



Elevate (Hebrews), Part 10
“Picture This”
March 9-10, 2019

Opening Questions (what is God doing in your life?)

- What are you thankful for this week? (Good focus for worship & prayer)
- What is a challenge you're facing? How can our group help? (Guides your group members into caring community)
- Do you have a S.O.A.P. (Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer) journal entry you'd like to share? Blank S.O.A.P. journal pages available at lifegroups.mycrosscity.com; click the “Resources” button.

Discovery Questions (hear *and* put into practice, Matthew 7:24)

- When you think of hierarchy, what comes to mind?
- Have volunteers read [Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:14-16](#).
- After their freedom from Egypt, God instructed the Israelites to build the Tabernacle, a place for them to worship Him but also a place for Him to be with them. God's presence resided in a portion of the Tabernacle called the Holy of Holies. Once a year, the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies to atone for the sins of the people. The people were not allowed in; the High Priest was responsible for giving a sacrifice for them. Read Exodus 40:3. What separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the Tabernacle?
- Before Jesus, the people did not have direct access to God. They had to go through the High Priest. God drastically changed this by sending His One and only Son. Read Matthew 27:50-51. What happened the moment Jesus died? What is the spiritual significance of this moment?
- Jesus is our Great High Priest, atoning for our sins once and for all and giving us direct access to the Father. Pastor David quoted Billy Graham who said “The ground is level at the foot of the Cross.” Discuss the significance of this.
- Have you always felt the freedom of direct access to God through Jesus? Perhaps you have past experience with another religion that requires you to go through a person to attain this access. If so, describe that experience in light of the freedom you feel now.
- GRACE (God's Riches at Christ's Expense) means we can freely approach the throne of Grace because of Jesus! No more hierarchy! Look up John 8:36 and read it together. In what area of your life might God want to bring you freedom?

Bible Study Tools: In addition to a good **study Bible** (examples: NIV Study Bible, NLT Study Bible, Life Application Study Bible in NIV or NLT), here are some free online resources to help you better understand the Bible:

- <https://www.biblegateway.com>. Many translations can be viewed in side-by-side columns; includes word searches, commentaries, and Bible dictionaries.
- <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>. Searches, commentaries, Bible dictionaries, and an interlinear Bible (shows Hebrew or Greek alongside English, allows you to study the meaning of the original words).
- Yes, you can “**Google**” your questions, but there is a mix of good and bad online. Look for results from the above sights plus biblehub.com, biblestudytools.com, studylight.org, and bible.org. If you’re not sure about what you’re reading, ask one of our pastors or a Christian friend you trust. Many advisors bring success (Proverbs 15:22, NLT)!

Daily Devotion (Bible reading, Prayer, Journaling): Encourage group members to engage with the Bible 4 or more times each week. Recent studies have shown that this is the most important factor in ongoing transformation. Options:

- Crawl: Verse of the day from YouVersion or BibleGateway Bible Apps.
- Walk: Short reading plans from YouVersion Bible App.
- Run: **Life Journal** (includes reading plan, daily pages, table of contents to track entries, prayer list). Available at <http://www.lifejournal.cc/>.

CALENDAR (3 terms per year: Fall, Winter, Spring)

- Week 1: Discussion Guide
- Week 2: Discussion Guide
- Week 3: Prayer Experience (using provided guide)
- Week 4: Discussion Guide
- Week 5: Strongholds discussion/prayer (using provided guide)
- Week 6: Serve Experience: see Outreach Questions above
- Week 7: Discussion Guide
- Week 8: Discussion Guide
- Week 9: Discussion Guide
- Week 10: Celebration: share the biggest thing God has done in your life over these 10 weeks, affirm and pray a blessing over each other, share communion.