



HEBREWS – Week of September 23rd, 2018

Hebrews 1:1-4

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Read & Examine – As you read the passage together in its context, consider these questions:

- In your own words, what is the main idea of this *passage*? (Feel free to encourage individuals to read the entire chapter for context.)
- In your own words, what was the main idea of the *sermon*? (The main points were:)

Apply – Consider how God intends to use his Word to shape *your* heart and life now.

- How was your view of God shaped? Who or what has influenced your view of God? Describe how you view God?
- When have you experienced the depth of the personal nature of God and his love? When has it felt like he was distant? How does this passage inform those experiences and hopes?
- Where is your view of God too small? Do you limit God to certain environments, cultural settings, or times and exclude God from others? How can you expand your view of God?
- What is God's agenda for YOU in response to this passage?
 - What steps can I take to have a bigger and more personal view of God?
 - What actions or rhythms of my life will be affected as my awareness of those realities grow?
 - What is God's agenda for you as you apply this passage to your life?
 - How can we as a group help you do that this week?

Pray: Psalm 19:1, 7-10 (Use full Psalm if it is available).

19 The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple;
⁸ the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes;
⁹ the fear of the Lord is clear enduring forever;
the rules of the Lord are true,
and righteous altogether.
¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.

HEBREWS – Week of September 30th, 2018

Hebrews 1:3-14

³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”?

⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

⁷ Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.”

⁸ But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

¹⁰ And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,

and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹ they will perish, but you remain;

they will all wear out like a garment,

¹² like a robe you will roll them up,

like a garment they will be changed.^[a]

But you are the same,

and your years will have no end.”

¹³ And to which of the angels has he ever said,

“Sit at my right hand

until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?

¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

Read & Examine – As you read the passage together in its context, consider these questions:

- In your own words, what is the main idea of this *passage*? (Feel free to encourage individuals to read the entire chapter for context.)
- In your own words, what was the main idea of the *sermon*? (The main points were: Begotten, First Born, Eternal)

Apply – Consider how God intends to use his Word to shape *your* heart and life now.

Apply – Consider how God intends to use his Word to shape *your* heart and life now.

- What in your life causes you to have awe and wonder? How can those things point you to greater worship of God?
- What are some “little deaths” you have experienced? What are some that you fear/try to avoid?
- Where are you inclined to want autonomy in the way you live your life? Where is there opportunity to submit more to the kingship of God?
- What is God’s agenda for YOU in response to this passage?
 - What is God’s agenda for you as you apply this passage to your life?
 - How can we as a group help you do that this week?

HEBREWS

building your life around Christ

Pray: Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,^[a]

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord
forever.

HEBREWS

building your life around Christ

HEBREWS 2:1-4 – Week of October 6th, 201

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ² For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect such

a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, ⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

Opening Prayer

Read & Examine – As you read the passage together in its context, consider these questions:

- In your own words, what is the main idea of this *passage*? (Feel free to encourage individuals to read the entire chapter for context.)
- In your own words, what was the main idea of the *sermon*?

Apply – Consider how God intends to use his Word to shape *your* heart and life now.

- Are there ways in which you feel apathetic about your faith (drifting)? What normal cares cause you to drift from the message of Christ?
- What message of salvation are you listening to? What do you put your hope in for “the good life”? Why?
- What did you think of the description of a sentimental faith? (Descriptors were lack of realism, emotional depth and an avoidance of costly action.) How does that relate to your faith? What can you do if you find that your faith is lacking depth?
- What is God’s agenda for YOU in response to this passage?
 - What is God’s agenda for you as you apply this passage to your life?
 - How can we as a group help you do that this week?

Pray: Psalm 33:1-5, 11-22

¹Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous!
Praise befits the upright.

²Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!

³Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

⁴For the word of the Lord is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.

⁵He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

¹¹The counsel of the Lord stands forever,
the plans of his heart to all generations.

¹²Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

¹³The Lord looks down from heaven;
he sees all the children of man;

from where he sits enthroned he looks out
on all the inhabitants of the earth,

¹⁵he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.

¹⁶The king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

¹⁷The war horse is a false hope for salvation,
and by its great might it cannot rescue.

¹⁸Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,

¹⁹that he may deliver their soul from death
and keep them alive in famine.

²⁰Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.

²¹For our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.

