



Run, Goat, Run! Hebrews 9:1-28

Community Reflection is part three of Vineyard Boise's "Weekly Discipleship Track." Community Reflection is intended to point you towards the unique interaction that happens in the face to face setting of small group life. You've processed the truth on your own in the weekly devotions and have heard the truth presented in Sunday's teaching. Now you have the opportunity to interact with other believers about the implications and applications of that truth. "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another," says the proverb. That's exactly what takes place in the small group setting. Perspectives are clarified, truths explored, convictions sharpened (or softened, as the case may be), life is built. There are three segments in each Community Reflection: **Prepare**, **Process**, and **Participate**.



PREPARE

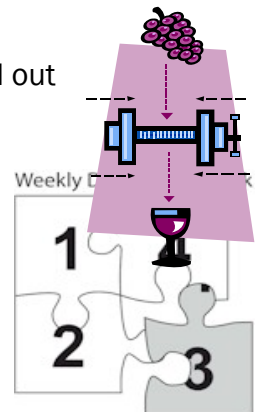
(For participants prior to group meeting)

1. Work through "This Week's Walk." Do the devotions, noting any key insights you want to share with your group or questions you would like to ask.
2. How much time do you have? If you really want to get into the Old Testament background for appreciating and understanding Hebrews 9, read Exodus 19-40 (or as much of it as you can!). This will give you the full (and sometimes repetitive) picture of the old covenant's inauguration and the tabernacle (essentially, you get the story of the ten commandments, a summary of various laws, and detailed instructions for the tabernacle followed by a detailed description of those instructions being followed to the letter. Hebrews is the only book of the Bible to really get into the tabernacle from a new covenant standpoint, and even here the author says there's no time to really explore the meanings behind the "shadows" of the tabernacle's details. Just see in how many places and ways you can see Jesus in the tabernacle's furniture and arrangement.
3. Have time for a little more? Review the instructions in the law about the day of atonement in Leviticus 16 and see what other Bible references you can find.
4. Pray daily for your group and that the Lord would really unfold the truths of Hebrews 9 in your next group meeting.

PROCESS

(For leaders/co-leaders during group meeting)

1. Ask your group how they did with their devotions this past week. What stood out as they worked through them? What questions or issues were raised?
2. Have your group read through **Hebrews 9:1-28**. Ask the group for any immediate impressions or questions that strike them. You can choose from the following discussion questions to help the group process this chapter:



1. Life reflection – need for change, hunger for God
2. Presentation of truth – teaching and studying
3. Processing the truth – reflection and debrief in community
4. Life change – response to truth, new habits and actions

Community Reflection

- Ask the group to share the most impressive church sanctuary or cathedral they have personally visited and the impressions it made on them. You could then ask the group to share the feelings they experience when they enter the Vineyard Boise sanctuary. Then have the group compare and contrast the sights and sounds and overall feeling they can imagine experiencing upon entering the Jewish tabernacle or temple and why they think they would have felt that way.
- What are the key lessons we can learn from the Jewish tabernacle? What's the benefit of studying it's layout? What's the point? (*Perhaps you can draw a basic outline of the tabernacle on a whiteboard or just refer the group to the illustration in the study binder.*)
- Discuss the key tabernacle event – Yom Kippur, perhaps reading Leviticus 16:1-20. Ask group members to share when they felt they have been used as a “scapegoat” by others (be prepared for some ministry time).

Additional group idea:

There are tabernacle models available online (I found one for \$45 at <http://www.the-tabernacle-place.com>). Dividing up the cost and making this a group project would be great hands-on way to see what Hebrews is talking about. Short of that, get some good illustrations in front of your group as you read about the tabernacle.



PARTICIPATE (As a group during or after your meeting)

You might consider “re-enacting” the day of atonement by doing as a group what we have done as a church each year at Easter for the past several years – have the group write down privately any specific sin they want to acknowledge as being carried off by Jesus and forever dealt with. Wad all the papers up, gather them together, pray a prayer of thanksgiving over the crumbled “sins” and then burn or otherwise dispose of them. Then celebrate with worship.