

Small Group Material

Higher, Greater, Holier - Son, not servant Hebrews 3.1-14

Welcome

What's your favourite building? Do you know who built it?

Word

The central theme of this chapter is that we should fix our minds in the right place - on Jesus who is more/greater/beyond Moses. Doing that will mean our hearts remain soft towards God. We might not be in danger of confusing Moses and Jesus now, but human leaders can creep higher up our estimation even as Jesus creeps lower.

1. The passage starts with a declaration of our identity as Christians - what is that identity? (3.1)
2. We're told to fix our thoughts on Jesus, v1. Has lockdown helped or hindered you doing this? Are your thoughts fixed anywhere else? If people are able to share where their thoughts are fixed instead you could come back to these for prayer later.
3. What characteristics of Moses are mentioned here and beyond that demonstrate he is worthy of honour? (v 1-6) What are you drawn to recognise and admire in any other human leader?
4. v 7-11 is a quote of Psalm 95. You might like to go back and read the whole thing. Why did these ancestors harden their hearts?
5. There is a great sense of corporate responsibility in v 12-14. What is our part in helping each other remain soft hearted and fixed on Jesus? How can we be doing this for each other in our group?

Worship Colossians 1.15-20 describes Jesus and what he does. Ask someone to read the passage slowly and reflectively.

15-20 Now Christ is the visible expression of the invisible God. He existed before creation began, for it was through him that every thing was made, whether spiritual or material, seen or unseen. Through him, and for him, also, were created power and dominion, ownership and authority. In fact, every single thing was created through, and for him. He is both the first principle and the upholding principle of the whole scheme of creation. And now he is the head of the body which is composed of all Christian people. Life from nothing began through him, and life from the dead began through him, and he is, therefore, justly called the Lord of all. It was in him that the full nature of God chose to live, and through him God planned to reconcile in his own person, as it were, everything on earth and everything in Heaven by virtue of the sacrifice of the cross. (J.B. Phillips translation)

You might give some time for open praise and thanksgiving - or ask one person to pray a prayer of thanksgiving.

Witness

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension (this coming Thursday) to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Since its start in May 2016, just three and a half years ago, God has grown Thy Kingdom Come from a dream of possibility into a movement. In 2019 Christians from 172 countries took part in praying Come Holy Spirit, so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.

In this short (under 3 min) video, the Archbishop of York shares about what happened when he prayed for 5 people to come to faith in Christ last year - and how he was surprised!! If you can, show it via screen share, if not, send the link round and ask people to watch and then link in again.

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/day-6-prayfor-archbishop-sentamu-prayed-five-people-last-year-and-was-astounded-result>

Give everyone a couple of minutes to write the names of 5 people they feel encouraged to pray for. Share ways that you can remember to pray for them....

Remind everyone about our 24 hrs of prayer shared with St Mark's in Melbourne, Australia.