you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on their relationship with God. Your role is to facilitate this experience not to complete the discussion guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid teaching task list.

Connect . . .

Use one or both of the following options to introduce the discussion time to follow.

Option 1

Instruct learners to think about various organizations or clubs that they have been a part of in life. Invite them to name a few of these memberships that have had a big impact on their lives. Encourage them to answer the following questions:

What about this organization/club made an impact on your life?

What held the people in this organization together?

What made everyone close?

Explain that today we're going to discuss the work of Christ in the new covenant and how it is the driving force behind our community as believers.

Option 2

Encourage learners to name things that they think creates the greatest bonds between people. Invite them to share why these things create bonds.

After a few minutes, explain that we will begin discussing how the work of Christ in the new covenant is the bonding element that creates community in the body of Christ.

Review the Message . . .

A Covenant Community...

- We are recipients of a new _____ covenant _____.
- We are members of a new _____ community _____.

Discussion Questions

- Enlist a volunteer to read Hebrews 10:19-39.
- Inform learners that this passage communicates the difference that the new covenant makes in the life of believers.
- How does the new covenant, based on Christ, create new community for believers?

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Recipients of a New Covenant...

- We have _____ access _____ to God.

THE OLD COVENANT...

- The command: Stay back in _____ fear _____.
- The provision: An _____ annual _____ sacrifice on the Day of Atonement.
 - The elements...
 - A priest entering an _____ earthly _____ sanctuary.
 - The blood of a _____ spotless _____ animal.
 - A sacrifice that would need _____ repeating _____.
 - The effect...
 - A _____ reminder _____ of all our sin.

Discussion Questions

- Looking closely at Hebrews 10:19, how does the author of Hebrews indicate that believers under the new covenant should approach God? What does this confidence indicate about the access that God's people have to Him?
- Enlist a volunteer to read Exodus 19:10-13. How does the Israelite's access to God in this passage contrast with the access that we read about in Hebrews 10?
- Remind learners that God's holiness prevented the sinful people from coming near Him, so He provided the Law for the people to know His commands and the sacrificial system so that His people could make temporary payment for the ways that they fall short of His Law.
- Read Exodus 25:10-22. What did the ark and the mercy seat upon it represent? Emphasize that this ark was placed in the most holy place and separated by a veil in the tabernacle so that sin did not come into God's presence.
- Invite three volunteers to read Leviticus 16:29-34, 16:2-4, 16:11-19. How did God provide for the atonement of His people's sins under the old covenant?
- What was the responsibility of the high priest in offering these sacrifices? Remind learners that the high priest was the only one who could offer atonement and was a representative of all of God's people.
- Inform learners that Leviticus 17 refers to blood as the life source and that even in Genesis 2, God told Adam and Eve that if they sinned they would die. Based on this information, why was the death/blood of an animal required for the atonement of sins?
- What role did this animal have for the people of God? (*It was a substitution in its death.*) What is the significance of God's command to Moses to continue the Day of Atonement permanently every year?

Application . . .

- What emotions would we experience if we were still under this old covenant? Why do we still sometimes experience them?

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- Do we sometimes demonstrate the old covenant command to stand apart from God in fear even today? How?
- Do we still try to work to compensate for our sins? How?
- What do God's commands related to atoning for sins indicate about His hatred of them?
- How does our understanding of the death of an animal as a substitution in the old covenant help us understand Jesus' death?

THE NEW COVENANT...

- The command: Draw near in _____ faith _____.
- The provision: An _____ abiding _____ sacrifice in the death of Christ.
 - The elements...
 - A priest entering a _____ heavenly _____ sanctuary.
 - The blood of a _____ sinless _____ man.
 - A sacrifice that will last _____ forever _____.
 - The effect...
 - The _____ removal _____ of all our sin.
 - We are cleansed by His _____ blood _____.
 - Our _____ guilt _____ is gone.
 - Our _____ conscience _____ is clear.
 - We are washed by His _____ Word _____.
 - He has put His law on our _____ hearts _____.
 - He has made His presence our _____ home _____.

Discussion Questions

- Enlist two volunteers to read Hebrews 8:5, 9:11-12. How does the author of Hebrews contrast the new covenant to the old covenant?
- What is the significance in verse 22 of having our hearts sprinkled with the blood of Christ in comparison to the high priest sprinkling blood on the atonement cover of the ark in the Most Holy Place for the people's sins in the old covenant?
- Read Hebrews 4:14-16. How does Jesus fulfill the role of the high priest? How was Jesus different from previous high priests?
- Invite a volunteer to read Hebrews 9:24-26. Why was Christ's atonement a sufficient sacrifice for all times—only to be offered once for all people?
- Read Hebrews 10:19, 22. Why are God's people to approach Him in confidence? What does this indicate about the work of Christ?
- Enlist a volunteer to read Hebrews 10:15-18. How does God view a person whose sins have been atoned for by Jesus?

Application . . .

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- How do we normally approach God? What does this indicate about our belief that God has removed our sins?
 - How could we demonstrate our doubt of the atoning work of Christ in the way we pray, talk, or live? What impact could this have on unbelievers who watch us?
 - How could our lives change if we grasped the truth that along with the forgiveness of sins, Jesus made it possible for us to have NO guilt from our sins?
 - How could we take access into God's presence for granted?
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- We have an _____ advocate _____ before God.

Discussion Questions

- Enlist two volunteers to read Hebrews 10:12, 7:25. Note that Jesus did not leave God's presence but sat down to remain there.
- Looking specifically at Hebrews 7:25, what does Jesus do for His people as He sits at the right hand of God?

Application . . .

- Why can we have confidence in Jesus as our advocate?
- What do we feel knowing that Jesus intercedes for us?