



Life Group Group Discussion Guide

Worship Reformed by Jesus Hebrews 9:1-14

Big Idea of Hebrews

"If you are a genuine believer, your endurance in the Christian faith will be directly connected to how clearly you see who Jesus is, what He has done for you, and what He is doing for you right now."

Big Idea of the Sermon

"Jesus provides a better approach to worship God because He sanctifies us from the inside out and secures our eternal redemption."

Read Together: Hebrews 9:1-14

'Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly place of holiness. For a tent was prepared, the first section, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence. It is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain was a second section called the Most Holy Place, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant. Above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go regularly into the first section, performing their ritual duties, but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood, which he offers for himself and for the unintentional sins of the people. By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the holy places is not yet opened as long as the first section is still standing (which is symbolic for the present age). According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the

worshiper, but deal only with food and drink and various washings, regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation. But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. '

Summary of the Sermon: Worship Reformed by Jesus

Based on Hebrews 9:1-14, the sermon explores how Jesus provides a better way to worship God by fulfilling and surpassing the Old Testament system of sacrifices and priesthood. The key argument in Hebrews is that Jesus is superior in every way—He is the greater and more perfect High Priest, offering Himself as the ultimate and final sacrifice for sin.

Under the old covenant, the Tabernacle and its rituals symbolized the separation between sinful humanity and a holy God. Priests had to continually offer sacrifices, which could never fully cleanse a person's conscience. However, Jesus, as the perfect High Priest, entered the heavenly Tabernacle and secured eternal redemption through His own blood.

The sermon highlights three main points:

1. **Jesus is the Greater and More Perfect Tent** – Unlike the earthly tabernacle, Jesus embodies God's presence permanently and provides unrestricted access to the Father.
2. **Jesus Performed More Than a Ritual Duty** – Unlike Old Testament priests who repeatedly offered sacrifices, Jesus' sacrifice was, once and for all, sinless, and entirely sufficient.

3. **Jesus Supplied Himself as the Sacrifice** – His perfect and painful sacrifice was planned from eternity, accomplished by the Son in obedience, and empowered by the Spirit. His blood purifies externally and internally, giving believers a cleansed conscience and true freedom to worship.

The message concludes by emphasizing that Jesus redefines worship, making it no longer about external rituals but about an inward transformation through His redeeming work.

Theological Discussion Questions

1. **How does Jesus' role as our High Priest fulfill and surpass the Old Testament priesthood?**
 - Consider how His sinlessness, once-for-all sacrifice, and ongoing intercession change our access to God.
2. **Why was the old covenant inadequate for full redemption, and how did Jesus' sacrifice accomplish what it could not?**
 - Reflect on the difference between temporary rituals and Christ's eternal redemption.
3. **What does it mean that Jesus purifies our conscience rather than just our outward actions?**
 - How does this impact how we view sin, repentance, and good works?
4. **How does "dead works" challenge our understanding of religious observance?**
 - Are we ever tempted to rely on external acts rather than Christ's finished work?
5. **How does Jesus' fulfillment of the Tabernacle system reshape our understanding of worship?**
 - In what ways does worship move from ritual to relationship because of the Gospel?

Life Application Discussion Questions (Gospel-Centered Perspective)

- 1. How does understanding Jesus as our High Priest shape how we relate to God in prayer and worship?**
 - The Gospel reminds us that we no longer need a mediator other than Christ. Because of His sacrifice, we can confidently approach God (Hebrews 4:16). Our prayers are not based on our worthiness but on Jesus' finished work.
- 2. In what ways do we struggle with relying on religious performance rather than resting in Christ's finished work?**
 - The Gospel frees us from trying to earn God's favor through our actions. Instead of striving to be "good enough," we can live in the security of Christ's righteousness, serving from love rather than obligation (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- 3. How does knowing that Jesus has fully cleansed our conscience impact the way we deal with guilt and shame?**
 - The Gospel assures us that Jesus' blood purifies not just our actions but also our hearts. Instead of carrying the weight of past failures, we can walk in the freedom of forgiveness, knowing our identity is in Christ (Romans 8:1).
- 4. How does true worship flow from a transformed heart rather than a religious obligation?**
 - The Gospel changes worship from being something we "have to do" to something we "get to do." Worship is no longer about earning favor but a joyful response to grace (John 4:23-24).
- 5. Are there areas in your life where you struggle with "dead works"—doing good things for the wrong reasons? How does the Gospel purify our motivations?**
 - The Gospel shows us that our worth is not in our works but in Christ's work for us. Rather than serving to gain approval or avoid guilt, we can serve out of gratitude and love for God (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

6. **How does Jesus' eternal redemption change the way we deal with fear, anxiety, or control in our lives?**
 - The Gospel reminds us that because our future is secure in Christ, we don't have to live in fear. Instead of trying to control everything, we can trust in God's sovereign grace and rest in His promises (Philippians 4:6-7).
7. **What does it mean to worship God in spirit and truth daily? How does the Gospel transform our everyday worship?**
 - Worship is not just a Sunday activity but a response to the Gospel in every area of life. Because Christ has redeemed us, even ordinary moments—our work, relationships, and struggles—become opportunities to glorify God (Romans 12:1).
8. **How can we encourage others to move from a mindset of religious duty to a relationship rooted in grace?**
 - The Gospel teaches us that transformation comes from beholding Jesus, not just modifying behavior. We don't need to push people toward more religious effort, but we can point them to the sufficiency of Christ, leading them to rest in His finished work (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Key Takeaways

- Jesus is the fulfillment and replacement of the old covenant Tabernacle system
- Christ's sacrifice was planned from eternity and involves all persons of the Trinity.
- Jesus' blood purifies not just our actions but our motivations and conscience.

- True worship comes from a transformed heart, not just external religious observance.

Prayer Time:

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your perfect sacrifice that cleanses us entirely - not just our actions but our hearts and motivations. Help us to live in the freedom of Your purifying work, approaching You with clean consciences and pure hearts. Transform us from the inside out as we serve You. In Your precious name, Amen.

Resources To Dig Deeper:

Resources:

ESV & NLT Bible

The Message

The Bible Project

Rienecker & Rogers Linguistic Key To The Greek New Testament

The NIV Application Commentary – George H. Guthrie

Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary – Thomas R. Schreiner

Commentary for Christian Formation (Hebrews) – Amy Peeler

The Epistle to the Hebrews – F.F. Bruce

Sermon Series:

Fix Our Eyes on Jesus: study in Hebrews – Alistair Begg

Hebrews series – Fellowship Greenville

Christ our Treasury – Timothy Keller

Hebrew Audio Lectures – George H. Guthrie

Exposit the Word (Hebrews) – John Piper

