

Message Discussion Guide

MEMBERS OF A NEW COVENANT (PART 2)

The Church at Brook Hills,

Dr. David Platt

March 8, 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

Encourage learners to think about the definitions that come to mind when a person hears the word "church". Process through the following questions:

- What do most people think when they hear the word "church"?
- What does it mean for us to be the church?
- What sets the church apart from every other organization, club, business, or group of people?

Explain that today we're going to discuss the church as the covenant community of Christ.

Option 2

Read the following quote from A.W. Tozer:

"Come near to the holy men and women of the past and you will soon feel the heat of their desire after God. They mourned for Him, they prayed and wrestled and sought for Him day and night, in season and out, and when they had found Him the finding was all the sweeter for the long seeking."

Encourage learners to ask themselves the following questions:

- When a person spends time with you can they feel the heat of your desire after God?
- Do you pray, fast, mourn, and seek God day and night? Do you have a desire to know God that intently? What might your life look like if you did?
- Is your desire for God greater than any other desire that you have?

What do the answers to these questions reveal about your faith?

Review the Message . . .

A Covenant Community...

- We are recipients of a new _____ covenant _____.

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- We are members of a new _____ community _____.
 - We have a King who forever _____ rules _____ us.
 - We have a Priest who forever _____ represents _____ us.

Discussion...

- Enlist a volunteer to read Hebrews 10:19-39.
- What are the three calls to action that this passage calls us to take?
- Look at verse 21...Jesus is a high priest over the house of God. Who is the house of God? Read Hebrews 3:6 to reveal the answer.
- Read Romans 8:31-34. What does it mean for God to intercede for us? How does His intercession show His love for us?

Application...

- How do our actions show that we are member of a new community?
- Is it easy for us to allow Christ, the King, to rule over us? What are some ways that we fight His authority in our life?
- When you pray do you think about God interceding on your behalf? How might this truth change the way that you pray?

Implications of a New Covenant for a New Community...

- Together, we draw near to God in _____ faith _____.
 - We come before Him with sincere _____ desire _____.
 - We come before Him with confident _____ assurance _____.
 - We come before Him with cleansed _____ hearts _____.
 - We come before Him with purified _____ bodies _____.

Discussion...

- Read Hebrews 3:7-12. What does this passage give warning not to let your heart do?
- What are the three words that David used in the message to help us understand salvation and our position in Christ and the way we live our lives? (Justification, Sanctification and Glorification) Discuss the meaning of each of these words.
 - Justification is based on the blood of Christ. This happens at salvation.
 - Sanctification is the process of being made holy. We will struggle with sin, but we are becoming holy by the work of Christ in us.
 - Glorification is when our sanctification will be made complete. At this point we will be with God and will dwell with Him forever.

Application...

- How do we draw near to God?
- Do we really want to be close to God? How does our life demonstrate this?

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- Why is it so important for us to understand the individual meanings of justification, sanctification and glorification?
- Have you been justified? How has Christ transformed your heart?
- What does sanctification look like in your life? How are you becoming more like Christ on a daily basis?

- Together, we hold fast to God in hope .
 - The basis of our hope...
 - The faithfulness of God to His promises .
 - The return of Christ for His people .
 - The barriers to our hope...
 - We will face trials .
 - We will face temptations .

Discussion...

- Enlist a volunteer to read Hebrews 10:32-34. What were the trials and sufferings that the people faced?
- Read Hebrews 10:23-25. What does God want us to do? What is it that we do not need to give up on? Why do these go hand-in-hand?
- The writer of Hebrews talks much about hope and faith. According to verse 23, who is faithful? Therefore, where do we put our hope?
- Read Hebrews 6:13-20. What does verse 18 tell us about God? What does this tell us about the promises that God has made to us in His Word?
- Take learners on a short tour of some of God's promises. Enlist volunteers to read the following passages: Hebrews 10:17, Hebrews 13:5 and Hebrews 12:10. What promises does God give in each of these passages?

Application...

- Have you ever faced trials or temptations? Can you remember a specific time when Christ was glorified during a trial or temptation in your life? Was there a time when you did not? What made the difference in how you handled each situation?
- Have there been times in your life that you did not want to meet with other believers? What was happening that caused you to stay away? Did you have anyone come along side you and encourage you?
- Have you ever come alongside someone and encouraged them in their time of need? What kind of a difference did it make in your life and in the life of the other person?
- How does it make you feel knowing that God cannot lie? Does it make you cling to His promises even more? What promise do you need to trust God in today?

- Together, we motivate one another to love .

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- We gather with one another regularly.
- We encourage one another continually.

Discussion...

- Read Hebrews 3:1. What are we to do according to this verse?
- Now look at Hebrews 10:24 again. Who are we to consider or focus on according to this verse? Who is the writer of Hebrews referring to by the word “us”?
- When we look at these verses together what do they tell us about how we should live?
- God has designed the church/His people to be linked together. All of the parts (1 Corinthians 12) come together. When one part suffers, every part suffers and when one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. The church/God’s people all work together. This is God’s beautiful design!

Application...

- Why do you gather with your friends, coworkers, small group, etc.? [The Christian life is not suppose to be lived in isolation, but to be lived in community with one another.]
- When people spend time with you do you spur them on to love and do good deeds?
- How might your life be different if you were intentional about drawing near to God with your friends? What if your life was about more than just getting together to hang out or watch a TV show together? How does intentionality change things?

Our Corporate Confession...

The covenant by which we belong to Christ
creates a community in which we belong to each other.

We belong to one another... this is a difficult concept for many people to understand. The world might try to pervert this truth, but scripture is clear. God created us to be in community with one another. We need one another! People need you and you need people. This truth can be difficult to live out. It takes transparency and vulnerability. It takes us moving out of our comfort zone. But the result is worth it. The result is a family of faith that has a heart that beats after one God with one purpose in mind...making God’s glory known among all nations!