



Sermon Discussion Guide

2.25.24 | Keith Ehresman | Hebrews 2:1-4

Key Scripture:

“Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”

-Hebrews 2:1-4

Message Highlights:

- “The greater the message, the more consequences for not paying attention.” - James W. Thompson
- Being one degree off has a huge impact.
- The main takeaway: Learning to pay attention to God helps us not drift away from God.

CONVERSATION STARTER

How do you do with warning signs? What is your usual response if your check engine light comes on in your car? Do you drop everything to get it looked at? Do you forget about it? Do you ignore it altogether? Or maybe you are the type of person who assumes that the warning light is broken instead of the actual car? Why do you think you respond to warning signs in the way you do?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

- How has the Spirit spoken to you through this section of God’s Word?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

- Hebrews 2:1 uses the Greek term 'pararrein' to convey the concept of drifting away. This multifaceted word is often used to depict the thoughtless or careless wandering that results in being lost. It paints a vivid image of someone unintentionally heading down a path of destruction due to a lack of attention. Can you think of instances in scripture where individuals find themselves in a similar situation? Can you think of when this may have been the case in your own life?
- In Hebrews 2:2, the law declared by the angels refers to the mosaic law given to Moses (The Ten Commandments). When it was ignored, there were terrible outcomes for the people. In Hebrews 1:2, we are told that what God has to say now comes directly from Jesus. What are some consequences for ignoring Jesus and the message he gives us?
- Hebrews 2:4 ends with the author saying that God distributes gifts of the Holy Spirit. What are some giftings that you feel like God has given you? What are some gifts you see in others that you are surrounded by?

THINK LIFE CHANGE (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?):

Keith spent some time in his message looking at how easily we can fall into “mission drift.” This is when a person or an organization deviates from its original purpose or mission over time. Our mission as Christians is to share the life-changing mission of Jesus. How do we know if we are falling into “mission drift” when it comes to our faith? Here are four common symptoms of “mission drift” in our faith journey:

- Lack of Clarity: when an individual is unclear about their values, goals or purpose
- External Influences: life pressures, cultural expectations or peer influences
- Burnout or Fatigue: feeling overwhelmed by stress or exhaustion
- Changing Priorities: over time, personal priorities or life circumstances change us

Many times, these things happen gradually and we aren't even aware they are happening. In your group, talk about a season where you found yourself dealing with these issues or how you may be currently dealing with these issues. What are some things you have found that help battle these issues?

THINK ENGAGE (Does your group know how to apply the challenge?)

The “One Degree Off Principle” was brought up in Keith's message. This principle clarifies that if you are off by just one degree, it can make a big difference. It might not seem like a big deal in the short term, but it can change the whole course of things in the long term. We can use this principle to strengthen our faith or let it dwindle. In what ways can you strengthen the habits you have in your spiritual walk, or what are some habits you can create? Start small and keep adding.

- Start with one minute in the Word
- Start with one minute in prayer
- Start with one act of generosity
- Start with one minute of accountability

Discuss this as a group. What are some things that you can make one degree better? What places do you need accountability for?

THINK EXPAND (Does your group recognize the missional implications for those we want to reach for Christ?)

- What might it look like for those around us if we embraced our calling from Jesus?
- What does it look like for those around us if we ignore or neglect our calling from Jesus?

THINK KINGDOM (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

- Do you think “mission drift” has kept you from reaching out to your coworkers, friends, neighbors or coworkers?
- We may identify that those we care for are ignoring warning signs in their lives. Are there opportunities to come alongside them and help them?