

Small Group Guide: All Access Pass

Based on Hebrews 4:14-16

Open in Prayer

Begin your time together by thanking God for being our great high priest and for giving us access to His throne of grace.

Icebreaker Question

Have you ever had an "all-access pass" to something special (concert, event, behind-the-scenes tour)? What made that experience memorable?

Key Points from the Sermon

- 1. Our Great High Priest** - Jesus is our mediator who stands before God on our behalf
- 2. The Empathy of Our High Priest** - Jesus understands our struggles because He faced every temptation we face
- 3. All Access to the Throne of God** - We can approach God boldly with confidence because of Jesus

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

- 1. The Courtroom Analogy:** The pastor compared standing before God to standing before a judge. How does having Jesus as our "attorney" change the outcome of that moment? What does this mean for how you live today?

2. **High Priest Role:** In the Old Testament, the high priest entered God's presence once a year with bells and a rope around his ankle. How does Jesus' role as our high priest differ from the Old Testament priests? What does this tell us about the permanence of what Jesus has done?
3. **Empathy vs. Sympathy:** The sermon distinguished between sympathy (feeling sorry for someone) and empathy (going through it with someone). Share a time when someone showed you true empathy. How does knowing Jesus empathizes with your struggles change your perspective on your current challenges?

Personal Reflection

4. **Hebrews 4:13** says "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight." How does this verse make you feel? Does it bring comfort or concern? Why?
5. **Holding Firmly:** Hebrews 4:14 tells us to "hold firmly to the faith we profess." What are some things that tempt you to "let go" or turn back to old ways? What helps you hold firm?
6. **Access Unused:** The pastor asked, "Have you prayed about it?" Why do we sometimes struggle to use the access we've been given to God? What keeps you from approaching God's throne when you're facing difficulties?

Application

7. **Freedom of Speech:** The sermon explained that we have "freedom of speech" before God—we can say anything to Him. Have you ever been completely honest with God about

your anger, frustration, or doubts? What holds you back from that kind of honesty?

- 8. Current Time of Need:** Without sharing details that are too personal, is there a "time of need" in your life right now where you need God's mercy and grace? How can this group pray for you?
- 9. The Gap:** The pastor talked about the gap between where we are and where we need to be, and how Jesus bridges that gap. What gap are you facing right now? How can you actively trust Jesus to bridge it this week?

Key Takeaways

- Jesus is our great high priest who continuously intercedes for us in God's presence
- Jesus empathizes with our weaknesses because He was tempted in every way, yet without sin
- We have bold, confident access to God's throne of grace through Jesus
- God's throne is a throne of grace (not judgment) for those who belong to Jesus
- We receive mercy for past failures and grace for present needs
- We don't have to handle our problems alone—we can bring everything to God

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

- 1. Daily Access:** Set aside 10 minutes each day to practice "bold access" to God. Bring Him one specific need, struggle, or question each day. Be completely honest.
- 2. Empathy Reminder:** When you're struggling with something this week, pause and remember that Jesus empathizes with you. He's been through it. Thank Him for understanding and ask for His grace to overcome.
- 3. Hold Firm:** Identify one area where you're tempted to "turn back" or give up. Write down Hebrews 4:14-16 and read it daily as a reminder to hold firm.
- 4. Help Someone Else:** Share with someone this week about the access we have to God through Jesus. Help them understand they can approach God boldly with their needs.

Memory Verse

Hebrews 4:16 "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."