

# Bigger part 11: Jesus is bigger than our rejection

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## SMALL GROUP NOTES - MATTHEW FELL

**Scriptures:** Read *Hebrews 10:1-25* (If keen, take a look at Leviticus 1 & 3)

### Theme & Questions

Hebrews chapter 10 makes the wonderful invitation to draw near to God. We are accepted by God and asked to come close; amazing stuff! And yet, we can find it difficult to believe. Often we struggle with acceptance.

- Q: Is this something we see in ourselves? Can any member of the group give an example of how they struggle with acceptance?

Matt considered the various reasons why we struggle with acceptance and looked at how our sinfulness affects this: we are each aware that we fall short / we've felt the harm of others' sin in our lives / and we have over-realised sense of self-importance.

- Q: How might these struggles affect our drawing near to God?

Matt then showed how in the ancient Hebrew temple God made a way for folk to draw near whilst at the same time reminding them of their sin (v3). However these things were a shadow cast by God's true plan of sending his Son, fully God become fully man, in order to be our priest and sacrifice for sin.

- Discuss how the temple sacrifices worked. Can anyone remember the little drama Matt made his volunteers enact?
- Q: How were these sacrifices fulfilled in Jesus? [Answer: He is our offering for sin, once for all time, a perfect offering that doesn't need repeating, and we receive back his body and blood in communion to enjoy peace with him]
- **Read v14-22** What does that passage say about us now?
- Q: Are we acceptable before God now? – why? [A: because of Jesus, not because of us!]

We now have acceptance before God and are called to draw near to him. At the same time, we are called to draw near to one another, extending that gospel acceptance to others, encouraging each other in the faith.

- Q: What does encouraging one another look like?

We finished by looking at how communion is the means that God gives his church to taste and see that he is good and has accepted us. At the communion table we draw near to God and to one another.

- **Suggestion:** finish by taking communion and perhaps read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

**Tags:** Hebrews, Atonement, Peace, Acceptance, Communion