

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 2, 2006

Passage: Hebrews 12:18-29

Memory Passage: 1 Peter 2:9

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 12:18-21.** What reminder does the writer give to his readers? What are they not coming to?
- (b) Read Exodus 19:12-19. What description is given of Mt. Sinai? How did the people respond (Exodus 20:18-19)?
- (c) What was their view of God? How would you have felt in coming to that mountain?
- (d) What was “commanded” on that mountain? How did they respond to “what was commanded?” What does the law do to every person (Romans 3:19-20)?
- (e) How does this approach to God differ from the believer’s approach to God (Hebrews 4:16; 10:22)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 12:18-21 and Hebrews 4:16. Talk about what it must have been like to be at Mt. Sinai when the law was given. Why would the people be so afraid? How is the believer’s approach to God different from those in the Old Testament? Read Hebrews 4:16 again and thank God for the blessing we have in being able to come to Him in prayer.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 2 Corinthians 3.** In verses 1-6, Paul writes about his adequacy. Where does his adequacy in ministry come from? How does this contrast with ministry in the Old Covenant?
- (b) In verses 7-11, what contrast does he make between the new and old covenants? What terms does he use to describe each of these covenants?
- (c) Why does the glory of the new covenant surpass that of the old?
- (d) In verses 12-18, how does Paul say this understanding affects him and his ministry? What understanding does this give us about the work of the Spirit in conversion in the new covenant?
- (e) What changes or transformations are taking place in those who have believed?
- (f) *Family:* Read 2 Corinthians 3. Talk about the differences between the Old Covenant and the New. What is the emphasis in each covenant (2 Corinthians 3:7-10)? What do we have that they did not have? How should that affect the way we live? Pray for someone you know who still has a “veil” over their eyes to keep them from coming to Jesus. Pray that the Lord will lift that veil so they might come to faith.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 12:22-24.** What does the term “Zion” often refer to in Scripture (Romans 9:33; 11:26; 1 Peter 2:6; Revelation 14:1; Galatians 4:26)?
- (b) How does the writer of Hebrews describe this city? How has he referred to it in this letter (Hebrews 11:10; 11:16; 13:14)?
- (c) *What groups* does he mention are present in this city? Who are each of these groups?
- (d) How are the spirits of the men there described? Why are they called “men *made* perfect?” Compare this with Hebrews 10:14.
- (e) How is God described? How does this fit with what we have been learning about God (2 Corinthians 5:10)? Why is Jesus mentioned last? What does he emphasize about him?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 12:22-24. Talk together about heaven. Who will be there? Why will they be there? Will we be able to recognize others in heaven? What will be the greatest joy about heaven? What are the angels doing in heaven? Spend some time praising God for who He is and for what He has done.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 12:25-28.** In light of this expectation, what warning are we given? What happened to those who disobeyed in the wilderness (Hebrews 3:15-19)?
- (b) Read Psalm 48:1-3. What are some comparisons/contrasts that you can make between the experience at Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion?
- (a) What kinds of things were being “shaken” in the lives of these believers (Hebrews 10:32-36)?
- (c) What is going to happen to all the things that are being “shaken” now (1 Corinthians 7:31; 1 John 2:17; 2 Peter 3:10)?
- (d) What confidence can believers have even though everything is being shaken? Why should we have such a confidence (1 Peter 1:5; Philippians 1:6)?
- (e) What kind of a kingdom have we received? Can it ever be taken from us? What does this teach us about our salvation?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 12:25-28 and Philippians 1:6. Why does the writer speak about things being shaken? What kinds of things will be shaken? What will never be shaken? What kind of a kingdom have we been given? Talk together about the certainty of salvation for all who believe. Thank God for the salvation that Jesus has provided for all who believe.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Hebrews 12:27-29.** In 1 Peter 1:3-5, what does Peter remind suffering Christians about their salvation? How should assurance affect our holiness?
- (b) What are we told to “have” because of this (Hebrews 12:28)? What does this mean? Even though there is a warning for us to obey, what is to be our focus always (1 Peter 1:13)?
- (c) How should the grace of God motivate us (2 Corinthians 8:9; Titus 2:11-15)?
- (d) How does godly fear differ from other fears (2 Corinthians 7:9-11; 1 John 4:18; 1 Peter 1:17; Ephesians 5:21; Philippians 2:12-13; Hebrews 4:1)?
- (e) Is there any fear of losing salvation? What should we fear? What does godly fear produce in us?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 12:27-29 and 1 Peter 1:3-5. Talk about holiness. How are people made right with God? How should our salvation motivate us to live holy for God? What is godly fear and how does it help us to live holy lives? Pray that each of you will have a heart for holiness that is motivated by a proper fear of God.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read **Hebrews 12:18-29.** How is the Old Covenant different from the New? Why are we told to “draw near” while they were warned to stay back? What is heaven going to be like? How can a biblical focus on heaven motivate us to endure whatever is happening in this world? Pray for worship services tomorrow, that believers might be encouraged in their faith and that some unbelieving may come to faith.

DATE: July 2, 2006

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God’s Unshakable Kingdom

“Since we have a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace...”