



HEBREWS CHAPTER 8 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- What is one of the best things that you have ever earned or won?

- Opening Prayer**

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Read the Story (Hebrews 8:1-13)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Hebrews 8:1-7

- What do you think the differences are between a covenant and a contract? Give some examples.
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Why is it important to understand that God has always made covenants with people rather than contracts.
 - Contracts are typically transactional in nature and require both parties promises and faithfulness to those promises. A contract can be easily broken. There is nothing transactional about God's love for people so when He enters into a covenant with people, the promises of that covenant are based upon God's faithfulness and not the faithfulness of human beings. This is not to say that God does not have expectations of us in His covenant

relationship with us. This is not to say that we can't grieve the heart of God and break covenant with Him, but it is to say that even in the midst of this, God's faithfulness is what drives the covenants He makes.

- If someone asked you what Jesus really has to offer them, what would you say?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- How do you currently live the following? "Everything and everyone else pales in comparison to Jesus?"
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Hebrews 8:8-13

□ Hebrews 8:8-12 is a quotation for Jeremiah 31:31-34 and the author of Hebrews is contrasting the Old Covenant that had been made with Israel and the New Covenant that has now been made through Christ. Consider the following differences.

- The new covenant is *inward*. It is not written on stone; it is written on the human heart. Our hearts are recreated by the covenant. Our nature is changed. We have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me (Gal. 2:20).
 - In what ways do you need to more fully allow God to change your heart and mind?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
 - The new covenant is *intimate*. We are able to know and be known by God. The Old Covenant separated the people from God. The consistent theme in Hebrews is that we now enjoy intimacy with God because of the new covenant (see Hebrews 4:14-16).
 - In what ways do you currently build intimacy with God? In what ways do you currently enjoy intimacy with God?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

- The new covenant is *absolute*. As opposed to the Old Covenant where sacrifices had to be continually offered and served to only remind the people of sin, sins are forgiven and remembered no more under the new covenant. Our sin problem has been finally dealt with.
 - In what ways do you need to more fully allow God to release you from destructive thought patterns? Destructive actions?
 - These are opinion and perspective questions so please listen as the facilitator.

- The new covenant is *assured*. It is assured because it is bound to Christ—the perfect mediator and guarantor. We do not earn the covenant. Christ has assured the terms of the covenant.
 - In what ways do you need to more fully rely on the Holy Spirit rather than your own self-control and will power?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time

Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Hebrews Chapter 9)



HEBREWS CHAPTER 8 (STUDENT)

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- What do you think the differences are between a covenant and a contract? Give some examples.
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 - The new covenant is *intimate*. We are able to know and be known by God. The Old Covenant separated the people from God. The consistent theme in Hebrews is that we now enjoy intimacy with God because of the new covenant (see Hebrews 4:14-16).
 - In what ways do you currently build intimacy with God? In what ways do you currently enjoy intimacy with God?
 - The new covenant is *absolute*. As opposed to the Old Covenant where sacrifices had to be continually offered and served to only remind the people of sin, sins are forgiven and remembered no more under the new covenant. Our sin problem has been finally dealt with.
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- What does this passage teach us about mankind?

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