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Is He for me? Hebrews 2:10-18

I. Introduction: The Vast 18" Chasm

1. During this Christmas season we have determined that (1) Jesus is Messiah, (2) that He came to seek AND save that which was lost, and (3) that Christmas is rightly a celebration of the Appearing of Grace.
2. In these, we have covered a lot of ground in considering Jesus' motivation, purpose, and plan. We have brought forth the majesty, sovereignty, righteousness, and holiness of a God far bigger than we can ever conceive, while also speaking of our personal responsibility to respond to His grace and His word. Yet, I am mindful the biggest challenge many of us face is about 18-inches long.
3. This challenge is the vast chasm of moving things from our heads into our hearts. We sometimes refer to this chasm as knowing of Jesus instead of knowing Him in the experiential sense. It is NOT simply knowing His myriad promises, but about personally appropriating these promises. This chasm is moving from doing [good] things to being Christlike in our motivations, thoughts, words, and deeds. It is the transformation of our identity being in the things of this world and our own prideful hearts into "my" being a child of the Living God.
4. Finally, this chasm begs the question of "Is He for me?" with the real heart behind this question being two-fold, including:
 - A. Is Jesus really my personal savior? Are His promises for me? Does He really provide, protect, and care for me? Does He really have my best interests at heart?; and
 - B. Do I really want what He is offering, salvation, freedom, grace, mercy, compassion, love, relationship, and a new life?

I pray that your answer to both these questions is a resounding “Yes!”.

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II. Hebrews 2:10: Into Glory

1. The sovereign glorious Lord invites His children into His glory. **While plural, the action is on the individual with a shared experience.** Please note that His glory is the expression of His beauty, holiness, character, and worthiness.
 - A. In John 2, John the Baptist asked if Jesus was Messiah. **Jesus answered by saying look at the lame walking, the deaf hearing, the lepers made clean, and the dead rising and you will see the truth that I am He.** Likewise, if you are asking if God is for me, **look to His promises**, including that He is going to share His glory with you. **Wow!**
2. That as captain (or author, pioneer, or leader in some translations), He was made perfect through sufferings. **Before getting to the main point here, I want to note that this is NOT indicating that Jesus Himself was imperfect!** Rather, that through suffering, His testimony had been made complete for mankind to receive...**you may consider it the fulfillment of the process God chose to bring about our restoration with Himself.**
 - A. The main point is that Jesus (with the rest of the Godhead) authored and willingly suffered that you may know and be saved by Him. **Again, if one is asking “is God is for you?”, His sacrifice in suffering (both in becoming and living as man) to bring you into His glory testifies “YES!”, He is for you.**

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III. Hebrews 2:11-13: In This Together

1. Perhaps the best commentary on these verses can be found in **John 1:12-13:**

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

– John 1:12-13

2. Verse 11 reminds us of the Biblical exhortation to not be ashamed of the Gospel (Ro 1:16). What's more, in **Matthew 10:32-39** we find that if you and I confess Him before men, He will confess us to the Father. As with the Matthew 10 passage, Hebrews 2:11 brings us to the conclusion that every believer is one with Him...that is, we are one family – brethren. Additionally, we see Jesus invests in each of His children by sanctifying them; meaning setting them aside and making them holy.
 - A. So, in the sovereign One saying "(1) you're in MY family and (2) I love you too much to leave you the way you are, so I am going to make you increasingly like me", the answer is "**YES!**", **God is for you.**
3. In vs 12-13, a picture is painted of just how close of a relationship a believer has with Jesus. Each of these contribute to our understanding that Jesus is worthy of being the source of our identity in this life and the life to come:
 - A. The 1st quote is from a messianic psalm (Ps 22:22). Having been brought into His glory, it is right and good for me to share in the victory of your glory by declaring your name (the Word) and praising you. We note that this is done in the presence of the assembly of His people that they too may be encouraged and edified to worship and praise Jesus.
 - B. The 2nd and 3rd quotes are likely from Isaiah 8:17-18 respectively. The Isaiah 8 verses are referring to a prophesy of Assyria's invasion of Judea. As such, Jesus is pointing us to trust in Him, for anything now AND in the future – trust Him in all things at all times. The 3rd quote effectively conveys that (1) they share an equality of being brethren in that He shares their nature as we see again in v14 and (2) that because God's

children trust Him, He will gather them together with Himself for they are His.

