

# LG | LeaderGuide

[Primary Text: Hebrews 3:1, 4:14-16]

## PRAY

**Pause. Acknowledge that you are about to open God's word.**

- Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate His word.

## WARM-UP (10 mins)

**Prepare our minds to receive God's word.**

- LG Foundations (on back page): What did you learn from our last foundations training (topic: "Giving")?
- When reflecting on the message this past Sunday, what most resonated with you?

## ILLUMINATE

**Open your Bibles to the primary text. If you do not have a Bible, your leader can provide one.**

- Who can give us a brief overview of chapters 3 and 4? What are the major themes?  
**3 Main Themes: Jesus is greater than Moses, rest for the people of God, Jesus is the Great High Priest**
- In the opening verse of chapter 3, the author makes a pretty incredible statement. He calls those who are in Christ, holy brothers and sisters that share in a heavenly calling. Why does this phrase sound familiar? What makes a Christian holy? Can an unrepentant heart share in this calling?  
**Chapter 2:11 explains that Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters because He has brought us to glory. In Chapter 3:1, we are called holy brothers/sisters. A Christian is made holy by the blood of Jesus. Remember, in Leviticus, the people of God sprinkled sacrificed blood to atone for sin. Jesus shed his blood for us so that we might be made holy, able to approach a holy God with confidence and without fear. An unrepentant heart cannot share in this heavenly calling because there has been no heart change. Once a deposit of the Holy Spirit has been received by a human being (a product of faith), the only response for that individual is that of surrender and repentance.**
- The consideration of Jesus was urgent and paramount for the author. Why was it important for this audience to "consider" Jesus? It is important for us today?  
**The audience of Hebrews were believing Hellenistic Jews. Their understanding and historical backdrop was the Old Testament. The author wanted them to consider Jesus over everything they held in honor; angels, Moses...everything! Today, we are posed with the same question; will you too consider Jesus? You can sense the urgency in the author's voice for his audience then and the audience now...consider Jesus!**

- Is it possible to wrongly “consider” Jesus? Give examples. How do you rightly “consider” Jesus?  
Yes. Our culture today and maybe even some of us in this very room desire portions of Jesus but not the whole Jesus. A gentle, kind and loving Jesus is palatable, but a Jesus capable of wrath and eternal judgement is distasteful. Many love the Jesus that gives them access to God, but they are appalled by the idea of repentance and obedience. Many love the Jesus that provides them entry into heaven, but they are not interested in a life that requires sacrifice and even suffering. Rightly considering Jesus involves knowing God’s Word, which illuminates God’s character and nature, which brings about fear and reverence.

- A reoccurring theme in these two chapters is the idea of rest. Why do you think the author continues to re-visit this topic? What exactly is he explaining to his audience?  
Rest was and is what God had originally designed for us. God lives in a perpetual Sabbath rest and he extends that invitation to us through His son Jesus. Faith in Jesus allows us to enter into God’s rest presently, allowing us to get a glimpse into the things to come. We will also enter his rest for eternity in our fully restored dwelling place, the new heaven and the new earth.

- Towards the end of chapter 4 the author explains how we strive to enter the “rest.” How does he answer this question?  
We combat disobedience through God’s word. Verse 12 helps us understand how God’s word convicts and directs us towards our intended purpose, to find satisfaction in the Lord, which brings glory to God.

- Many of you may remember the 3-circles Gospel presentation taught at church [if not, please explain or have someone write it out], where do you think God’s rest resides within this presentation?  
[This is a great opportunity to reinforce the gospel and how to explain it]. God’s rest existed in the **original design** with Adam and Eve in the garden. Our sin left us in a state of brokenness, but **Jesus Christ** inaugurated a new kingdom with his coming and invites us into eternal rest with him when he restores the earth back to his **original design** once again (a new heaven and a new earth).

- How do these chapters bring you peace and joy?  
Jesus provides rest for our weary souls, both now and for eternity. Because of Jesus, we can draw near to God with confidence because he knows us, loves us, and understands our needs.

## PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. What does tonight’s conversation lead you to pray for?