

Practice Guide for March 30th 2025

Jesus is Greater, pt. 3 — All Access

Suggested Ice Breaker (5 minutes)

If you had a “backstage pass” to spend 30 minutes with any prominent figure (past or present), who would it be—and why?

Opening Lectio (10 minutes)

Before beginning, open the meeting time with a moment of silence to focus on God’s presence. Have someone prayerfully read Hebrews 1:1-6 while the group prayerfully listens, reflects and responds. After a final moment of silence, invite the Holy Spirit to guide your time together as you reflect on what it means to draw near to the heart of God.

Reflecting On Scripture (15 minutes)

Questions for Discussion:

1. What stands out to you about Jesus as our High Priest, and how does it shape your understanding of access to God?
2. We are encouraged to “come boldly” to the throne of grace—what does that look like practically, especially in your time of greatest need?
3. Why do you think we sometimes keep God at a distance, and what helps you move closer?

Community Practice (25 minutes)

Slowly read aloud the following quotes:

“We don’t need to run around looking for a priest to get us in the door. Jesus has already opened the door. We just need to walk in.” —Eugene Peterson

“Jesus comes not for the super-spiritual but for the wobbly and weak-kneed who know they don’t have it all together... He comes for those who know they don’t know everything and who are not too proud to receive grace.” —Brennan Manning

Take 7-10 minutes to journal your response to these questions:

1. Where in your life are you still trying to earn access to God’s presence instead of trusting that Jesus has already opened the door?
2. What part of your life feels too messy, weak, or unworthy to bring into God’s presence—and how might grace meet you there?
3. What would it look like this week to stop outsourcing your spiritual life to other mediators and personally walk into God’s presence with boldness?

Share your answers in groups of two or three.

Group Discussion:

- When have you needed grace the most, and how did someone help (or hinder) you from receiving it?
- How can we become a group that makes space for people to draw near to God and receive grace through the community in their weakest moments?
- How can our group help each other resist spiritual performance or intellectualism and lean into authentic, grace-filled access to Jesus?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Have one person close in prayer and/or slowly read aloud this Prayer from A.W. Tozer:

*O God, I have tasted Thy goodness,
It has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more.
I am painfully conscious of my need for further grace.
I am ashamed of my lack of desire.*

*O God, the Triune God, I want to want Thee;
I long to be filled with longing;
I thirst to be made more thirsty still.
Show me Thy glory, I pray Thee,
So that I may know Thee indeed.
Begin in mercy a new work of love within me.
Say to my soul, 'Rise up my love,
My fair one, and come away.'
Then give me grace to rise and follow Thee
Up from this misty lowland
Where I have wandered so long.*

Further Reading:

- *The Message of Hebrews: Christ Above All* by Raymond Brown
- *Hebrews for Everyone* by NT Wright