4. Imagine the Lord of the universe saying you and you and you are My brethren and we are in this together. Well He is...and in this we have another and another and another “Yes!”, He IS for me.

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IV. Hebrews 2:14-18: Yes! The Only Possible Answer

1. Is He for me? Well, God incarnate...He came in flesh and blood (like me and you) that He would suffer, die, and rise again defeating death...in destroying the author of death and of fear. He did this for me, for you.
2. Is He for Me? He releases us from the bondage of fear...the fears of this life and of dying in this life. Just for a moment, let's be reminded (from v11) that Jesus is the One who does the heavy-lift of sanctifying us. It is Him that brings us from a place of being separated from Jesus in death to being IN Him in life. The apostle Paul says it this way in Romans 8:6-11:

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⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. – Romans 8:6

Paul goes on to say in Romans 8 that to be spiritually minded is to receive the gift of life through the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit.

3. Is He for Me? He gives aid (what we need when we need it) to those that are seeds of Abraham. And if you have confessed and believed Jesus as Messiah, you are a seed of Abraham...meaning His aid is for you.
4. “Is He for me?” In vs 17-18, we read that fully man (and fully God), He walked in victory over temptations, suffering, sorrows, pain, lies, persecution, hatred, offenses, and all the other hard things of this life to MAKE atonement for our sins and restore us into eternal relationship with Him.

5. “Is He for me?” I pray that leaping from your heart is the word “**YES!**”. He is worthy of your daily praise. He is worthy of your daily sacrifice. **He is worthy of your trust in all circumstances at all times.** He is worthy of your life.

- A. I have a question for you...are you for Him? // **If you are, have you told Him?** If to this point you haven't been for Him or haven't told Him, I want to invite you to receive His invitation to be His tonight. **Will you invite Him, the One that is for you, into your life right now?**
- B. Before we pray Him into your life, I want to ask any that have never told Jesus that you want Him to be the Lord of your life...I want to ask **are you for you?** **If you are, I want to encourage you to follow the Spirit's leading in joining us in this prayer inviting Christ into your life.** [For those wanting to give your life to Christ, please join me in this prayer].

Worship team please come on up.

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V. Closing: Remembering and Celebrating Jesus

- 1. So, as we celebrate Jesus' birth here at Christmas, I pray that we are also celebrating His life and in celebrating His life, we celebrate His love, His character, His ministry, His death, and His resurrection.
- 2. With this in mind, we are going to open the communion tables. **If you have confessed and believed that Jesus is Lord, you are welcome to join us.** If not, we ask that you not take the communion elements. **When you get back to your seats, please just hold the elements until we are all ready to take them together.**
 - A. 18" down...receiving and living out the truth of your incarnation and resurrection.

Is He for me? Hebrews 2:10-18

I. Introduction: The Vast 18" Chasm

- Our biggest challenge is moving the truth from our heads to our hearts.

II. Hebrews 2:10: Into Glory

- Jesus sacrificed to the point of death to open the doors for us to enter His glory.

Additional Scriptures Referenced: Jn 2

III. Hebrews 2:11-13: In This Together

- Imagine...brethren with God.

Additional Scriptures Referenced: 1 Jn 1:12-13; Mt 10:32-39; Ps 22:22; Is 8:17-18

IV. Hebrews 2:14-18: Like Us

- Yes!

Additional Scriptures Referenced: Mt 8:11-12; Lk 13:28-29

V. Closing: Remembering and Celebrating Jesus

5-Day Devotional

Is He For Me? (Christmas 2025)

Hebrews 2:10-18

Day 1: The Journey from Head to Heart

Reading: Heb 2:10-13

Devotional: The greatest distance in the Christian life isn't between earth and heaven—it's the 18 inches from head to heart. We can know about Jesus intellectually while remaining strangers to His transforming presence. Today's passage reveals that God doesn't just want us to know facts about Him; He calls us "brethren" and shares His glory with us. This is profoundly personal. The Captain of our salvation suffered to make the way complete, not as a distant deity, but as one who calls us family.

Reflection: What truths about Jesus remain in your head that need to travel to your heart?

Application: Write down one promise of God you know intellectually. Spend time asking Him to make it real in your experience today.

