

STUDY NOTES

HEBREWS: A PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE FAITH

A Series At New City Church

[www.newcityphx.com/sermons](http://newcityphx.com/sermons)

The following content is based on the message "Jesus Our Advocate" on 3/8/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this study guide effectively, you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these notes for group study and reflection should read the biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 7 (READ THROUGHOUT)

UNHOLY PEOPLE BEFORE A HOLY GOD

Read Hebrews 7:1-10. The writer of Hebrews quotes Genesis 14 as he builds his case for the greatness of Jesus. Because God is a holy God and we are unholy people, we need someone to intercede for us so that we can have a relationship with him. The writer of Hebrews shows us that even Abraham needed an intercessor, or a mediator. God chose Abraham out of a foreign land to be the father of many nations, but God also wanted him to know that he needed a priest who could advocate to God on Abraham's behalf.

Our sin accuses us before a holy God.

- Why do you think that the writer of Hebrews was reminding his audience that even Abraham needed an advocate before God?
- Why do we need a reminder that we need an advocate before a Holy God?

If you don't believe that you need an advocate before God, then just look at the ways that you are constantly accusing yourself of falling short of your own bar. If you can't meet your own standard, then imagine how far you fall short of God's standard.

We constantly judge ourselves and let others judge us.

- What are some ways that you accuse yourself of not being good enough for your own standard?

JESUS IS THE ADVOCATE THAT WE NEED

Read Hebrews 7:22-28. When God set up the laws of ancient Israel, He required a line of priests to represent the people. However, today we don't have a line of priests. Jesus is the ultimate priest who represents us. He is the perfect advocate who appears as our representative in court. Even though our verdict should be "guilty," Jesus goes before the Father and says that He took the punishment for us.

Jesus isn't first an example to follow, but an advocate to "hire."

- In a court of law, you only look as good as your representation. Most of the time we believe that we can represent ourselves. However, Jesus is the only advocate that can truly represent us. How is Jesus your perfect advocate?

THE PAYMENT AND THE BENEFITS

Every lawyer requires payment to be hired. However, Jesus paid that debt for us. He says the only thing that we need to do to "hire" Him as our advocate is to surrender our lives to Him. When we do that, God the Father sees us in the complete glory of Jesus. God sees us in complete radiance. We aren't radiant before the Father because of things that we do. We are radiant because of the things that Jesus did for us. This means that we are free from all condemnation. We aren't condemned by God, and we shouldn't feel condemnation from ourselves.

Jesus even represents us from the attacks against ourselves.

- If God no longer condemns us as guilty when we are represented by Christ, why do we still condemn ourselves?
- What are some things that you can speak to yourself when you start condemning yourself?
- Pray with each other to see yourself as God sees you in Jesus.