



Cuyahoga
Valley Church

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Week of 12.15.24
Hebrews 9 // Joe Valenti

Please take the opportunity to revisit the CVC Equip
Portrait of a Healthy LifeGroup on a regular basis

CONNECT (10 MIN)

- ① In his sermon on Sunday, Pastor Joe told a story about coming home late one night in high school and finding his dad waiting up for him to arrive. When is a time that you felt shame or guilt before your parents because of a choice you made as a child? Looking back, are you able to find humor in that experience now? Why or why not?

EXPLORE (30 MIN)

Create Context (5 min): Click [HERE](#) to watch the sermon recap video

Study & Discussion (25 min)

Read Hebrews 9 out loud together as a group.

- ② Refer to Hebrews 9:1-10. These verses tell us about the structure of the tent of worship in the Old Covenant. In his sermon, Joe talked about “the weight of guilt” - in the Old Covenant, sacrifices had to be made repeatedly by the priests in order for sins to be forgiven. What is something that stands out to you about the structure of this tent and the work of the priests in the Old Covenant, based on these verses?
- ③ Read Hebrews 9:11-12. Joe taught on Sunday that these verses point us to “the wonder of better blood.” As opposed to the repeated animal sacrifices in the Old Covenant, the blood of Jesus paid once and for all for the sins of those who turn to and trust in Him. As Joe said, the animals sacrificed, the sights and sounds of the temple, would have always been “reminding God’s people of the seriousness of sin and the cost of forgiveness.” It is such good news for us today that the blood of Jesus “is the ultimate, once-for-all sacrifice.” Today, Christians don’t need to offer repeated sacrifices because Jesus has paid the price of our sins once and for all - past, present, and future. All we have to do is invite Him to be the leader and forgiver of our lives.
 - Based on our passage and the sermon on Sunday, how would you explain all of this (the Old Covenant system versus the once and for all sacrifice of Jesus) to someone who doesn’t know the Lord and hasn’t invited Jesus to forgive and lead them?
 - Where do you find hope today in the truth that if you know Jesus, your sins are once and for all forgiven?



- ④ Read Hebrews 9:13-14. Joe said on Sunday that “Jesus’ blood on your behalf is so that you can worship God fully and serve His people without fear.” Joe’s point was that we are saved from sin and from hell, but we are also saved TO something - faithful Christian worship and living within the context of the church.
- In what way are you “worshipping God fully and serving His people without fear” in this season of your life?
 - Imagine you are having a conversation with someone who is attending CVC, but doesn’t come regularly and isn’t involved in a LifeGroup or WorkShop and isn’t serving anywhere within or outside of the church. How could you use this passage (or this week’s sermon) to encourage this person to jump into church body life in a renewed capacity and vigor?
- ⑤ We talked on Sunday about how a clean conscience before God causes us to SING without hesitation, to SERVE without fear, and to SEEK with confidence. Which one of these (SING, SERVE, or SEEK) especially stands out to you today, and why? By the grace of God, where are you living faithfully in this list, and where do you have the most room to grow?
- ⑥ Read Psalm 51. This is a Psalm that King David wrote after he sinned against God. No matter who we are, there will be seasons when we sin and when we need to come before the Lord in repentance and contrition.
- How does this Psalm give you hope today?
 - How can you share this hope with someone in your life who needs to hear the good news that when we are washed in the blood of Christ, we are whiter than snow (vs. 7)?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Knowing the Bible: Hebrews - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-bible-hebrews/>



PRAY AND APPLY

Break into smaller groups and pray together over the prayer targets below:

PRAYER TARGETS

Pray for Freedom from Guilt through Jesus' Better Blood

Ask God to help us fully embrace the forgiveness offered through Jesus' sacrifice. Pray that anyone carrying the heavy burden of guilt would recognize the sufficiency of Christ's blood to cleanse their conscience, removing shame and restoring intimacy with God.

Pray for a Heart of Worship Unhindered by Shame

Pray that our worship—both public and private—would flow freely and joyfully from a conscience cleansed by Jesus. Ask that we would worship the living God with boldness and gratitude, unencumbered by the lies of guilt or feelings of unworthiness.

Pray for Boldness to Enter God's Presence

Thank God for the access Jesus provides to the Holy of Holies and pray that we would seek Him confidently in prayer and worship. Ask that we would know His posture toward us is one of open arms, welcoming us into His presence with love and grace.

Pray for a Spirit of Service Rooted in Cleansing

Pray for those hesitant to step into ministry or serve within the church because of guilt or feelings of inadequacy. Ask God to remind them that their service flows not from perfection but from the cleansing and empowerment of Christ's work on their behalf.

Pray for the Church to Proclaim the Wonder of the Gospel

Pray that CVC would be a community that boldly declares the cleansing power of Jesus' better blood to those burdened by guilt and shame. Ask God to open doors for the gospel to reach those who feel unworthy, drawing them into His forgiveness and freedom.



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EQUIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of 12.15.24

Please take a moment to share these announcements with your group.

More information on each item can be found by scanning the QR codes.

EQUIP

Sunday Sessions Podcast

Sunday Sessions is a weekly theology class offered in the fall and spring. Each week various topics of doctrine and practice are explored from a conservative, evangelical viewpoint. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30am in Room 104/106 in the spring! If you can't make it or miss a week, catch up via our podcast [HERE](#).



CHURCH-WIDE

Christmas Eve Services: December 24th

We'd love to have you join us for one of our four Christmas Eve services on Sunday, December 24th. Services will be at 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, and 11:00pm. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend to as well.



MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 6:19

"We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain."