

Small Group Participant Guide

Hebrews 1-4| Do We Want to Hear What Jesus Has to Say?

To The Point

Key Verse: "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." (Hebrews 1:1-2, ESV)

Objectives: Through your time exploring this passage, you will:

Explore the biblical exhortation to hear what God is saying.

Discuss the ways a person is able to listen to God, and what it means to listen.

Apply the biblical principles discussed in an effort of preparation to receive what God intends to share in the weeks ahead.

Conversation Starter: Advice

What was the best advice you have ever received? What made it good? How did you use the advice?

How God Talks Today (Hebrews 1:1-4)

What are some ways that people say (whether you agree with them or not) that they hear from God?

According to this passage, how did God previously choose to speak to people? What does this mean?

Who are some of these prophets, how did God speak through them, and what types of messages did God typically say through them?

How does God speak to people now, according to this passage? What is significant about these details revealed in this passage, related to how He speaks today?

Uniquely Able (Hebrews 2:14-18)

What do verses 14-15 show about the extent to which Jesus went to be able to identify with us?

For what purpose did Jesus do this?

What do verses 16-18 reveal about how or why Jesus is uniquely able to speak to us about the matters of our lives?

How does the truth of verses 14-15, combined with those of 16-18 impact your understanding of Jesus and what He has to say to you?

The Heart of Hearing (Hebrews 3:5-15)

The Jewish people shared a unified identity under Moses. Here, the author of Hebrews appeals for readers to identify with Jesus in the same way, but to an even greater degree. What is the distinction between Moses and Jesus, revealed in verses 5-6, and what do these verses say about why it matters to you?

Verses 7-15 include a clear exhortation to heed the warning of Israel that had hardened its heart and did not enter the Promised Land (described as entering His rest). What does it mean to harden your heart? What are the types of things that potentially cause us to harden our hearts?

How does the "deceitfulness of sin" (v. 13) harden your heart?

What do you think verses 13-14 have to say about the role of community in protecting from hardening of heart?

Hearing Jesus Today (Hebrews 4:12-16)

What claims about the Bible are made in Hebrews 4:12-13? What do these claims mean?

Verses 14-16 return attention to having confidence in relating to God through Jesus. What is the relationship for the Believer between the Bible, hearing Jesus, and relating with God?

Jesus in Focus

Where in this study do you see Jesus: Christ-like practices, examples, principles?

What are some other Scriptures that come to mind or are relevant to this chapter's themes, teachings, or emphases?

What is one "take-away" for you from this chapter?