²²Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

HEBREWS

building your life around Christ

HEBREWS 2:5-9 – Week of October 13th, 2018

⁵ For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. ⁶ It has been testified somewhere,

“What is man, that you are mindful of him,
or the son of man, that you care for him?”

⁷ You made him for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned him with glory and honor,^[a]

⁸ putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. ⁹ But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

Opening Prayer

Read & Examine – As you read the passage together in its context, consider these questions:

- In your own words, what is the main idea of this *passage*? (Feel free to encourage individuals to read the entire chapter for context.)
- In your own words, what was the main idea of the *sermon*?

Apply – Consider how God intends to use his Word to shape *your* heart and life now.

- What in your world feels out of control? What is your typical response to a world out of control? What do we know about Jesus and the gospel impacts those moments? How does that shape our responses?
- Who do you view with disgust? Who have you functionally treated as less valuable than yourself? Who/what do you view as insignificant? What can you do to view them with the dignity that they have as image-bearers?
- How can you be a better bearer of God's image in the places you inhabit, in the things you put your head, heart and hands to? How could that shape your way you measure success in your vocation?
- What is God's agenda for YOU in response to this passage?
 - What is God's agenda for you as you apply this passage to your life?
 - How can we as a group help you do that this week?

Pray: Psalm 40:1-3, 13-17

¹ I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.

² He drew me up from the pit of destruction,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.

³ He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the Lord.

¹³ Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me!
O Lord, make haste to help me!

¹⁴ Let those be put to shame and disappointed

altogether

who seek to snatch away my life;
let those be turned back and brought to dishonor
who delight in my hurt!

¹⁵ Let those be appalled because of their shame
who say to me, “Aha, Aha!”

¹⁶ But may all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation
say continually, “Great is the Lord!”

¹⁷ As for me, I am poor and needy,
but the Lord takes thought for me.

You are my help and my deliverer;
do not delay, O my God!

HEBREWS

building your life around Christ

HEBREWS 2:10-18 – Week of October 20th, 2018

¹⁰ For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹² saying,

*“I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.”*

¹³ And again,

“I will put my trust in him.”

And again,

“Behold, I and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Opening Prayer

Read & Examine – As you read the passage together in its context, consider these questions:

- In your own words, what is the main idea of this *passage*? (Feel free to encourage individuals to read the entire chapter for context.)
- In your own words, what was the main idea of the *sermon*?

Apply – Consider how God intends to use his Word to shape *your* heart and life now.

- What have you gone through that you would consider suffering? How do you view future suffering? How does that change considering this passage?
- What are you worried will go unaccomplished in your life? In what part of your life do you feel like time running out for you? How does considering death and Christ work to defeat the fear of death impact that?
- Are you inclined to live out of shame, fear and guilt? How do these verses and Christ as our High Priest address your guilt, fear and shame? How does the resurrection impact those?
- What else are you struggling with? How does Christ as our High Priest address that?
- What is God’s agenda for YOU in response to this passage?
 - What is God’s agenda for you as you apply this passage to your life?
 - How can we as a group help you do that this week?

Pray: Psalm 46:1-3, 8-11

¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling. *Selah*

⁸Come, behold the works of the Lord,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.

¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”

¹¹The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

HEBREWS

building your life around Christ

HEBREWS 3:1-6- Week of October 28th, 2018

Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, ² who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house. ³ For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses—as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house

itself. ⁴ (For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.) ⁵ Now Moses was faithful in all God's house as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, ⁶ but Christ is faithful over God's house as a son. And we are his house, if indeed we hold fast our confidence and our boasting in our hope.

Opening Prayer

Read & Examine – As you read the passage together in its context, consider these questions:

- In your own words, what is the main idea of this *passage*? (Feel free to encourage individuals to read the entire chapter for context.)
- In your own words, what was the main idea of the *sermon*?

Apply – Consider how God intends to use his Word to shape *your* heart and life now.

- Where have you seen God's faithfulness? Where do you lack trust or belief in his faithfulness?
- When you think about your relationship with God, do you identify more as a servant or as a son/daughter? How does this passage address that? How can we learn to live more as sons and daughters of God?
- Are you confident in God? Why or why not? What can we do to grow in our confidence in Christ?
- Thinking back to the entire series, what is beautiful about Christ in Hebrews so far? What has stood out to you?
- What is God's agenda for YOU in response to this passage?
 - What is God's agenda for you as you apply this passage to your life?
 - How can we as a group help you do that this week?

