

BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

Live in a New Relationship with God
Hebrews 9:11-15, 24—10:4, 19-25

Copy pages 2 and 3 for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

Leaders' Responsibilities:

Important: Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a series of sessions needs to have access to the "Introduction" article found at the beginning of each series (Bible Teaching #11). The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

- 1. The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.
- 2. The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)
- 3. The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

Prior to this Coming Session:

Gathering Time Leader:

Bible Study Leader:

Make sure that your teenagers have sheets of paper and pens for their “Take Ten” Bible Study application time.

Worship Time Leader:

Music Sources:

Open Our Eyes, Lord, *The Worship Hymnal* #426; CCLI #1572

We Fall Down, *The Worship Hymnal* #556; CCLI #2437367

I Love You, Lord, *The Worship Hymnal* #555; CCLI #25266

Find Us Faithful, *The Worship Hymnal* #598; CCLI #18259

1

Copy this section for the Gathering Time leader.

Gathering Time: (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

Live in a New Relationship with God

Focal Text

Hebrews 9:11-15, 24—10:4, 19-25

Background

Hebrews 9—10

Main Idea

We must live wholeheartedly in the new relationship with God that Christ has made possible through his sacrifice of himself for us.

Question to Explore

How has your life been changed by Jesus' sacrifice of himself for you?

Teaching Aim

To help the church evaluate the extent to which they live in the new relationship with God that Christ has made possible.

Gathering together:

Sing:

Open Our Eyes, Lord, *The Worship Hymnal* #426; CCLI #1572

First thoughts:

A Radical New Relationship

Mark 1:16-18

16 As He was passing along by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, Simon's brother. They were casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. 17 "Follow Me," Jesus told them, "and I will make you to fish for people!" 18 Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

Becoming a follower of Jesus is a radical life changing event. It means one must leave the lifestyle one has to become a disciple of Jesus. It is a 24/7 commitment. When Jesus calls, one should make the same decision which Simon and Andrew did and follow Him. How long did it take to make a decision to follow Jesus? They made an immediate decision.

As we study together the Spirit of God will be speaking to your heart. If you have not made a decision to follow Him today is the day to do it.

Jesus wants to be your Savior each and every moment of your life. He desires each disciple to be fishers of men. That will not happen with a little time here and a little time there. From the time a person commits to follow Jesus, training begins. Proverbs 22:6 says ***Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.*** That is a proverb that is applicable to a follower of Christ. He wants to train a young believer so that when he is an old believer he will not stray away.

Training comes in many forms. It come from Bible study. It comes from learning to pray. It comes from interaction with other believers. Once a person connects with Jesus they ought to stay connected with Him and His church.

Closing the Gathering Time:

Be sure you pray for those who are lost who are present today.

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

Note to the Bible Study Leader: Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

Teacher Preparation

Live in a New Relationship with God

Focal Text

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Background

Hebrews 9—10

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Question to Explore

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Teaching Aim

To help the church evaluate the extent to which they live in the new relationship with God that Christ has made possible.

Introduction to your personal study:

Hebrews 9:1-10 give us a glimpse of worship that was necessary for a Jew to temporarily atone for his sin. God provided specific instructions for a tabernacle or tent that was to be the center of their worship and a place for God's Presence to dwell. (See Exodus 26-28) Hebrew worship followed laws given by God to Moses and angels.

The tabernacle was “pitched”, that is, the tents and surrounding walls were erected and furnished each time in a prescribed way. Only the priests were able to enter. They regularly entered the tabernacle enclosure and into the outer room to minister. But, once a year on the Day of Atonement, the high priest entered the Holy of Holies to offer a blood sacrifice for himself and for the sins the people had ignorantly or deliberately committed. These sacrifices were an illustration of Christ to come. The presentation of gifts and

sacrifices only cleared the conscience of the worshiper temporarily. They were external ceremonial regulations being applied until the new order or new covenant was established. They had to be repeated over and over. Hebrews 9:Verses 1-10 contain a clear description of the tabernacle and the system of worship which governed the Jewish people for many years.

Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Introduction**” article found at the beginning of this series (Bible Teaching #11) of Bible Study and Worship sessions. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you, as well.

Focusing on the Meaning:

The Hebraic people, God’s own people, are given the task of introducing the world to God. They fail. They, and the rest of God’s human creation, are not able to live in God’s grace and presence as He wants for His glory. Sin is present in every life on earth.

Then Jesus comes and takes the role of High Priest. He enters the heavenly holy place and sprinkles His blood as a permanent sacrifice. Therefore, He will satisfy fully the need for atonement and will redeem man for eternity. He offers Himself as an unblemished lamb to cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death. Man will be clean and will be able to serve the living God forever.

