

Pause Group - Hebrews 8

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 81-89)
2. Why are people sometimes satisfied with a copy or a lower-quality product than the real thing?
3. Read Hebrews 8. How does the writer describe the present and continuing role of Jesus in verses 1-6?
4. What do you think and feel in response to this?
5. In the Bible heaven is not simply a "spiritual," in the sense of nonphysical, dimension. It is God's space, God's realm, which interlocks with our realm in all sorts of ways. The Israelites believed that the temple in Jerusalem was the place above all where heaven and earth met, quite literally. When you went into the temple, especially when you went into the holy of holies in the middle of it, you were actually going into heaven itself.
 - What evidence does the writer of Hebrews provide that the tabernacle was a copy of the real things (Hebrews 8:5 and Exodus 25:40)
6. The readers of Hebrews are encouraged not to cling to the copy. This must have presented a particular challenge to those Jewish Christians who all their lives had looked to the Jerusalem temple as the focus of devotion, the place of pilgrimage, the very house of god, and to the priests who served there.
 - How do you see people today choosing to focus on a "copy" instead of on the reality of Jesus?
7. Verses 7-13 contain the longest biblical quotation so far in the book of Hebrews. In what particular ways does the use of this text from Jeremiah 31:31-34 continue the theme of something "better"?
8. What reasons do these verses give for the necessity of a new covenant?
9. What does verse 12 highlight about the new covenant?
10. What does it mean to you that God forgets your sins?

Closing prayer – Close with the Lord's Prayer