

## Pause Group - Hebrews 9:1-14

Begin your time together by sharing highs and lows from the past week. Pray together with gratitude for the joys of the week in the lives of your group members and the world. Pray for those dealing with struggles. Pray for the worlds struggles.

**Study Questions:** Address the questions your group desires

1. What stood out to you in the readings from the *Hebrews for Everyone* book this week? (pages 89-97)
2. Why do we sometimes favor the old over the new?
3. Read Hebrews 9:1-10. Describe the structures and functions of the tabernacle that the writer recounts in verses 1-10.
4. Having brought up the new covenant of Jeremiah in the last chapter, the writer of Hebrews is now reminding the readers of some key aspects of the old covenant. How does the double structure of the tabernacle (which was reflected in the temple in Jerusalem) serve as a picture or parable of the two “ages,” the two periods of time, within the long purposes of God?
5. Read Hebrews 9: 11-14. What do we learn about the sacrificial system from these verses?
6. In what ways is the new covenant “better” or more superior to the former things in verses 11-14?
7. The God whom Israel has always worshiped (but whose saving plan was still in the preliminary stage) had revealed once and for all through Jesus’ death and resurrection the way into his presence, the way by which the people could serve him gladly and joyfully without the slightest shadow or stain on their consciences (9:14). Many Christians people, still today, forget that they are called to that kind of joyful service, free from any motivation by guilt or fear.
  - Why do you suppose that such a liberating and healing message would be so hard to remember and believe?

**Closing prayer** –The Squeeze Prayer • Everyone in the circle joins hands. • Each person in the circle is invited to say something they would like to pray for. When they are finished speaking they squeeze the hand of the person to their right and that person then says a prayer or something they would like to pray about, squeezes the hand to his/her right ect. If you do not wish to offer a prayer out loud, leave a moment of silence and squeeze the hand of the person next to you to send the prayer along. • When the prayer is concluded the last person to pray or the person who started the prayer can something like: Lord, we ask you to hear our prayers and we lift our hearts to you as we all pray together Our Father who art in heaven..... (everyone says the Lord’s prayer and then that is the end.)