

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

March 24, 2019 sermon:

Hebrews: Jesus is Greater "Jesus is greater than our sin"

Warm up: (15-20 minutes)

Questions for discussion:

1.) Don't name names, but what is the most awkward "church conversation" you can remember? When you were talking to or listening to someone in the church foyer but what they were talking about was of NO interest to you? What were they focused on?

2.) Here's something a little different: Take 60 seconds and write down as many sins you can think of without stopping (you won't have to share your answers in the group). (someone time 60 seconds) Go!

Ok, stop! What was that experience like? 1. Was it easy or hard to do? 2. Did it start with the "big" sins? 3. Were you thinking about others or yourself? Did it affect you in a way that caused you to feel judgmental toward others? Towards yourself?

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes)

1. We can easily fall into the trap of thinking "small sins" are no big deal. CS Lewis has this to say in his book *The Screwtape Letters*, as to why we need to be extremely careful of falling into this mindset.

"It does not matter how small the sins are, provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. ...Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one – the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts." – *The Screwtape Letters*, CS Lewis

How does Paul's "sin list" in his letters to the Galatians and Ephesians reinforce our need to be aware of falling into the trap of some sins having less effect on us than others? Galatians 5:19-21 Ephesians 5:3-7

2. All too often we forget how amazing God's grace is and what it cost him. When Jesus died on the cross he paid for our sins, making it possible for us to experience God's grace and forgiveness. While his grace and forgiveness are free, they aren't cheap. After reading the passages below, what stands out the most about what Jesus had to go through for us? 1 Peter 2:22-25 Isaiah 53:4-9

3. Remembering our need for forgiveness and God's incredible provision of it will undoubtedly help us become more understanding and generous in our forgiveness of others. Which of the following verses help you the most when it comes to thinking and treating others differently? Colossians 2:13-14 Matthew 5:13-16 Matthew 7:1-3

Application: (5-10 minutes) Pray together that God would give you a new sense of His holiness, a fresh understanding of the dangerous/deceptive nature of sin, and how amazing God's grace is!