The offering of Himself is not only for those of the new covenant. It is able to satisfy the sin debt of those born under the first covenant. He died as a ransom to set them free too. He completes God’s grand design for man’s salvation.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them.” Matthew 5:17.

1. Live in a New Relationship Through The Blood of Christ Hebrews 9:11-14

¹¹ When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are now already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, that is to say, is not a part of this creation. ¹² He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves, but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. ¹³ The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. ¹⁴ How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

High priests of the old covenant made atonement for sins by sacrificing in the tabernacle made with hands. The tabernacle was an earthly replica of the heavenly tabernacle. It was a picture of Christ and it was the place where the presence of God dwelled with man. Then Christ, as high priest, entered the heavenly tabernacle and offered a blood sacrifice from His own blood. He changed the way man related to God. He became man's personal priest and mediator.

The ministering of earthly priests using the blood of goat, bulls, and the ashes of a heifer (See Numbers 19) could only sanctify and make the people outwardly clean. It was temporary and had to be frequently repeated. Christ, through the unblemished sacrifice of Himself cleanses our consciences, that is, our inward selves. He takes away one's remembrance of acts that lead to death. When one's sins are atoned for, it is possible to serve the living God.

2. Live in a New Relationship Through Christ Our Mediator. Hebrews 9:15

15 For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance---now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from sins committed under the first covenant.

Because of what Christ has done He is able to be our mediator of a new covenant. A mediator is one who is able to put something into effect. He makes it possible for the redeemed to receive their promised inheritance which is eternal life and fellowship with God. The first covenant defined sin and its punishment. Christ frees one from the punishment of sin.

It does not take long to find a common denominator for the old covenant and the new covenant. It is blood. In the old covenant it was the blood of sacrifices that atoned for sin. In the new covenant it is the blood of Jesus Christ that atones for sin. (See Hebrews 9:22 and Matthew 26:28).

Christ's sacrifice and application was not in the earthly tabernacle but was carried into the heavenly tabernacle and made atonement for mankind in the very presence of God.

For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. (Hebrews 9:24).

William Barclay wrote in his commentary on Hebrews: "To the writer to the Hebrews the whole business of sacrifice was a pale copy of what true and real worship ought to be. The whole business of religion was to bring a man into close and intimate relationship with God, to give him free and full access to the presence of God." (Westminster: John Knox Press, 1976, pg. 125)

The sacrifices were repeated over and over as a reminder that something better was coming. ***It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.*** (Hebrews 10:4). Those sacrifices could not take away sin, which is an inward desire to do wrong. They reminded man of his sins. Jesus would come to provide a better way. High priests would come and go, but Jesus is an eternal High Priest.

3. Live in a New Relationship by Persevering in Faith. Hebrews 10:19-22.

19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

Always pause when you come to the word “therefore”. It is important to understand the connection between what has been written and what is about to be written. The theme of the blood of Christ is continued. It is because of the shed blood of Christ that a believer can “draw near to God”. He is “***a new and living way***” that enables each of us to approach God. The curtain which was in the old tabernacle which separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the sanctuary was opened to all (Matthew 27:51).

Note what Christ’s blood enabled the new covenant believer to do. He can ***draw near to God***. No longer is God far from man. The believer has been “cleansed” of sin so there is nothing between him and his Lord. He can draw near to God with a sincere heart.

4. Live in a New Relationship Within the Community of Believers. Hebrews 10:23-25

23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another---and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Once again the call is made to stand firm. Do not swerve from the “hope we profess”. Jesus is the lifeline of eternal life. Don’t let go. Your hope has been placed in One who is faithful. With one’s own faith steadfast, one is to encourage others to a life that is expressed in “meeting together” in love and deed. Believers are not called to practice their faith in isolation, but as a community of believers. Each one is to relate to Christ and to one another. Keep in mind that Christ is coming back for His church. Meeting together, worshipping together, and nurturing one another, the church will be ready for Christ’s return.

Notice the three references to “faith” (vs. 22), “hope” (vs. 23), and “love” (24). As the writer called attention to these great themes of the Christian life it would be good to make sure they are considered now. Paul writes on these themes in 1 Corinthians 13.

Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:

Encourage your church to live out the wonderful relationship with Christ which they have declared to be theirs. Encourage them to ask Jesus for forgiveness whenever they fail to live up to their commitment to Him and then to try again each day to be all that He expects of each of us.

For Personal Reflection:

What have I learned from this study?

What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?

What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?

Bible Study Plan (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

Live in a New Relationship with God

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.

Focal Text

Hebrews 9:11-15, 24—10:4, 19-25

Background

Hebrews 9—10

Main Idea

We must live wholeheartedly in the new relationship with God that Christ has made possible through his sacrifice of himself for us.

Question to Explore

How has your life been changed by Jesus' sacrifice of himself for you?

