

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

April 14, 2019 sermon:

Hebrews: Jesus is Greater "Adjusting our expectations"

Warm up: (15-20 minutes)

Questions for discussion:

1.) Can you think of a time when your expectation of something was wildly off (maybe you weren't expecting much and were blown away by how much better it was, or maybe you expected much and were greatly disappointed)? What was the situation?

2.) Life can hit all of us hard at times for a variety of reasons. When you were growing up, how was a crisis handled in your home? Check any that apply.

Bring it on. God's going to grow us. Blame game. Panic. Stubborn.

Don't tell anybody. God's here. God's not here. Avoid at all costs.

Don't admit it. Why does this happen to us? Prayer.

Are there any similarities or differences in how you respond now?

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes)

1. Jesus' disciples went from anticipation to despair in less than a week. The shouts of joy on Palm Sunday were replaced with fear and hiding on Friday and Saturday of that week. How do you stay hopeful when your circumstances are disappointing or stressful? Read Isaiah 43:1-4 and discuss God's statements/promises.

1. Living with an eternal perspective is planning with God's kingdom in mind. One of the incentives God gives us are the rewards we will receive in heaven. How do the following verses describe what it takes to receive rewards and prepare for our ultimate assignment in heaven?

-Luke 6:27-31, 35-36 -Ephesians 6:5-8 -1 Corinthians 9:19-23

2. The good news is that even though life can be hard, God not only offers us future rewards, but also encourages us today. How might the following verses serve as a comfort and encouragement when we're facing trials, frustrations or hardships?

-Lamentations 3:22-24 -1 Corinthians 15:54-58 -Romans 8:31-39

Application: (5-10 minutes) We are entering into the most significant week of the year for Christians as we remember Jesus' sacrificial death for us and his victory over sin and death on Resurrection Sunday. Is this still a season of joy and excitement for you or has it become "just another Easter"? If it has become a "going through the motions" season, what could change that for you? Share your feelings with each other and ideas for recapturing the power of these most-important days. Close in prayer together.