Day 2: He is Not Ashamed

Reading: Ps 22:22-24, Rom 1:16

Devotional: Shame is a powerful isolator. It whispers that we're too broken, too sinful, too ordinary for God's attention. Yet Hebrews 2:11 declares something revolutionary: Jesus is "not ashamed to call them brethren." The sinless Son of God publicly identifies with imperfect people. He doesn't distance Himself from our mess; He enters it, sanctifies us, and presents us to the Father as His own family. This isn't tolerance—it's passionate love. When Christ declares your name in the assembly, He does so with pride, not embarrassment. You are His beloved sibling, brought into glory not by your perfection but by His.

Reflection: Where do you feel shame that keeps you from fully embracing your identity as God's child?

Application: Confess Christ before someone today—share what He means to you without apology or embarrassment.

Day 3: Trust in All Things, At All Times

Reading: Isa 8:17-18, Ps 56:3-4

Devotional: "I will trust in Him." These four words from Isaiah 8:17 become Jesus' declaration in Hebrews 2:13, modeling perfect trust for us. Jesus faced uncertainty, opposition, and suffering, yet trusted the Father completely. This isn't blind optimism but confident reliance on God's character. The invitation isn't to trust that everything will go as we plan, but to trust Him in everything that happens. Whether facing invasion like ancient Judea or modern anxieties, our call remains: trust Him today, trust Him

tomorrow, trust Him in the valley and on the mountain. His faithfulness doesn't fluctuate with our circumstances.

Reflection Question: What current situation tempts you to rely on your own understanding rather than trust God?

Application: Identify one worry you're carrying. Deliberately place it in God's hands through prayer, choosing trust over control.

Day 4: Freedom from Fear's Bondage

Reading: Heb 2:14-16, Rom 8:6-11

Devotional: Fear is a cruel master. It chains us to anxiety about today and dread about tomorrow, with death as its ultimate weapon. But Jesus entered our flesh-and-blood existence to "destroy him who holds the power of death" and "free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." This liberation is comprehensive freedom from fear of failure, rejection, loss, and mortality itself. Christ's resurrection declares that death has lost its sting. When the worst thing becomes a doorway to glory, every lesser fear loses its power. You are released from bondage—not to live recklessly, but to live fully, knowing that nothing can separate you from His love.

Reflection Question: What fear currently holds you in bondage? How does Christ's victory over death speak to that fear?

Application: When fear arises today, speak this truth aloud: "Christ has destroyed death's power over me."

Day 5: He Gives Aid- Just What You Need **Reading:** Heb 2:17-18, Heb 4:14-16

Devotional: Jesus doesn't offer distant sympathy; He provides experienced empathy. Having walked through temptation, suffering, and sorrow without sinning, He knows exactly what you're facing. As your merciful and faithful High Priest, He made atonement for your sins and now gives aid—precisely what you need, when you need it. Not always what you want, but always what you need. He's been where you are. The loneliness, the pressure, the pain—He's navigated it all victoriously. Therefore, approach His throne boldly. He's not shocked by your struggle or disappointed by your weakness. He's ready to help because He's been there, conquered it, and now extends that victory to you.

Reflection Question: In what area of life do you most need God's aid right now?

Application: Come boldly to God's throne today with your specific need. Don't minimize it or spiritualize it—bring it honestly and receive His grace.

These five days have explored one central question: "Is He for me?" The resounding answer echoes through Scripture: **YES!** He shares His glory with you, calls you family, models perfect trust, frees you from fear, and provides exactly what you need. The 18-inch journey from head to heart happens as you receive these truths not as abstract theology but as personal promises. Jesus isn't just Savior of the world—He's your Savior. His incarnation, life, death, and resurrection were for you. He is worthy of your praise, your trust, and your life. Will you bridge the gap and live in this reality today?

Small Group Study Guide

Is He For Me? (Christmas 2025)

Hebrews 2:10-18

Opening Prayer: Begin your time together by asking God to open your hearts to His Word and give you wisdom to apply His truth to your lives.

Opening Question: Share a time you gave a gift that was meaningful to you.

Sermon Recap: This message addresses the 18-inch journey from head to heart—moving from knowing *about* Jesus to truly knowing Him personally. Through Hebrews 2:10-18, we explored the overwhelming evidence that God is definitively "for us," demonstrated through Christ's incarnation, suffering, and victory over death.

Discussion Questions: Did the Holy Spirit prompt any questions with you? Start with those.

