



JESUS OVER EVERYTHING

HEBREWS READING GUIDE

WEEK 4



JESUS OVER EVERYTHING

WEEK 4
FEBRUARY 6, 2023



CHURCH IN THE SQUARE

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EVERY DAY ...

... A PASSAGE TO READ,

... SOME COMMENTS TO CONSIDER,

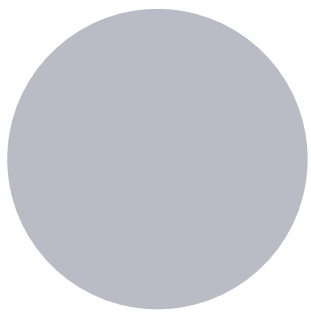
... THREE QUESTIONS TO ASK,

... A PRAYER TO PRAY.



WEEK 4

HEBREWS 2:14-18



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DAY 1 JESUS PROTECTS HIS FAMILY

First read Hebrews 2:14-15..

Jesus is part of a family. And so are we. Our family is both spiritual and physical. He calls us brothers and sisters because through faith in the gospel we become **“the offspring of Abraham”** (v.11,16). He also shares in the **“flesh and blood”** of our humanity (v.14b). And so Jesus’ death has both spiritual and physical dimensions.

That’s what the writer of Hebrews explains here in v.14-15. Through his death, Jesus destroys **“the one who has the power of death ... the devil”** (v.14c). The ailment of sin is in our souls and in our bones, causing death. But Jesus protects his family.

Paul captures this when he explains that we used to follow **“the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience,”** consequently we were bound to **“the passions of our flesh”** (Ephesians 2:2,3). We were enslaved--spiritually and physically. We were part of a different family. But our big brother Jesus saved us from being **“subject to lifelong slavery”** by taking our spiritual and physical bondage (v.15b). Jesus protects his family.

DAY 1 JESUS PROTECTS HIS FAMILY

1. How have you experienced the Lord's protection?
2. How do you feel about seeing yourself as part of a family?
What's different about Jesus' family and your earthly family?
3. What would change about your life if you kept in mind that Jesus is your big brother who protects you spiritually and physically?

Heavenly Father ...

My earthly family doesn't always keep me safe. And I'm not always a helpful sibling. Yet in your Son I see a big brother who loves, saves, heals, and protects--in my soul and in my bones. Help me this week to live as one who is safe in you.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 2

JESUS HELPS HIS FAMILY

First read Hebrews 2:16.

Jesus is not a family member in name only. Many have a sibling, parent, or relative who is not only unhelpful, but perhaps even absent. While you may share a last name, that's where the familial connection ends. Jesus is not like that. He is not a family member in name only. Jesus helps his family.

The word "help" in this verse really means to take hold. One commentator explains Christ is, "taking hold of his followers on the way to glory" (O'Brien, 117). You see, Jesus doesn't simply save his family, he holds on to us and helps us through the varying situations and seasons of life, on into eternity. God himself uses similar language describing how he took Israel **"by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt"** (Jeremiah 31:32). Hebrews tells us, as the Lord took hold of his people in captivity and led them all the way out, so too in Christ he has taken hold of you and promises to never let go.

That's why Paul could say, **"he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ"** (Philippians 1:6). Jesus even gives us the one called "Helper" as the sign and seal of our eternal membership in his family (John 15:26, 2 Corinthians 1:22). Jesus helps his family.

DAY 2

JESUS HELPS HIS FAMILY

1. What do we learn about the family of God from this verse?
2. How do you need the Lord's help right now?
3. How does the cross assure us of Jesus' enduring help?

Heavenly Father ...

Thank you that your Son is not my brother in name only. He holds on to me, and his grip is never loosened by the sins and evils of this world.. Your faithfulness, love, and power endure forever.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 3 JESUS LOOKS LIKE HIS FAMILY

First read Hebrews 2:17.

A healthy family is all about intimacy. It's about closeness. We share characteristics, joys, physical features, sorrows, meals, home, and name. We're so close, we're like each other.

The incarnation then is the truest sense of Christ's intimacy with his family. Hebrews tells us, he was **"made like his brothers in every respect"** (v.17a).

