

Grace and the High Priest
Hebrews 4:14-5:4
Growth Group Questions
Week of November 5, 2017

Growing Together (Use these questions during your family/community time)

As you start your group tonight, consider these things:

1. Preach the Gospel to each other - Have 1-2 people share the Gospel in their own words. (5min)
2. Share your story - Have 1-2 people share their story of how God is working in them. This doesn't need to be a full life story - in fact it shouldn't be. (3min max each) Consider sharing a time when you felt unloved, hopeless or lost and Jesus was your rescuer, and how God restored/is still restoring you. He is Love, Hope. You are found. That's the Gospel at work in your life!
3. Praying for People - Share an update on those God has put on your heart (and your prayer list). Have you had any spiritual conversations with them? Continue to pray that God would move in their hearts and that HE would open your eyes to see what HE is doing as well as give you opportunities to share the Gospel with them. Have courage! Remember it is God who does the work, we get to partner with Him. Share who you're praying for. As a group, be praying for each other's friends by name.
4. Plan a Party - Intentionally plan an event to invite your friends to. Maybe your friends come to an event with your whole group? Or you invite your friends to a dinner with you and one other couple from your group. Your friends may not feel comfortable coming to your party, so you may need to get creative and go to them, or somewhere in between. The key is that you're intentionally inviting, and that you're not doing it alone. Keep praying for opportunities!

Thinking About and Applying the Message

5. As a group, read the story of the seven mile walk in Luke 24:13-35 from the viewpoint of one of the two walkers (Luke 24:13).
 - a. What might they have been thinking and feeling at different parts of this journey?
 - b. Focus on Luke 24:25-27. What is Jesus saying?
 - c. Look together and consider two or three Old Testament passages which clearly point toward Jesus.

6. Read again our teaching passage, Hebrews 4:14-5:4. What is one huge difference between the Old Testament High Priest and our new High Priest seen in 4:15 and 5:2-3? Why is this significant for us today?

7. If Jesus never sinned (Hebrews 4:15, Hebrews 7:26-28, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 John 3:5, etc.), then can He really know what my temptation is like? If He never sinned, isn't He out of touch with how powerful my desires and urges can be? So, can He really be empathetic with me in my temptations and failures?

Read and talk about how CS Lewis responded to these questions:

A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is . . . A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. This is why bad people, in one sense know very little about badness. They have lived a sheltered life by always giving in . . . Christ, because He was the only man who never yielded to temptation, is also the only man who knows to the full what temptation means—the only complete realist.