

Name: _____

FUNDOCY Homework: The Letter to the Hebrews & The Universal Letters

Lesson Taught on December 3, 2017

Homework Due: December 17, 2017

Jesus, our great High Priest, had opened the door to grace and mercy of God. Because of Jesus, we can go to God with boldness and complete confidence in God's love for us.

Part I: The Lesson

1. The book of Hebrews is more a sermon than a letter. It ties the Old Covenant to the New, shows Jesus as the fulfillment of the prophets' messages and encourages Christians to keep the faith. We don't know the actual author of the book, but he or she was obviously well educated, connected to the Jewish faith and eloquent in her or his ability to argue and explain the cosmic significance of Jesus Christ.

2. The letter to the Hebrews speaks often of Jesus as our high priest. The Jews who read this letter were used to a highly structured religious clergy system. The high priest was the ranking priest in any given district, and the ranking district was Jerusalem and its temple. The high priest in Jerusalem was the only person allowed to enter the Holy of Holies where the Ark of the Covenant was kept and where God was through two dwell. When Jesus came, he shattered the image of the high priest who is unconcerned with the disenfranchised and the poor.

Who did Jesus eat with, heal and teach? What types of people?

Read Mark 2:15-17. What people did Jesus eat with? _____ and _____

Read Luke 4:18-19 (A passage from Isaiah that Jesus read in the synagogue.) and fill in the blanks:

The Spirit of the _____ is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring _____ to the _____. He has sent me to proclaim _____ to the _____ and recovery of _____ to the blind, and to let the _____ go free.

3. The book of Hebrews refers to Jesus Christ as:

- a) The Great High Priest,
- b) The Great "I AM",
- c) Jesus Christ,
- d) Both A and C.

4. Look up and define the following words...(hint: some definitions may be found in your Bible)

a) Grace: _____

b) Boldness: _____

c) Hebrews: _____

d) High Priest: _____

e) Mercy: _____

5. Read and highlight Hebrews 4:15-16. Write 'High Priest' in the margin.

6. Next read and highlight Hebrews 12:1-2. Write 'Weights' in the margin.

As you read about being surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 4:15-16) who are some of those witnesses who have gone before you in life and in faith and taught you along the way? On the back of this sheet draw a cloud....in the cloud write the names of people who encourage you. (They may be living or dead.) Underneath the cloud list the ways that they support or sustain you. After you do that, answer the following question.

How do you feel, knowing that these witnesses are with you all the time, supporting you and cheering you on?

7. Hebrews 4:15 says, "we do not have a High Priest who is...:

a) "Available 24-7"

b) "Interested in our petty little problems"

c) "Unable to help us when we really deserve it"

d) "Unable to sympathize with our weakness"

8. Read Hebrews 13:2 and fill in the blanks:

Do not _____ to show _____ to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained _____ without knowing it.

How do you show hospitality to others? _____

9. The major theme in Hebrews is: (hint: see Hebrews 11:1-3)

- a) Faith
- b) Hope
- c) Love
- d) Where to get a good deal on business insurance

10. The discipline of Christian life is most like:

- a) A bull in a china shop
- b) A kid in a candy store
- c) An athlete in training
- d) A couch potato with a remote control and 260 channels surfing a 62-inch plasma flat screen television on DishTV

11. Hebrews 4:16 calls God's people to approach God's throne with:

- a) Boldness so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need
- b) Coldness so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need
- c) Baldness so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need
- d) Fear and trembling before an angry and vengeful God

12. There is a series of seven short letters toward the end of the Bible that have given encouragement, advice, wisdom, and counsel to Christians throughout the ages. These universal or "catholic" letters help Christ's friend understand and appreciate this gift of new life he died to give.

13. *James*: This letter offers the clearest guidelines for Christians living since Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. It speaks of the importance of showing your faith through the ways you live and love. Initially aimed at Jewish Christians, James also speaks powerfully to Christians today.

We are not sure which James wrote this book. It may have been Jesus' brother or another early follower. James was written at a time when the church was dispersed, possibly around 90 A.D.

1,2 Peter: These letters are written to encourage Christians going through persecution, challenging them to remain faithful. The first letter shows how Jesus endured suffering and calls us to follow Christ's example. The second warns Christians to stay away from false teachings and to hold on to the truth.

Read and highlight 1 Peter 2:24. Write "In My Place" in the margin in your Bible. Then fill in the following blanks:

"He himself bore our _____ in his body on the _____, so that free from _____ we might live for righteousness; by his _____ you have been _____."

1, 2, 3 John: These three short letters focus on the importance of love, Godly living and hospitality.

Jude: "Jude" is a Greek translation of the Hebrew name Judas. Was the author the disciple Judas? The brother of Jesus? Another Jude? We don't know. This letter is a passionate warning against those who deny Jesus Christ.

14. The letters in the Bible that Paul didn't write are sometimes called:

- a) The Universal Letters
- b) The Catholic Letters
- c) Both A and B
- d) The Letters in the Bible That Paul didn't Write

Part II: Reflection Questions (there are no wrong answers here!)

1. Who was the best coach or teacher you ever had? _____
What made that coach or teacher so good?

2. How is Jesus like a good coach or teacher? _____

How is he different? _____

3. Why is it important to keep your eyes on the goal when running a difficult race?

How does that relate to the Christian life or your faith journey?

4. A friend is living a pretty stressed life-style. She is an over achiever in every area of school, work and sports. It is starting to affect her emotional and physical health. She says she is striving for "excellence in all things," but she is starting to step on people, get on their nerves, and act in less-than-loving ways to everyone around her. What are three kind things you can say to her....to talk to her about it? What would be helpful things you would talk with her about?

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____
