



Small Group Guide: The Forgotten Jesus

“Hebrews in 40ish minutes”

Icebreaker Question

What's one thing from your past (childhood, family tradition, or life experience) that helps you appreciate who you are today? How would your story be incomplete without it?

Key Takeaways

1. Context is Critical

To understand any verse of Scripture, we must read it in context. A text without context becomes a pretext for proving whatever we want.

2. The Problem Was Never the Law

The law God gave was perfect and good. The problem was always with the people trying to obey it in their own strength, particularly the corrupt priesthood.

3. Jesus is Our Perfect High Priest

Jesus didn't abolish the priestly system; He fulfilled it perfectly. He is both the sacrifice and the High Priest who offers the sacrifice.

4. The Old Testament Remains Relevant

Hebrews 4:12 declares God's Word is "living and active" even while discussing the new priesthood. The Old Testament was all they had, and it pointed to Christ.

5. Translation vs. Abolition

Hebrews 7:12 speaks of a "change" in the law, but the Greek word means "translated" or "carried over" the priestly duties were transferred to Jesus, not eliminated.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. Before this study, what was your understanding of Hebrews 8:13 where it says the first covenant is "obsolete"? How has this discussion changed or deepened your perspective?
2. Read Hebrews 4:12 together. Why is it significant that right in the middle of discussing the new priesthood, the author declares God's Word is "living and active"?
3. What does it mean that Jesus is both the sacrifice and the High Priest? How does this dual role give us access to God in a way the Old Testament system couldn't?

Going Deeper

4. One key point was that "God provides what He requires." Can you think of examples from Scripture or your own life where God has provided what He commanded?
5. The Old Testament sacrificial system was a constant visual reminder of God's hatred for sin. How do we remember the seriousness of sin today without that system? What should replace it in our spiritual practice?
6. Why do you think many Christians are tempted to dismiss or ignore the Old Testament? What do we lose when we do that?

Personal Application

7. Kandi mentioned getting convicted about praying the same prayers repeatedly. What does your current prayer life look like? Are there areas where you've fallen into routine without depth?
8. The podcast mentioned that behind the scenes of revival, the enemy was attacking relentlessly. Have you experienced spiritual warfare during times of spiritual growth? How did you respond?
9. Read Malachi 3:6 - "I am the Lord, and I have not changed." How does God's immutability (unchanging nature) give you confidence in your relationship with Him?

Key Scriptures for Further Study

- Hebrews 4:12 - The Word of God is living and active
- Hebrews 7:12 - The change (translation) of the priesthood
- Hebrews 8:13 - Understanding "obsolete" in context
- Malachi 3:6 - God's immutability
- Romans 10:4 - Christ and the law (preview for next week)

Closing Prayer

Pray together, thanking God for:

- His unchanging nature
- The completeness of Christ's work as our High Priest
- The gift of His Word, both Old and New Testament
- The Holy Spirit who gives us power to live holy lives