He took on flesh (John 1:14).

He took on suffering (1 Peter 4:1).

He took a job (Mark 6:3).

Jesus got so close he looked like us. What that means is that he understands. But intimacy is more than closeness, *isn't it?* Far too many families know the pain of closeness without care. Rather than being reciprocated, vulnerability is often exploited. A healthy family then is not simply about proximity but affection. Christ drew near to us so that he could become **"a merciful and faithful high priest"** (v.17). You see, because he's close he *knows* what we need. Because he loves us he *gives* us what we need. We might say he became like us so we could look like him.

Jesus looks like his family.

DAY 3

JESUS LOOKS LIKE HIS FAMILY

1. What does Jesus' incarnation tell you about the heart of the Heavenly Father?
2. In what ways have you been hurt by your family? How was intimacy about closeness but not love?
3. How do you think the intimacy of Jesus brings you healing as his spiritual sibling?

Heavenly Father ...

Too often intimacy has been exploited in my family and community. People have drawn near to hurt. I've been guilty of that too. Help me to see that your Son's closeness is not like that. Help me to trust that he draws near, and becomes like me to love me and make me look like him.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 4

JESUS SAVES HIS FAMILY

First read Hebrews 2:17.

Jesus understands our pain and is moved by love to help us. But that's not enough. Salvation requires more. Fortunately Christ is more. Hebrews goes on to say that our brother and high priest came, ***“to make propitiation for the sins of the people”*** (v.17).

As our brother he identifies with us (v.17a).

As our high priest he intercedes for us (v.17b).

And as our propitiation he bears and endures the Father's wrath for us (v.17c).

That's what that word means. Propitiation is the averting of divine anger. Now, in every other situation bearing the wrath of a parent is traumatic and abusive. *So, what makes this different?* Well, the character of the Father.

The Father's wrath is righteous (Romans 1:18).

The Father's wrath is self-controlled (Romans 3:25).

The Father's wrath is loving (Exodus 34:6-7).

We might think his wrath disproves his love and unduly harms his Son. But wrath actually proves love. Scholar N.T. Wright explains, “If God was not wrathful ... he is not loving. And it is his love, determining to deal with that nasty, insidious, vicious, soul-destroying evil, that causes him to send his only, special son” (*Lent for Everyone*). Jesus saves his family by enduring the wrath we deserved.

DAY 4

JESUS SAVES HIS FAMILY

1. How does God's wrath reveal his love?
2. How do you respond to sin and evil? Are your responses reflective of your Brother and Father?
3. Because of Jesus, by faith you are no longer under wrath. How ought that change the way you live this week?

Heavenly Father ...

Your anger toward sin is righteous, self-controlled, and loving. And because of your Son's death on the cross, I know I am no longer under your wrath. I'm under grace. Help me to live in light of this truth today.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY 5 JESUS EMPOWER HIS FAMILY

First read Hebrews 2:18.

In light of all the writer of Hebrews has explained about Jesus' intimacy, advocacy, and love for his family ... he now tells us that Jesus is able to give us strength too. Specifically the writer focuses on the pain Jesus **"suffered when tempted"** (v.18a). You see, because he is our brother, priest, and propitiation he is also **"able to help those who are being tempted"** (v.18b). Jesus empowers his family.

When we're tempted we are being drawn to sin. James makes it clear that **"each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death"** (James 1:14-15). Jesus can help us because when desires swelled in him, he did not sin. He was lured and enticed just like all of us, so he knows the pang of temptation which whispers promises of pleasure, power, and peace. But evil desires never gave birth to sin in him.

That's why Jesus could say, **"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"** (2 Corinthians 12:9). Jesus empowers his family to resist sin and walk in righteousness.


DAY 5 JESUS EMPOWER HIS FAMILY

1. What truth about Jesus stands out to you about his passage?
2. What temptations are you facing this week?
3. How do you think Jesus is able to help you?

Heavenly Father ...

Thank you for empowering me through your Son. This week to sins of _____ and _____ are calling my name. And left to myself, I'll heed their call. Yet I know in Christ, your grace is sufficient and your Son's power is made perfect in my weakness

In Jesus' Name, Amen.



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