1. The sermon describes the challenge of moving truth from our "head to our heart" as an 18-inch journey. What does this mean to you personally?
2. Which is harder for you:
 - a. Knowing God's promises intellectually.
 - b. Recognizing those promises personally in your heart
3. Have you ever experienced a moment when something you knew about God suddenly became real to you in your heart? Share that experience.
4. The sermon lists multiple ways God demonstrates He is "for us":
 - a. He shares His glory with us
 - b. He calls us family/brethren
 - c. He sanctifies us (makes us holy)
 - d. He is not ashamed to call us His own
 - i. Which of these truths is most meaningful to you right now? Why?
5. Verse 11 says Jesus is "not ashamed" to call us brethren. How does knowing Jesus is not ashamed of you impact your relationship with Him?
6. The sermon quotes Matthew 10:32-39 about confessing Christ before others. What makes it difficult to openly identify as a follower of Jesus in your workplace, neighborhood, or social circles?

7. Verse 15 says Jesus came to "release those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery." What fears (not just death) keep people in bondage today?
8. What fear has Jesus helped you overcome, or what fear do you need Him to help you with currently?
9. The passage emphasizes that Jesus became fully human to understand our struggles. How does knowing Jesus experienced temptation, suffering, and pain help you in your daily life?
10. Romans 8:6-11 was referenced in the sermon. Read it aloud. How does the Spirit's work of sanctification (making us holy) give you hope rather than discouragement about your spiritual growth?
11. The sermon asks: "Do I really want what He is offering—salvation, freedom, grace, mercy, compassion, love, relationship, and a new life?"
 - a. Be honest: Which of these do you most struggle to receive or embrace?
 - b. What holds you back?
12. If someone asked you directly, "Is God for you?" how would you answer based on this passage? What evidence from your own life could you point to?

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus is the author of our salvation who willingly suffered to bring us into God's glory
2. We are family with Christ—He calls us brethren and is not ashamed of us
3. Jesus destroys the power of death and fear through His incarnation and resurrection
4. He gives aid when we need it because He experienced human temptation and suffering
5. He made atonement for our sins so we can be forgiven and restored to relationship with God

Practical Applications: Query the group for applications first...you may explore one or more of those.

1. Personal Practice:

Write down your top 3 fears. Pray specifically about each one, asking Jesus to release you from bondage to that fear.

List 5 specific ways Jesus has shown He is "for you" in your life story.

Commit Hebrews 2:14-15 to memory this week.

2. Group Practice:

Pair up and share one area where you need to move truth from "head to heart." Check in mid-week

Plan to share at next week's gathering one specific way you've experienced God being "for you" this week.

If you struggle with being ashamed of the gospel (Romans 1:16), practice with each other how you might naturally share your faith with a friend or coworker.

3. Outreach

Ask a non-believing friend or family member: "Do you think God is for you or against you?" Listen to their answer and share what you're learning.

Closing Prayer: Thank Jesus for bridging the gap between us and God. Ask for courage to move truth from head to heart and pray for freedom from specific fears group members shared. Finally, ask for boldness to confess Christ before others

Discussion Questions

Is He For Me? (Christmas 2025)

Hebrews 2:10-18

1. What does it mean for Jesus to be the 'captain' or 'author' of our salvation, and how does understanding His leadership through suffering change the way we approach our own trials?
2. The sermon describes an 18-inch chasm between head knowledge and heart experience of God. What specific barriers prevent you from moving spiritual truths from your head to your heart?
3. How does the promise that Jesus will share His glory with believers challenge or expand your understanding of your identity and eternal destiny?
4. In what ways does Jesus being 'not ashamed' to call us brethren transform how we view our relationship with God and our standing before Him?
5. The text emphasizes that Jesus became fully human to destroy the power of death and free us from the bondage of fear. What fears in your life need to be surrendered to this truth?
6. How does knowing that Jesus experienced every temptation, suffering, and hardship we face affect your willingness to bring your struggles to Him?
7. The sermon asks if we really want what Jesus offers: salvation, freedom, grace, mercy, and new life. What might we be holding onto that prevents us from fully embracing these gifts?
8. What does it mean practically to trust Jesus 'in all things at all times,' especially when circumstances seem to contradict His goodness or presence?
9. How should the truth that Jesus sanctifies us and makes us holy influence our daily choices, relationships, and pursuit of Christlikeness?
10. If Jesus has declared you worthy enough to die for and calls you His brother or sister, how should this reality reshape your sense of worth and purpose in everyday life?

