

## **Resilient Faith in a Risky World: Week 3**

**May 24, 2020**

### **Hebrews 12:18-29**

#### **Warming Up**

1. Has anyone ever made a promise to you that you had to wait for it to come to fruition? What was it like waiting? Were you confident the promise would be fulfilled? Why? Why not? What was it like when you finally received the thing promised?

#### **Knowing the Gospel...**

2. Read Hebrews 12:18-21, then read the episode of Israel meeting the Lord at Mt. Sinai in Ex. 19:9-23. What do you think God was trying to teach the Israelites through this encounter? (Deut. 9:19) See also question #6.

3. Read Heb. 9:7-10 and compare it with these verses: Heb. 4:14-16, 6:19-20, 10:19-22, 12:22-24. How has access to God changed and what has made that change possible?

4. What do you think the author of Hebrews means when he says that Jesus' blood speaks a better message than the blood of Abel? Heb. 11:4, Gen. 4:10, Matt. 23:33-36, Luke 11:50-51

#### **Living the Gospel...**

5. Verses 22-24 seem to be talking about the future reality of heaven. Why do you think verses (22-24) are in the present tense? Check out Heb. 10:14. How are believers currently experiencing the realities of heaven in this life, if only partially?

6. Read verses 12:28-29. What does it mean to worship God “acceptably with reverence and awe”? How do we do that? (see also 13:15-16, 21).

What is the “therefore, therefore, at the beginning of verse 28? (What is the reason we should worship God w/reverence and awe?) See verses 22-27. What does the fact that “...our God is a consuming fire” have to do with the way we worship God? See also Deut. 4:23-24.

7. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. Share with your group how these truths have encouraged you in your journey of faith with God.

## **Telling the Gospel...**

8. How would you explain to a non-believer this truth: Because of Jesus a person can go directly into God’s presence for forgiveness, grace, and mercy. Discuss as a group.

9. Consider this question and discuss as a group: If a non-believer asked you, “If God CAN stop the pandemic, why DOESN’T he?” what would you say?

**Next Week:** Prayer and Fasting- Matthew 6:5-18