Pray: Psalm 56

¹Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me;

all day long an attacker oppresses me;

²my enemies trample on me all day long,
for many attack me proudly.

³When I am afraid,
I put my trust in you.

⁴In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.
What can flesh do to me?

⁵All day long they injure my cause;
all their thoughts are against me for evil.

⁶They stir up strife, they lurk;
they watch my steps,
as they have waited for my life.

⁷For their crime will they escape?
In wrath cast down the peoples, O God!

⁸You have kept count of my tossings:
put my tears in your bottle.

Are they not in your book?

⁹Then my enemies will turn back
in the day when I call.

This I know, that^[d] God is for me.

¹⁰In God, whose word I praise,
in the Lord, whose word I praise,

¹¹in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.
What can man do to me?

¹²I must perform my vows to you, O God;
I will render thank offerings to you.

¹³For you have delivered my soul from death,
yes, my feet from falling,
that I may walk before God
in the light of life.

HEBREWS

building your life around Christ

HEBREWS 3:7-19 – Week of November 4th, 2018

⁷ Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,

“Today, if you hear his voice,
⁸ do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,
on the day of testing in the wilderness,

⁹ where your fathers put me to the test
and saw my works for forty years.

¹⁰ Therefore I was provoked with that generation,
and said, ‘They always go astray in their heart;
they have not known my ways.’

¹¹ As I swore in my wrath,
‘They shall not enter my rest.’”

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil,
unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the
living God. ¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long

as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened
by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have come to share
in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm
to the end. ¹⁵ As it is said,

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

¹⁶ For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was
it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷ And with
whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with
those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the
wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did he swear that they
would not enter his rest, but to those who were
disobedient? ¹⁹ So we see that they were unable to enter
because of unbelief.

Opening Prayer

Read & Examine – As you read the passage together in its context, consider these questions:

- In your own words, what is the main idea of this *passage*? (Feel free to encourage individuals to read the entire chapter for context.)
- In your own words, what was the main idea of the *sermon*?

Apply – Consider how God intends to use his Word to shape *your* heart and life now.

- Where have you seen God’s faithfulness? Where do you lack trust or belief in his faithfulness?
- When you think about your relationship with God, do you identify more as a servant or as a son/daughter? How does this passage address that? How can we learn to live more as sons and daughters of God?
- Are you confident in God? Why or why not? What can we do to grow in our confidence in Christ?
- Thinking back to the entire series, what is beautiful about Christ in Hebrews so far? What has stood out to you?
- What is God’s agenda for YOU in response to this passage?
 - What is God’s agenda for you as you apply this passage to your life?
 - How can we as a group help you do that this week?

Pray: Psalm 62

¹For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.

²He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

³How long will all of you attack a man
to batter him,
like a leaning wall, a tottering fence?

⁴They only plan to thrust him down from his high
position.

They take pleasure in falsehood.

They bless with their mouths,
but inwardly they curse. *Selah*

⁵For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.

⁶He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

⁷On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

HEBREWS

building your life around Christ

⁸ Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us. *Selah*

⁹ Those of low estate are but a breath;
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.

¹⁰ Put no trust in extortion;

set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, set not your heart on them.

¹¹ Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:

that power belongs to God,

¹² and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love.

For you will render to a man
according to his work.



HEBREWS

building your life around Christ

Hebrews 4:1-13 – Week of November 11th, 2018

Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. ² For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. ³ For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said,

“As I swore in my wrath,
“They shall not enter my rest,””

although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴ For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” ⁵ And again in this passage he said,

“They shall not enter my rest.”

⁶ Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷ again he appoints a

certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts.”

⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. ⁹ So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰ for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Opening Prayer

Read & Examine – As you read the passage together in its context, consider these questions:

- In your own words, what is the main idea of this *passage*? (Feel free to encourage individuals to read the entire chapter for context.)
- In your own words, what was the main idea of the *sermon*?

Apply – Consider how God intends to use his Word to shape *your* heart and life now.

