

Merciful and Faithful Jesus

Hebrews 2

9-28-14

1. Read Hebrews 2 aloud with your group. Pastor Jim pointed out that Jesus became one of us so that he could come and get us. He has made us part of his family so that he could bring us safely to God. Why is it so important that Jesus became human and suffered on our behalf? What does that tell you about the heart of God?
2. Read Hebrews 2:14-16. Notice that Jesus comes to save us from the “fear of death.” Many have taken that as only the fear of dying but Pastor Jim mentioned that it could be much more. It can be a feeling of being separated from God’s love and peace. Have you ever experienced a fear such as this -- a fear that leads you to believe that you will never make it out of a crisis you’re facing? Take some time to discuss this with your group.
3. Read Psalm 3:3-6; 23:4; 34:7; and 46:1-3. How is God present in our fears, and what has He promised to those who place their trust in Him?
4. Pastor Jim said that the more we choose disobedience, the more we experience fear. If we avoid doing what God has asked us to do, why won’t the fear just go away on its own? What should we do even though we may experience fear? See Psalm 16:7-9; 18:31-33 and 103:17-18.
5. Read Matthew’s account of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46). How does Jesus describe His own state in v. 38? What is Jesus’ earnest prayer to God and how often does He pray it? What does this story teach us about fear in how Jesus responds to God?
6. How is Jesus both shown as merciful and faithful in the Garden of Gethsemane story? What does this mean for us?
7. Take time to pray with your group. Pray that each of you may be strengthened and encouraged in your journey of faith. Ask God to help you to remain faithful as you follow Christ. Take heart in knowing that Jesus has been where you are at and knows your fear and anxiety. He is with you.