

(re)union

Learning, Living, and Giving the Good News of Jesus

Week 2: God With Us

- SCRIPTURE TEXT: **Hebrews 1:3; 2:14-18; 4:14-16**
- MEMORY VERSE: **Hebrews 1:3** and/or **John 3:16-17**
- (RE)UNION CHAPTER: 6 (Next week chapter 7)
- HOMEWORK: Talk with your study buddy (It's not too late to find one!)

APPETIZER: The Gospel Meets Our Needs

FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS

(Bill Bright, Campus Crusade for Christ, 1950s)

1. God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.
2. Our sin has separated us from God.
3. Jesus is God's only provision for our salvation.
4. We must receive salvation by faith in Christ.

THE BRIDGE TO LIFE / STEPS TO PEACE WITH GOD
THE ROMAN ROAD / THE REFORMED ROMAN ROAD

THE GOSPEL IN THIRTY WORDS...

Jesus is **God with us**, come to

1. **show us** God's love,
 2. **save us** from sin,
 3. **set up** God's kingdom, and
 4. **shut down** religion,
- so we can **share in** God's life.

DINE IN: God With Us

Hebrews 1:3; 2:14-18; 4:14-16

Matthew 1:18-23

Also see Colossians 1:15-20

John 14:7-9

- "exact representation" = *CHARAKTER* = imprint; engraving; reproduction
- "being/nature" = *HUPOSTASIS* = essence; substance; reality
- "to make atonement" = *HILASKOMAI* = to pardon; show mercy; wipe clean
- Note: For Christ to atone FOR OUR SINS (rather than for God's wrath) points toward expiation rather than propitiation.

TAKE OUT: Lulling Ourselves to Sleep

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
~ **The Apostle James (James 1:22)**

HOMEWORK: It's not too late to find a study buddy! Ask a friend or family member to allow you to practice being clear with them each week about what you're learning at church. You'll take less than five minutes to share what you've learned and ask them for feedback.

STUDY BUDDY MESSAGE SUMMARY:

- Jesus claims to show us what God is like, since he is God's essence in human form. (John 14:7-9)
- This is good news, because Jesus is amazingly forgiving, welcoming, and embracing of everyone (except religious hypocrites who should know better). This is what God is like! This is good news!
- In the Bible, Jesus is called "Emmanuel" which means "God with us." Jesus is "God with us" in two ways: 1) Because he lived a human life, God empathizes with our pain and problems. God "gets" us. 2) God shows us that he is on our side, wanting what is best for us, really *for* us and not *against* us.
- Jesus is verifiable historical evidence that we can be secure in God's care for us.

NEXT WEEK: Show us God's Love!

Next week we talk about how Jesus shows us God's love like nothing and no one else. Read chapter 7 in *(re)union*.

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Have you found your study buddy? Talk about that.
2. Has anyone memorized this week's Memory Verse? Give it a try!

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Hebrews 2:14-3:6**.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
 - b. Why did Jesus come to earth and take on "flesh and blood" as one of us?
 - c. In what ways does verse 14 fulfill the "protoevangelium" in Genesis 3:15? How might you explain this to someone who is new to Christian faith?
 - d. How does fear of death affect your life? And/or the lives of others you know?
 - e. According to verse 18, Jesus was tempted like we are tempted (yet without sinning, see Hebrews 4:15). How did Jesus respond to temptation? What lessons are there in that for us?
 - f. Complete this sentence: "Moses is to Jesus like a house is..." What does this say about Jesus in reference to any other prophets or religious leaders (e.g., Buddha, Mohammed, the Bahauallah, etc.)?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Do you sense there is anything holding you back from learning, living, and giving the gospel to the fullest?
5. Pray for your Study Buddies, and for yourselves, that you might be growing deeply through this series in your understanding of and ability to communicate the gospel.

Quotes

Welcome to part 2 in our series on Learning, Living, & Giving the Good News of Jesus! Today's Message is about Jesus as Emmanuel – God with us.

In the first couple of chapters of the book of Hebrews we read...

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil...

...and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants.

For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus.