

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Joshua Series • Week of November 12

Introduction

We are in week two of our message series leading up to Joshua Celebration. This week we are reminded how as fully devoted followers of Christ, here at Christ Church, we are asked to commit to **Praying** and **Inviting** – *Praying* for Christ Church to be faithful to the ministry before us and *Inviting* at least five persons per month to attend worship or Life Group with us. There is power in prayer. And there is power in a simple invitation. On nearly every page of the New Testament gospel accounts, we see the Lord Jesus inviting people to “Come, follow me!”

Jesus calls fishermen, tax collectors, religious, irreligious, children, parents, women, men, and children. We see in Scripture how Jesus is our example when it comes to praying. Jesus often goes away in solitude to pray (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16). He gives the disciples a guide for *how* to pray (Luke 11: 1-4). He teaches about *where* to pray (Matthew 6:6) and how to be persistent in prayer (Luke 11:5-13). He prays for those he calls to remain united (John 17:20-21). Jesus prays for Peter to strengthen his ‘brothers’ after battle with the enemy (Luke 22:31-32).

Background

The writer of Hebrews shows how Jesus was chosen by God to be our Great High Priest. Under the law given to Moses (the system of worship under the first covenant, the Old Testament) only Aaron and his descendants could serve as priests. Yet, on heaven’s calendar, at the time God set, God would fulfill *through his Christ* his promise to unveil a new covenant.

“The day is coming,” says the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,” says the LORD. “But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day,” says the LORD. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people” (Jeremiah 31:31-33).

The new covenant required a ‘different priesthood, with a priest in the order of Melchizedek instead of the order of Levi and Aaron’ (Hebrews 7:11b). During the days of Abram, on his way back from a great (miraculous) victory over eastern kings (who had taken his nephew, Lot) Abram (Abraham) was greeted by Melchizedek, king and priest of Salem. This godly Jebusite man, who came out to bless Abraham for the victory, resembled the role of the coming Christ of God in that he

was both king and priest (see Genesis 14:14-20 and Hebrews 7:1-3).

Fast forward to the coming of the LORD’s Christ into the world. Jesus, upon his birth, was visited by magi from eastern lands bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh – a prophetic gesture on behalf of ‘pagans’ pointing to how this Christ Child would *one day* not only hold the two sacred offices of king and priest – but would lay down his life as the supreme sacrifice, himself *becoming* the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Read Hebrews 5:1-10

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can we help you?

Reflection

Only in Christ are we able to live into God’s call over our lives. As fully devoted followers, individually and collectively, we carry out the mission and six-fold covenant of Christ Church through the assisting resurrection power of the Holy Spirit alive in our hearts. Because of Christ and *through* Christ, we boldly commit to Worshiping, Learning, Praying, Inviting, Serving, and Tithing. All for *HIS* glory and all for our joy! Now for sure, when we are suffering hardship, setbacks, sickness, or relational challenges, we may not *feel* joy as we live into our commitment. Yet, we can choose to be joyful if we look to Jesus, for even Jesus learned obedience through the many trials he endured.

While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God. Even though Jesus was God’s Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered” (Hebrews 5:7-8).

JOSHUA SERIES COVENANT

Text: Hebrews 5:1-10

In Closing

- 1) Praying can be like a woman in labor. It is extremely difficult and sorrowful, until we see the promise delivered. Share how you have experienced joy through answered prayers for unchurched friends and family.
- 2) Share how taking that step to 'invite' someone to church or Life Group has opened the door for life transformation (not only for the person you invited, but for *you*).
- 3) What stands out to you from the Scriptures that we have read and heard through the message and Life Group lesson?

Praying

1. Prayer changes the _____.
2. Prayer changes _____.
 - A. Prayer connects you to the _____.
 - B. Prayer comes from the longings of the _____.

PLAIN TRUTH

We pray to _____ God and make God _____.

Inviting

1. Praying Christians develop an _____ mindset which becomes a _____.
2. Because we _____ people we invite _____ to follow _____.

One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

November 12: Ezekiel 24:1-26:21, Hebrews 11:1-16, Psalm 110:1-7, Prov. 27:14
November 13: Ezekiel 27:1-28:26, Hebrews 11:17-31, Ps. 111:1-10, Prov. 27:15-16
November 14: Ezekiel 29:1-30:26, Hebrews 11:32-12:13, Ps. 112:1-10, Prov. 27:17
November 15: Ezekiel 31:1-32:32, Heb. 12:14-29, Ps. 113:1-114:8, Prov. 27:18-20
November 16: Ezekiel 33:1-34:31, Hebrews 13:1-25, Ps. 115:1-18, Prov. 27:21-22
November 17: Ezekiel 35:1-36:38, James 1:1-18, Psalm 116:1-19, Prov. 27:23-27
November 18: Ezekiel 37:1-38:23, James 1:19-2:17, Psalm 117:1-2, Proverbs 28:1

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