

Pause Group - Hebrews 12:12-29

This week's study combines 12 B and 12 C on the syllabus.

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 world's 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 154-67)
2. Verses 12-17 recall the story told in Genesis 25-27 about Jacob and Esau. Esau had been hunting and when he came back home Jacob was cooking a meal. Esau was so hungry that he gave up his rights as first-born son for some food. In addition to warning against the immoral or works-minded decisions of Esau, verses 12-17 also strongly caution against coasting as a Christian, not seeking spiritual healing, continuing to live in conflict and allowing bitterness to take root in our relationships.
 - Which of these do you see as most critical to avoid and why?
3. In verses 18-24, Hebrews picks up the theme (begun in Hebrews 11:10) of the new Jerusalem, the new city we anticipate and hope for. While there is still much to look forward to, in what senses does the writer suggest here that we have already arrived at this heavenly city?
4. The OT story which began with Abraham, Moses, and Mount Sinai reached its glorious conclusion with the entry into the Promised Land, the establishment of the monarch and finally the building of the temple on Mount Zion. Now Hebrews is saying, take that story as a whole, and see it as the equivalent of Mount Sinai; it is the complete story of the old covenant. You need to come into the Promised Land (Hebrews 3:1-4); you need to benefit from the ministry of the true high priest (Hebrews 5-7); you need to realize that you are within the new covenant, where the ultimate sacrifice has been made, through which you can approach the very presence of God himself (Hebrews 8-10).
 - How does 12:25-29 bring us back full circle to what the writer began back in Hebrews 2:1-4?
5. The central theme that the writer wants to leave with the readers before the concluding instructions of chapter 13 is a true picture of God and of people in relation to God. What is that picture?

6. Verse 28 tells us our response should be one of gratitude and worship. Why are these proper responses to the kind of God pictured by the writer?
7. How can and should we express gratitude and worship this week?

Closing prayer – Close with the Lord's Prayer