- When have you experienced this type of Sabbath rest? Where have you seen God move you from restlessness to rest?
- What areas can you consider where you are avoiding costly obedience because you don’t trust God to take care of you? What is your next step in that obedience?
- How can you move toward experiencing that type of Sabbath rest? What can we do to spur each other on toward rest? How can we encourage or serve one another to experience this type of rest?
- What is God’s agenda for YOU in response to this passage?
 - What is God’s agenda for you as you apply this passage to your life?
 - How can we as a group help you do that this week?

Pray: Psalm 67

¹ May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine on us—

² so that your ways may be known on earth,
your salvation among all nations.

³ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.

⁴ May the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity

and guide the nations of the earth.

⁵ May the peoples praise you, God;
may all the peoples praise you.

⁶ The land yields its harvest;
God, our God, blesses us.

⁷ May God bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.

HEBREWS

building your life around Christ

Hebrews 4:14-5:10 – Week of November 18th, 2018

¹⁴ Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

⁵ For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. ³ Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those

of the people. ⁴ And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵ So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;
⁶ as he says also in another place,
“You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, ¹⁰ being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Opening Prayer

Read & Examine – As you read the passage together in its context, consider these questions:

- In your own words, what is the main idea of this *passage*? (Feel free to encourage individuals to read the entire chapter for context.)
- In your own words, what was the main idea of the *sermon*?

Apply – Consider how God intends to use his Word to shape *your* heart and life now.

- How do you relate to the idea of “drawing near the throne of grace?”
- How have you seen others respond with gentleness to you? Where have you shown it to others? Who do you need to respond with gentleness to this week?
- Where do see opportunity to obey God, even if there is a cost? What does costly obedience say about your trust in Him?
- What is God’s agenda for YOU in response to this passage?
 - What is God’s agenda for you as you apply this passage to your life?
 - How can we as a group help you do that this week?

Pray: Psalm 77:1-2, 6-9, 11-14

¹ I cry aloud to God,

aloud to God, and he will hear me.

² In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;

in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;
my soul refuses to be comforted.

⁶ I said, “Let me remember my song in the night;
let me meditate in my heart.”

Then my spirit made a diligent search:

⁷ “Will the Lord spurn forever,
and never again be favorable?

⁸ Has his steadfast love forever ceased?

Are his promises at an end for all time?

⁹ Has God forgotten to be gracious?

Has he in anger shut up his compassion?”

¹¹ I will remember the deeds of the Lord;
yes, I will remember your wonders of old.

¹² I will ponder all your work,
and meditate on your mighty deeds.

¹³ Your way, O God, is holy.

What god is great like our God?

¹⁴ You are the God who works wonders;

you have made known your might among the peoples.

HEBREWS

building your life around Christ

Hebrews 5:11-6:3 – Week of November 25th, 2018

¹¹ We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. ¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. ¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

⁶ Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, ² instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. ³ And God permitting, we will do so.

Opening Prayer

Read & Examine – As you read the passage together in its context, consider these questions:

- In your own words, what is the main idea of this *passage*? (Feel free to encourage individuals to read the entire chapter for context.)
- In your own words, what was the main idea of the *sermon*?

Apply – Consider how God intends to use his Word to shape *your* heart and life now.

- How do you relate to the idea of Christian maturity/immaturity in your own life? Do you consistently rely on God and the gospel as a foundation in your time, relationships and resources? Do you struggle with consistent spiritual immaturity? Why? What can you do about it?
- Are you currently teaching or discipling others? What is keeping you from doing so? Talk with your leaders about how you move toward maturity and discipling others in your community.
- What are the habits in your life that take effort and discipline? What spiritual habits do you have? Where do you need to form more consistent habits of reading God's word? How can your community help you?
- What is God's agenda for YOU in response to this passage?
 - What is God's agenda for you as you apply this passage to your life?
 - How can we as a group help you do that this week?

Pray: Psalm 84

¹ How lovely is your dwelling place,
Lord Almighty!

² My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God.

³ Even the sparrow has found a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—
a place near your altar,
Lord Almighty, my King and my God.

⁴ Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you.

⁵ Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

⁶ As they pass through the Valley of Baka,
they make it a place of springs;

the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

⁷ They go from strength to strength,
till each appears before God in Zion.

⁸ Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty;
listen to me, God of Jacob.

⁹ Look on our shield, O God;
look with favor on your anointed one.

¹⁰ Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹¹ For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
the Lord bestows favor and honor;
no good thing does he withhold
from those whose walk is blameless.

¹² Lord Almighty,
blessed is the one who trusts in you.