

Grace Downtown CG Discussion Guide

March 11-14 2019

Series: Asking God

Hebrews 10:19-25



Announcements:

Week of Prayer: Grace Downtown will dedicate the week of **March 11-17** to prayer for the purpose of seeing God's hand move in our church and in our city. We hope to offer host homes each morning at 6 am and evening at 7 pm each week day, prayer brunches on Saturday, Teacher Prayer Brunch on Sunday 1 - 3 pm and Kingdom Prayer Sunday at 4 pm at CCC.

Cynthia Lamb joins Grace DC Staff: Counselor Cynthia Lamb has joined the Grace DC Staff and will begin taking clients on March 14. She works with teens, adults, and couples, assisting with a variety of concerns such as life transitions, anxiety, depression, grief and loss, trauma, parenting issues, forming healthy relationships, boundaries, vocation, and spiritual formation. She also has experience facilitating GriefShare groups. See the Get Care page of our website to schedule an appointment.

Intro to Grace Downtown: Interested in learning about Grace Downtown's vision and history as well as our community? Join us for this seminar which serves as the first step toward membership, but does not obligate you to become a member. Lunch is provided. Registration required. **Sat April 6, 9:00 to 3:30 pm** Contact Bryan at bryan@gracedc.net with any questions.

Teacher Prayer Brunch: If you're a teacher or in the education field (administrators, counselors, etc included), please join us for our twice-annual time for the educators of the Grace DC Network to share, fellowship and pray together. **Sun March 17, 1:00-3:00 pm.** RSVP to Yan Lee at yanlee@ucla.edu. If you are interested but can't make it to this brunch, let Yan or Jessie Huber (jessica.s.huber@gmail.com) know.

Introduction:

We are currently in the midst of a 3-part sermon series on the topic of prayer. We are focusing on a different Person in the Trinity each week. Last week we looked at God the Father as the One who call us to pray, hears our prayers, promises to answer our prayers. Today we are looking at God the Son and next week at God the Spirit.

Read and Discuss:

Hebrews 10:19-25

1. What is it about Jesus that gives us confidence to approach God boldly in prayer?
2. List all the ways that the approach to God through Jesus and the New Covenant are superior to the approach under the Old Covenant (compare priests, veils, cleansing water). See Ezek. 36:22-28 and Jer. 31:33-34.

3. Describe the kind of “confidence” (v. 19) and “assurance of faith” (v. 22) and “unwavering” confession of hope (v. 23) we can have when approaching God because of Christ. Why do we *need* this kind of assurance when we pray?
4. What does the author of Hebrews say about how we can encourage our brothers and sisters because of Christ’s cross (vv. 24-25)?

Summary and Application

1. How often does your *guilty conscience* prevent you from being bold in approaching God in prayer?
2. What difference do you think it would make in your *desire* to pray and in your *boldness* in prayer if you were absolutely convinced that not a shred of sin, darkness, friction, etc. existed between you and God due to Christ’s cross?
3. Would you say your prayers are marked by boldness and confidence?

Prayer

The Grace Downtown Prayer Team creates opportunities for our community to learn more about prayer together for our church family, our city, and our world. Throughout the coming week, the Prayer Team is asking our church community to pray...

...for Grace Downtown’s week of prayer this week. Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Give thanks that he listens to our prayers and he promises to give good things to those who ask him. Confess that we are slow to take matters to God in prayer. Pray that our church learns to pray boldly and without ceasing.

...for those in our church who have been abused. Even as we lament the experiences of victims, praise God for promising a new creation where the suffering of this world will be wiped away. Ask God to pour out his love on victims of abuse and that he would provide spiritual healing.

...for people affected by the recent conflict between India and Pakistan. Pray that God would stop the violence and provide healing and safety to everyone involved. Pray that he would work through national and international leaders to bring peace and provide protection for missionaries and local churches.