

Since Jesus Paved the Way: [Draw Near to God and Others](#)

What's the Big Idea?

In light of Jesus' high priestly work on behalf of his people, God calls us to draw near to him, hold fast the confession of our hope, and consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds; all to the end that we not fall away, but rather, in view of God's faithfulness, persevere in a life of faith.

What's the Problem?

We fail to draw near to God, hold onto our gospel hope, and spur on one another's faith. This leaves us vulnerable to turning away from Jesus in the face of difficulty.

What's our Response?

Draw near to God and your brothers and sisters in Christ, being diligent to persevere in your faith as you remember the sure hope of the gospel.

Memorize

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:23

What Do I Need to Know About the Passage?

In this section, the author of Hebrews transitions from explanation to application. After explaining how Jesus is better than anyone or anything we could turn to because he's our great high priest, the author calls us to apply this truth to our lives by drawing near to God and our brothers and sisters in Christ as we persevere in our faith in Jesus. Help your group see what a privilege it is to draw near to God. Show them that we have the power to hold on to our faith in Christ because he is holding on to us. And point out our calling to help our brothers and sisters persevere in their faith as we encourage them.

[Draw Near, Hold Fast, and Consider-Hebrews 10:19-25](#)

Since Jesus has paved the way through his sacrificial death on our behalf and is our great priest, we should draw near to God, hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, and consider how to stimulate one another to love, good deeds and perseverance to the end. Lead your group in celebrating what Jesus has made possible for us, and help them consider how to live out this three-fold calling in practical terms.

[No Place Else to Go-Hebrews 10:26-31](#)

In this section the writer warns his readers that willfully rejecting Christ and his salvation leaves us with no other hope of salvation. Rejecting Christ only leaves us with the prospect of God's horrible judgment. Help your group see that it's a really big deal to walk away from Christ. Make sure they know that it's worth it to persevere in faith in him, even when faith comes with great worldly cost.

[Remember and Persevere-Hebrews 10:31-39](#)

Although he gives a grave warning, the writer addresses his readers as genuine believers whom he expects to persevere in their faith in Christ. He highlights their past faithfulness that flowed from confident hope, and encourages them to endure and continue to entrust themselves to him. Help your group consider their past experiences of the persevering power of gospel hope secured by Jesus. Use this as a springboard to encourage them to persevere in their faith in Jesus.

What Are the Questions?

Launch

When was a time in life that you quit something you really shouldn't have? What factors contributed to that decision?

(note: help the group consider the things they quit; but also, factors like failing to cultivate your love for the activity, not cultivating your hope that the difficulty was worth it, failing to consider the future benefits, or not having support or encouragement).

What has God done in your life up to this point that encourages you to continue to walk with him and trust him?

Explore

Read Hebrews 10:19-25

1. How does the blood of Jesus give us confidence to enter the holy place (verse 19)?
2. What difference does it make for us to have a great high priest over the house of God (verse 21)?
3. According to verse 22, how are we able to draw near to the presence of a holy God?
4. How does God's faithfulness empower us to hold on to our hope in Christ (verse 23)?
5. What do you think it means to "consider how to stir up one another to love and good deeds" (verse 24 **and 25**)?
6. How do the things mentioned in verse 25 contribute to stirring one another up?

Read Hebrews 10:26-31

7. Look at the verbs in this paragraph. How would you summarize what the author is warning against?
8. What do you think the author is saying in verse 26?
9. What are the consequences for a person who goes down the road described in this paragraph?
10. How does this paragraph serve as a motivator for persevering faith in Christ?

Read Hebrews 10:32-39

11. What do you think the author is trying to do for his original readers in verses 32-34?
12. How would you summarize the writer's final exhortation to his readers in verses 35-39?

Apply

13. What from this passage motivates you to draw near to God through Jesus Christ and persevere in your faith in him?
14. How has drawing near to God helped you persevere in faith through times of difficulty? How have other believers encouraged you in similar times?
15. What are some of the most important practical steps for you to take to draw near to God in difficult times?
16. How can we develop a greater intentionality in our relationships that would result in spurring one another on to love and good deeds, and encouragement to persevere?
17. How do the consequences of rejecting Christ motivate you to persevere, or motivate you to get in the life of those who are struggling to persevere?
18. When was a time that your perseverance in faith was tested? What aspects of the great reward of the gospel kept you going?

What Are the Answers?

1. Since Christ shed his blood for the forgiveness of our sins, we can be sure God accepts us into his presence.
2. Having a great priest over the house of God assures us that we have Someone to represent us before a holy God.
3. Jesus makes clean.
4. Knowing that Christ remains unconditionally committed to us encourages us to remain unconditionally committed to him.
5. It means that we give intentional thought to what we can do, say, or pray that would contribute to a brother or sister living out faith in Christ.
6. Continuing to gather together as Christians puts us in relationship with one another so we can consider how to spur one another on. Encouraging one another moves us to live out our faith.

7. He warns against willfully continuing in sin, setting aside the gospel, trampling under foot God's Son, regarding as unclean the blood he shed, and insulting the Spirit of grace. In summary, he's warning against the brazen rejection of the gospel by those who had publicly accepted it (*Note that 10:28-29 calls back to the author's original call to not drift away from and neglect the Gospel in vv. 2:1-4. Further, 10:32-29 emphasize the author's concern in terms of not throwing away their gospel confidence, but rather persevering in faith*).
8. The author seems to be saying that rejecting Christ expressed in a willfully unrepentant way of life leaves a person with no other sacrifice for sin. That's because Christ is the only acceptable sacrifice for sin before a holy God.
9. This person faces punishment more severe than physical death (verses 28-29) and the terrifying prospect of falling into the hands of the living God as he pours out his vengeance and judgment on this person.
10. It shows that it's worth it to persevere in faith in Christ because rejecting him brings such horrible consequences. While the implications of faith include worldly consequences, the consequence of repudiating the Gospel is far worse and beyond death. It is also motivating because we can ask, to what other savior will you turn. There is no other sufficient offering or plan for salvation.
11. He encourages them with evidence that they are those who will hold fast. He's reminding them of their past struggle and how holding fast to the hope of the gospel was powerful to preserve their faith.
12. He wants them to hold on to their faith because a better reward is coming.
13. Allow the group to discuss.
14. Allow the group to discuss.
15. Allow the group to discuss.
16. Allow the group to discuss.
17. Allow the group to discuss.
18. Allow the group to discuss.