

Small Group Guide: A Necessary Death

Hebrews 9:16-28

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together asking God to open hearts and minds to the truth of the Gospel and the significance of Christ's sacrifice.

Icebreaker

Share one thing you're grateful for this week and why. How does gratitude connect to what Christ has done for us?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **The death of Jesus was not optional, but necessary** for our salvation
 2. **Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins**
 3. **The Old Covenant sacrificial system was training** to prepare people for Christ's perfect sacrifice
 4. **As a result of Christ's death, believers are kept from God's judgment**
 5. **Jesus serves as our Advocate** before the Father, covering our sins with His blood
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Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **The Will Illustration (v. 16-17)**
 - How does the illustration of a will/testament help us understand what Christ accomplished through His death?
 - Why was it necessary for the testator (Jesus) to die for the new covenant to take effect?

2. **Blood and Atonement (v. 18-22)**

- Why do you think God designed the Old Covenant system to require so much blood sacrifice?
- What was the purpose of all the animal sacrifices if they couldn't actually cleanse people from sin?
- How does verse 22 ("without shedding of blood there is no remission") shape our understanding of the Gospel?

3. **Christ Our Advocate (v. 23-28)**

- What does it mean that Jesus "appears in the presence of God for us" (v. 24)?
- How is Christ's one-time sacrifice superior to the repeated sacrifices of the Old Covenant?
- What does verse 27-28 teach us about death, judgment, and Christ's second coming?

Personal Reflection

1. **Have you ever thought about the Gospel as "good news that saves you FROM God"?** How does understanding God's holiness and justice deepen your appreciation for Christ's sacrifice?
2. **The pastor mentioned that some people have "religion" but haven't been "saved."** What's the difference? Where do you see yourself in that distinction?
3. **Read 1 John 2:1-2.** How does knowing Jesus is your advocate affect:
 - a. How you approach God when you sin?
 - b. Your daily confidence as a Christian?
 - c. Your fear (or lack of fear) about standing before God?
4. **The sermon used the illustration of a file cabinet with all our sins covered by Christ's blood.** How does this picture help you understand forgiveness? What emotions does it stir in you?

Practical Application

1. **Living Wills and Stewardship**

- a. The pastor encouraged practical estate planning. Why is this an act of biblical stewardship?
- b. Have you considered how to leave a legacy for your family and God's kingdom? What steps might you need to take?

2. **Daily Holiness**

- a. The pastor suggested starting each day praying: "Lord, I want to live a holy life today." How might this practice change your daily walk?
- b. What specific sin or struggle do you need to "put off" and replace with righteousness this week?

3. **Sharing the Gospel**

- a. How would you explain to someone why Jesus HAD to die on the cross?

- b. Who in your life needs to hear about the blood of Christ that covers sin? How can you share this truth with them this week?
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Key Scriptures to Study This Week

- **Exodus 24** - The inauguration of the Old Covenant
 - **1 John 2:1-2** - Jesus as our Advocate
 - **Romans 3:23-26** - Justification through Christ's blood
 - **Ephesians 1:7** - Redemption through His blood
 - **Revelation 1:5-6** - Washed from our sins in His blood
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Action Steps

Choose 1-2 of these to commit to this week:

- If you don't have a living will, research what's needed and take a first step toward creating one
 - Start each morning this week with a prayer for holiness: "Lord, help me live a holy life today"
 - Memorize Hebrews 9:22: "Without shedding of blood there is no remission"
 - Journal about what it means to you personally that Jesus is your Advocate before the Father
 - Share the Gospel with someone this week, emphasizing Christ's necessary death for our sins
 - Confess a persistent sin to a trusted Christian friend and ask for accountability
 - Thank God specifically for 5 ways Christ's blood has changed your life
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Reflection Questions for Those Unsure of Salvation

If you're uncertain about your relationship with Christ, consider these questions:

1. Have you ever fully surrendered your life to Jesus, trusting Him alone for salvation?
2. Are you still trying to "help Jesus out" with your good works and religious efforts?
3. Do you have peace about standing before God, or does the thought bring fear?
4. Are you ready to repent (turn from sin) and trust completely in Christ's finished work?

If you prayed to receive Christ or have questions about salvation, please talk to your group leader or pastor this week.

Closing Prayer

- Thank God for the necessary death of Christ that paid our sin debt
 - Praise Jesus for being our Advocate before the Father
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to help each person live in the freedom and peace of the Gospel
 - Pray for anyone in the group who may be struggling with assurance of salvation
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Before Next Week

Read Hebrews 10:1-18 in preparation for next week's study on the superiority and finality of Christ's sacrifice.