

Hebrews 9:14 NLT - 14 Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

According to Hebrews 9:14, what enables us to confidently draw near to God in worship?

*Ephesians 5:19-20 NLT - 19 singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. 20 And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Psalm 141:2; 95:6-7 NLT - 2 Accept my prayer as incense offered to you, and my upraised hands as an evening offering. ... 6 Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the LORD our maker, 7 for he is our God. We are the people he watches over, the flock under his care. If only you would listen to his voice today!*

In the passages above, what are some of the ways we can express our worship to God? Choose a song that your group knows as a closing hymn to worship God. (Doxology, Amazing Grace, Here I am to worship...)

WRAP-UP

God offers us a life that is more and better than we ever dreamed of. He wants us to live fully alive in Him. At New Life we believe that includes being loved by Jesus, Shaped by Jesus and enabled to Do what Jesus Did

MEMORY VERSE.

He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. 9 God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 1 Corinthians 1:8-9 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN) Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life.

Challenge – This week spend time worshiping God in new ways.

“Passionately Persistent”

More & Better- #4

INTRODUCTION

As we conclude our series on living the More and Better life Jesus offers us, we pause to reflect on the ways God has been faithful and met us in the past. This is a part of our testimony. It is an encouragement to those who hear it, and it is the fuel that empowers us to live fully alive. Our spiritual journey is a marathon, not a sprint. And sometimes we may grow weary, but as we persevere and persist in our faith, we will continue to grow and mature rather than allowing our passion for Jesus to fade over time. And finally, as we embrace the reality of our eternal life in Christ, we worship the one who is worthy of all praise, Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you have remained passionate about for a long time?

Key Passage

A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.
– John 10:10 Msg

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Our Testimony

When we hear someone “give their testimony” it is an account of what God has done in their life. We testify, or we bear witness to what we have seen, heard or experienced. In the Old Testament the Israelites set up stones of remembrance in places where God had rescued them. When they saw the stones, they were reminded of God’s goodness to them.

1 Samuel 7:12 NLT - 12 Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it Ebenezer (which means "the stone of help"), for he said, "Up to this point the LORD has helped us!"

Joshua 4:5-7 NLT - 5 He told them, "Go into the middle of the Jordan, in front of the Ark of the LORD your God. Each of you must pick up one stone and carry it out on your shoulder--twelve stones in all, one for each of the twelve tribes of Israel. 6 We will use these stones to build a memorial. In the future your children will ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' 7 Then you can tell them, 'They remind us that the Jordan River stopped flowing when the Ark of the LORD's Covenant went across.' These stones will stand as a memorial among the people of Israel forever."

What are your memorial stones? Recount for your group, one thing the Lord has done for you. It may be the circumstance that brought you to salvation, or it may be as simple as sending a friend to encourage you at just the right time. As you tell your story, remember that God sees you and loves you in big and small ways.

When we received the Holy Spirit, we received power to witness of Jesus everywhere we go. You don't have to stand on the streetcorners

Acts 1:8 NLT - 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere--in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

and preach to do this. Your first witness is evidenced in how you live your life. But God will also give you opportunities to share with others the goodness of God. Be aware this week of conversations that give you a chance to praise God for His goodness.

2. Persistent Perseverance

One of the hallmarks of Christian discipleship is perseverance. Perseverance is not perfection. It means we keep going and don't quit when we realize that we aren't yet fully matured and there is a long journey to get us there.

How long have you been a Christian? At what age did you accept Jesus

Hebrews 12:1-2a NLT - 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith...

The author of Hebrews likens our spiritual journey to a race. He refers to running with endurance. When we endure, or persevere, we aren't just resigned to putting up with things the way they are, walking in the same rut day after day. We run this race to win. Perseverance is triumphant and alive. But there will be challenges along the way.

What does Hebrews 12:1 tell us will trip us up in our journey? What is our response when we find ourselves weighted down?

Perseverance is not desperately hanging on but traveling from strength to strength. And that strength is not something we generate on our own. We look to Jesus because it is God's faithfulness and not our stamina by which our faith thrives.

It is the personal, unalterable, persevering commitment of God to us that keeps our faith vibrant and alive.

1 Corinthians 1:8-9 NLT - 8 He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. 9 God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christian discipleship is a decision to walk in his ways, steadily and firmly, and then finding that the way integrates all our interests, passions and gifts, our human needs and our eternal aspirations. It is the way of life we were created for.

– Eugene Peterson [A Long Obedience in the Same Direction](#)

3. Worship

There can be no more appropriate response to end our study than to worship the one who offers us the More and Better life at His own expense. Christian worship is the act from the heart of ministering or showing God how much He is valued and adored.