Teaching Aim

To help the church evaluate the extent to which they live in the new relationship with God that Christ has made possible.

Connect with Life:

At the beginning of this session ask: "Who do you have the best relationship with, and why?"

Allow a few moments for the group to think then discuss the questions. If no one begins be prepared to start the discussion yourself.

Guide the Study:

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Live in a New Relationship with God – 11-31-05-en

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Say: Our study today centers around Jesus becoming our High Priest. We will review the functions of the High Priest in the Old Testament and we will study the role of Jesus as High Priest in the New Testament.

Ask for a volunteer to read Hebrews 9:11-14.

Ask for someone to answer the question: What do you think the writer meant when he wrote “of the good things that are now already here”? (The tabernacle and the laws and sacrifices already in place.)

Have a volunteer read Matthew 5:17.

Then ask: By what means did Christ fulfill the Law? (By His death on the cross. By shedding His blood. By giving His blood and entering the Most Holy Place.)

Ask: Which is more permanent for sin’s forgiveness - the blood of animals or the blood of Christ?

Question: What does it mean for Christ to “cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death”?

Explain: Our conscience is our moral compass. A conscience can keep us from doing wrong things. It can also torment us when we have done something wrong. Christ both enables our conscience to help us make right choices and forgives us when we do make wrong choices so that we are not constantly reminded of them.

Say: The issue addressed in our study today is one of the central themes of Hebrews. The writer is using these illustrations to convince his readers that going back to the sacrifices of the Old Testament would be to rely upon less protection from sin than Christ’s atonement in the New Covenant. Why settle for good when they could have the best. They had taken upon themselves a new relationship with Christ. They must not abandon it.

Ask for a volunteer to read Hebrews 9:15.

Question: What Is a mediator? (A mediator is one who is able to put something into effect. A mediator brings about reconciliation or produces agreement.)

Tell them: Christ makes it possible for the redeemed, the saved, to receive their promised inheritance of eternal life.

Ask: What is a common denominator that runs throughout the Bible? (It is blood found in Old Testament sacrifices of animals and the New Testament sacrifice of Christ.)

Inform the group that the earthly tabernacle and the sacrifices were but a copy of Christ and His sacrifice in the heavenly tabernacle (Hebrews 9:24). The tabernacle and the sacrifices reminded the Hebrews of their sins.

Ask for a volunteer to read Hebrews 10:18-22.

Question: What does the writer tell the believers they now have? Confidence.

Ask: What should the believers do? Pray.

Follow with the question: How should they pray? (With sincerity. With assurance. With faith.)

Tell the group to look carefully at the verses and see that all is possible because Christ is leading the way.

Read verses 23-25 to the group. Have the group see that the author once again includes himself.

Ask: What theme of Hebrews is expressed? (Keep on keeping on. Keep the faith.)

Follow with: Why is that possible? (God is faithful.)

Ask: What should be considered? (Spur one another toward love and good deeds. Meet together regularly. Encourage one another.)

Leader, Make sure you emphasize that corporate worship is important. It enables the believers to connect with each other as they connect with Christ. Christianity is all about relationships.

Wrap up with this: Christ came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets. His life and death provide examples and full atonement for sins. Never slack off. Always move forward and build a stronger relationship with God.

Encourage Application:

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

There are signs of a failure in our commitment that can be seen. A believer today who is tempted to go back on his commitment to Christ would do well to watch for the following signs:

1. Less or no attendance in corporate worship.
2. Less or no prayer.
3. Less or no Bible reading.
4. Lack of concern for the fellowship of believers which once was important to him/her.
5. Involvement in activities which at one time were considered wrong.

There is a saying "The closer you get to God, the better off you are".

Ask someone to close in prayer, asking God's help in learning how to live closer to God every day.

Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time. Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

YOUTH!!! TAKE TEN

Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

Live in a New Relationship with God

Hebrews 9:11-15, 24—10:4, 19-25

A youth will lead the following activity and comments. No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

Relationships rate high on what is important to you as teenagers. These include friendships, romantic relationships, and those relationships based on sports, music, art, computers or many other shared interests.

Give a sheet of paper to each participant and list those relationships which are really important to you. Then group those relationships in categories such as Most Important, Relatively Important, and Important, but I could live without it.

Ask each other to consider where you have placed your relationship to God and your relationship to God's people. Ask yourselves if some adjustment needs to be made in this aspect. Do not embarrass anyone by asking where they have placed their priorities.

3

Copy this section for the Worship Time leader.

