

Pause Group – Hebrews Chapter 3A

Take time for introductions if new members have joined the group. Provide time for each person to share highs, and lows. Get to know each other. Ice breaker question for the week. If you could meet any historical figure, who would you choose and why? (and we all know we would choose Jesus, so someone other than Jesus. :))

Hebrews study questions:

I realize that you will not get through all the questions, so pick and choose what is more important to your group. Enjoy the first half of the third chapter of Hebrews.

1. How does the writer compare and contrast Moses and Jesus in the first 6 verses in chapter 3?
2. What makes Moses such an important figure in Jewish culture?
3. Most first century Jews, when presented with the idea of “God’s house,” would think at once of the temple. But Hebrews and Paul, and also some other radical Jewish groups of the period, thought of the true “house” not as a building but as a community of people. The people who make up this house are described (verse 6) as a bold, confident family. They are people who, as verse 1 says, are willing to confess their belief in Jesus.
 - a. Why are we sometimes unwilling to state this belief to others?
 - b. Do you think the congregation you are a part of is a bold confident family? Why or why not?
4. The writer of Hebrews uses Psalm 93, which tells about the desert wanderings after the Exodus to make their point in verses 7-11. How is the experience of the Israelites wandering in the desert similar to the position the early Christians were in?
 - a. How were they different?
5. What is the main challenge the writer of Hebrews is making to the early believers in verses 12-13?
6. What old ways are you tempted to return to instead of continuing to trust God in Christ?
7. In what ways can we guard against drifting away and hardening our hearts?

Closing Prayer:

The Squeeze Prayer

- Everyone stands or sits in a large circle.
- At this point everyone (including adults) in the large circle joins hands.
- The Table leading the prayer explains to the large group that 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. After each prayer is said the next person adds another prayer. 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.
- A group guide should start the prayer going by saying a prayer and then squeezing the hand of the person on his/her right. (The prayer could be something like: Lord, please bless all those in the hospital)
- When the prayer is concluded someone from the Table leading the prayer should make a concluding reflection. Say 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.)