



SDG Discussion Guide

Hebrews 2

January 13, 2019

For Starters:

In school, what subject matter were you least attentive to and why?

When your parents went away, who were you "subject to" as a child? How did you look upon this person or the rules imposed on you?

How are you feeling at the beginning of this new year? What are you looking forward to in 2019?

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text and surrounding passage. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.

As you can, read aloud the passage in your group; read it aloud a second time but from a different Bible translation (eg, read from the Message after first reading from the ESV). Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion.

1. What danger faces these people? What does it mean to "drift away" (v 1)?
2. What is the answer to the rhetorical question in verse 3?
3. In contrast to the popular expectation of that day (v 5), to whom does God subject the world (vv 6-8a)? Why is this rule not yet complete or universal? Who rules instead? What is the ultimate destiny of humanity?
4. In comparing people and angels (vv 5-8), how are we both lower and higher? What is the ultimate destiny of humanity?
5. To what does the phrase "the world to come" refer (v 5)? How can the kingdom of God exist in both the present (in Jesus, in history) and the future (at the end of time)?
6. In what respects was Jesus "made lower than the angels" (v 9)? What elevated him above them? What does Jesus share in common with humanity (vv 7,9)? In which respect is Jesus unique?
7. Why did we need someone with flesh and blood like us - not an angel - to die in our place (vv 14-18)? What did Jesus accomplish by his death as one of us? What is the goal of our salvation (vv 10-11)? What does it mean that Jesus *authors* salvation?
8. What is the difference between the way Jesus made atonement (v 17) and the way the priests mediate atonement?
9. When (if ever) did you drift away from the faith? Why? What evidences for faith helped bring you back?
10. Of Jesus' three titles (brother, v 11; author of salvation, v 10; high priest, v 17) which one means most to you now? Why?

Spend some time in prayer. Thank God, and ask him to continue to speak to you from his word in this passage. Ask him to reignite your prayer life and let you hear his voice louder than ever in 2019 and beyond. Pause to hear anything the Lord may want to say to you or your group. Then continue to pray as you're led. Go forth this week enlivened to hear and to follow Jesus.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).