Worship Time (Suggested time: 30 minutes)

Live in a New Relationship with God Hebrews 9:11-15, 24—10:4, 19-25

Beginning the Service:

Sing:

We Fall Down, *The Worship Hymnal* #556; CCLI #2437367

I Love You, Lord, *The Worship Hymnal* #555; CCLI #25266

Find Us Faithful, *The Worship Hymnal* #598; CCLI #18259

Offering:

Praying for the World:

We need to learn to pray the news. As we read or listen to events happening in our town or city or country or around the world, we need to lift the needs which those events represent to God. In your group today, someone could voice a prayer for your town, another for your country and another for a need somewhere in the world. Instead of feeling helpless as we listen to tragedies of war and nature or evil in the world, we can leave those needs with the Father.

Sharing Guide:

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

A Profitable Relationship!

Philemon 1:11

“Which in time past to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and me” (King James Version)

Introduction:

The letter that Paul wrote to Philemon in regard to his slave, Onesimus, is a perfect example of how people who relate to Jesus should relate to each other.

As we look at the story behind the letter, notice that Paul is not supporting the practice of slavery. However, Paul lived at a time in which slavery was an accepted part of society and had been for as long as society had existed. Paul simply deals with the reality of the situation as it exists.

Never think that God cannot make something good out of you and your life. This is one of the marvelous truths found in this little letter in the New Testament. It does not make a difference what you have done; if you bring your life to Christ and commit it to Him he will make something good of it.

What a friendship there was between Paul, Onesimus, and Philemon. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to ask him to take back a runaway slave named Onesimus who was a convert of Paul. He was won to Christ in Rome. Paul wants to send him back to Philemon to be a witness among those who knew him best.

The hardest people to whom a person bears a witness are those who know him/her best. All too often the past gets in the way.

I. Onesimus.

Take a close look at Onesimus. He had been a useless slave. He had been rebellious. He was a runaway and as a result could have been given severe punishment if caught and returned to Philemon. He may have stolen from Philemon in order to finance his getaway (v. 18). That was the man met by Paul. That was the man before he met Christ.

Understand that this man was like many others who think that God would have nothing to do with them. He was on the bottom rung of the social and economic order. He was a slave. He ran away from Philemon.

But, then he came to know Jesus. This useless slave who had been so unprofitable to Philemon had become profitable to Paul also and to the Kingdom of God. He would also become profitable to Philemon.

II. Philemon.

There is quite a contrast between Onesimus and Philemon. Philemon must have had some wealth because he owned slaves. He was a man of faith. Paul praised him and the church in his house. Listen to what Paul writes in verses 4-7.

⁴ I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers,

⁵ because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints.

⁶ I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

⁷ Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother have refreshed the hearts of the saints. (NIV)

Philemon was:

A man of faith.

A man who loved all the saints.

A man who shared his faith.

A man whose love for the saints gave Paul great joy and encouragement.

This is the kind of man Onesimus deserted. Philemon was not a man who mistreated others and was probably not one to mistreat his slaves.

III. A New Relationship

Paul said that Onesimus was “his very heart” (v. 12). Onesimus was dear to Paul. Yet, because he was Philemon’s slave, he would not keep him without his consent. He really wanted to keep him because Onesimus ministered to Paul. But, he asked Philemon to take him back as a brother. The letter assumes that Onesimus will be treated fairly as a brother.

Notice that nothing is said about releasing him from being a slave. The emphasis is not upon his status in life but upon the new relationship in Christ. The master and the slave are now brothers in Christ and as such should treat each other as brothers.

Paul wrote to Philemon in verses 15-16 that the reason Onesimus ran away might have been so he could return to him for good. He might well have said to Onesimus, “you

made your way to Rome for a reason. You have found Christ and now it is up to you to serve Him where He has placed you in life.”

Romans 8:28 lets us know that God can work for good the circumstances in which His children find themselves.

15 Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good—

16 no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord. (NIV)

Philemon 1:15-16

Conclusion:

What a request Paul made of Philemon! What a request he made of Onesimus. But these were all friends, brothers in Christ, and Paul asked this knowing it would be done. He did not risk Onesimus' life by sending him back to Philemon although most slave owners would have killed a runaway slave. Philemon will take him back and Onesimus will serve him. All this made Paul glad.

Wherever God puts you is where you serve Him. Quit looking for that golden opportunity. Finding God's purpose for your life might be as simple as looking around where you are.

What are some life applications?

If a person has had a life changing experience that person is to share it with others right in their own back yard. Onesimus was sent back for that purpose. Can you imagine the amazement of the other slaves when Onesimus returned on his own. Can you imagine the powerful testimony he had among those he had known previously?

Call to Commitment:

Are you living in a new relationship with God?

Do you want a new relationship with God?

Come to Christ and believe in Him.

Concluding the Service:

Offer this scriptural benediction on the church:

Ephesians 6:23, 24.

23 Peace to the brothers and sisters, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

24 Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

May we go in the peace of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.