Dinner Conversation Starters

Is He For Me? (Christmas 2025)

Hebrews 2:10-18

1. Experience vs. Knowledge

Pastor Jim mentioned the "18-inch chasm" from head to heart. Can you think of a time when you knew something about Jesus in your head but experienced it in a deeper, personal way in your heart? How did that change influence your daily life?

2. God's Promises and Personal Connection

The sermon asked if we believe that Jesus' promises are really for us. What are some promises from the Bible that you find most comforting, and how have they impacted your personal faith journey?

3. Transformation and Identity

The idea was mentioned about moving from just doing good things to becoming more Christlike. In what ways have you seen someone's or your own character change as a result of their relationship with Christ?

4. Trust in Times of Challenge

The pastor referred to trusting Jesus through all things, just like during the prophesied invasion in Isaiah. Can you share a time when trusting Jesus helped you overcome a difficult situation?

5. Reflecting on the Incarnation

Why do you think it's important to understand that Jesus came in flesh and blood and faced human challenges? How does this aspect of His life encourage you in dealing with your own struggles?

Family Conversation Guide for Children & Early Teens

Is He For Me? (Christmas 2025)

Hebrews 2:10-18

AGES 5-7: SIMPLIFYING THE MESSAGE APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Jesus Our Friend**: Jesus is our friend who wants the best for us. Just like we trust our family, we can trust Jesus to care for us and help us.

Discussion Questions:

Who do you trust to take care of you when you're scared or sad? How can Jesus be like that person for you?

When you face a decision, like sharing toys or saying sorry, how can remembering that Jesus cares for you help you make a good choice?

AGES 8-12: BUILDING UNDERSTANDING APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Who is Jesus**: Understanding who Jesus is helps us be kind, brave, and truthful, even when others might be watching or influencing us, like on social media or at school.

Discussion Questions:

Think about a time when someone asked you to do something that didn't feel right. How can knowing Jesus is with you give you courage to make the right choice?

How can you show others online or in school that you follow Jesus through your words and actions? Can you think of a situation where this was hard to do?

AGES 11-15: DEEPENING THE CONNECTION APPLICATION POINTS

1. **Being Christlike**: Being Christlike means our identity comes from our relationship with Jesus, which should affect how we interact in social groups and online communities.

Discussion Questions:

Are there moments when you feel pressured to be someone you're not, either on social media or in person? How can your understanding of who you are in Jesus influence those situations?

When you see someone being treated unfairly or unkindly, how can you respond in a way that reflects your values as a follower of Jesus? Have you ever stood up for someone who needed help?

Family Conversation Guide for Teens

Is He For Me? (Christmas 2025)

Hebrews 2:10-18

1. Living Your Faith Around Others

Biblical Application: Hebrews 2:11 reminds us that we are one family in Christ, emphasizing unity and sanctification.

Scenario: Imagine you're part of a school club or sports team facing internal conflicts or cliques.

Discussion Question: Reflect on 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, which describes the body of Christ being made up of many parts, each essential for unity. How can you contribute to building unity and valuing each member's role within the group? Discuss ways to promote inclusion and reduce division, inspired by the idea that, as brothers and sisters in Christ, everyone has a part to play.

2. Godly Relationships

Biblical Application: Hebrews 2:14-15 highlights Jesus breaking the power of fear and death, freeing us from bondage.

Scenario: Imagine you're dealing with anxiety or fear about maintaining or losing friendships.

Discussion Question: Consider Philippians 4:6-7, which encourages bringing anxieties to God and receiving His peace in return. How can this assurance transform your approach to friendships, encouraging openness and authenticity rather than fear? Discuss the importance of trusting Christ with your relationships and being open to God's guidance in them.

3. Being Online Reflections of Jesus

Biblical Application: Hebrews 2:17-18 speaks of Jesus' empathy, having faced temptation and suffering.

Scenario: Reflect on James 1:19-20, advising us to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. How can this approach guide your interactions on digital platforms? Discuss strategies for maintaining a Christlike presence online by listening more and choosing words that heal and build up rather than destroy, remembering Christ's empathy and understanding of human weaknesses.

Discussion Question: Reflect on James 1:19-20, advising us to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. How can this approach guide your interactions on digital platforms? Discuss strategies for maintaining a Christlike presence online by listening more and choosing words that heal and build up rather than destroy, remembering Christ's empathy and understanding of human weaknesses.

These application points aim to help teenagers integrate their faith into real-world situations they face, providing a biblical perspective and practical steps for embodying Christ-like principles in various areas of their lives.