



Growth Group Curriculum Lent 2021
Week 2 – February 28, 2021 – Hebrews 3:1-6

Growth groups are one of the best and easiest ways to find community at church. In this time of the virus and social distancing, please meet safely outside or online. If your growth group would like to meet online or if you are aware of needs that the church can help fill, please let us know at connect@ljpres.org. Thank you for loving and caring for each other.

Setting the Context

The preacher of Hebrews begins chapter 3 by reminding his listeners that they share together in a heavenly calling. This calling sets them apart and makes them members of God’s family. They are brothers and sisters in God’s family and thus they are given dignity. They have a place where they belong.

They are encouraged to fix their thoughts on Jesus. Later, in Hebrews 12, they will be told to fix their eyes on Jesus. They are told that Jesus is their apostle and high priest. This is the only time in the New Testament that Jesus is referred to as an apostle. An “apostle” is one who is sent and Jesus is sent by God to “reveal” God’s grace and mercy. He arrives as God’s final word and calls people to follow him.

Jesus is also the high priest. The high priest of Israel served as the mediator between humanity and God. They offered the sacrifice so that there could be reconciliation. We will take a deeper look at Jesus as high priest in a couple of weeks. The understanding from this text, though, is that those who follow Jesus have both an “apostolic and high-priestly” calling upon their lives. Believers are called and sent out by God to care for others and to help bring reconciliation.

The preacher then goes on to contrast and compare Moses and Jesus. The big difference to see is that Moses was a servant in the house, whereas Jesus is the son of the homeowner. As the son, Jesus is the heir and therefore is the owner of the house and also oversees and cares for everyone who is a part of the house. Moses was an incredible leader for the nation of Israel. He had been called by God and talked with God, but he was only a servant in the house.

The church is the house of God today. Jesus is over the house and we are servants of the house. God is the architect and builder of the house. We live in this house with Jesus and he calls us to serve him in the world. Our calling is to be faithful, just as Jesus was faithful to God.



The preacher ends by reminding us to be confident. God has done something for us that we could never do for ourselves and therefore we should have hope and confidence. God has a word for the church, but the church also has a word for the world and we can speak that word with pride and certainty because we know that Jesus is with us.

Exploring the Text

Read Hebrews 3:1-6

¹ Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. ² He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. ³ Jesus has been found worthy of greater honor than Moses, just as the builder of a house has greater honor than the house itself. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything. ⁵ "Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house," bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. ⁶ But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house. And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory.

Questions

If you are answering these questions alone, we would urge you to try journaling. Rather than just pondering the answers, try writing them out along with a prayer to the Lord.

- 1) Of all the places where you have lived, which is your favorite and why?
- 2) The preacher begins chapter 3 by addressing his listeners as "holy" brothers and sisters. What does it mean to be holy? How are we made holy?
- 3) What does it mean to share in a heavenly calling with other brothers and sisters?
- 4) What have you found that helps you keep your thoughts "focused or fixed" on Jesus? What causes you to lose focus on Jesus?
- 5) As we look to Jesus, we see him fulfilling the role of apostle and high priest. An apostle is "one who is sent." To be a "High Priest" means to serve as a mediator, or one who offers a sacrifice so that there can be reconciliation. The preacher of Hebrews implies that we are to carry out these roles as well. What does it look like to carry out these functions in 2021?
- 6) How is Jesus superior to Moses?
- 7) The word "faithful" is used numerous times in our text as it relates to our relationship with God. What does it look like to be "faithful to God?"



- 8) The preacher says that God is the builder of our house. This implies that God wants to be involved in our lives because we matter to God. It also means that we need to give control of the building to God. Is there a place in your life where you are having a hard time letting go and trusting God?

