



WEEK 10 - THOUGHTS FROM THE MESSAGE

ICEBREAKER - What is a difficult situation for you to relate with in someone's life who is close to you?

Read Hebrews 2:14-18 and Hebrews 4:14-16 together as a group

- Do you first think of God as a close brother or as a distant deity? When you consider whether He can or can't relate to your life, what's your first reaction?

FROM THE MESSAGE | BROTHER JESUS:

He gets what it's like to feel relational tension in your family.

John 1:11 – He came to his own family and they didn't receive or accept him.

He gets what it's like for people to want you to leave.

Mark 5:17 - Then the people began to beg Jesus to leave their territory.

He gets what it's like to be misunderstood and called names.

Mark 3:22 - "He is possessed by Beelzebub," and "He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons."

He gets what it's like to have a family member die.

Matthew 14:10, 12-13 - ¹⁰ So John was beheaded in the prison. ¹² And John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus. ¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place.

He gets what it's like to have one of your best friends turn on you.

Matthew 26:75 - Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

He gets what it's like to feel deep depression and sorrow.

Luke 22:37 – Jesus took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him to Gethsemane, and he began to be sorrowful and deeply troubled.

He gets what it's like to feel frustration and disappointment with your coworkers.

Mark 7:18, 8:21 - Why are you so dull? Do you still not understand?

He gets what it's like to undergo physically suffering.

Hebrews 12:3-4 - In your suffering, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

He gets what it's like to have a good friend commit suicide.

Matthew 27:5 - So Judas threw the money into the temple court and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

He gets what it's like to feel like he wants out of the life he's been given.

Matthew 26:39 - As Jesus went a little farther he fell on his face, and prayed, saying, 'O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as you will.'

He gets what it's like be around the opposite sex and to resist lust.

John 8:3-4 - ³ As Jesus was speaking, the teachers of religious law brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. ⁴ "Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery.



He gets what it's like to feel tired and burnt out, utterly exhausted.

Luke 8:23 - As they sailed, Jesus fell asleep in the stern on a pillow. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

He gets what it's like to be homeless and destitute.

Matthew 8:20 - Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

He gets what it's like to pour into someone's life for years and feel like a failure based on the apparent outcome.

Mark 14:50 - Then all his disciples deserted him and ran away.

He gets what it's like to endure opposition from people who have evil intentions.

Hebrews 12:3 - Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

He gets what it's like to feel so busy that you want to withdraw and be alone.

Luke 5:15-16 - Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

He gets what it's like to be overwhelmed and to feel anxiety.

Luke 22:38 - 38 Then Jesus said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with distress to the point of death."

He gets what it's like to be taken advantage of and feel used.

Luke 17:17 - ¹⁷ Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this one foreigner?"

He gets what it feels like to be angry over injustice.

Matthew 21:13 - "It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"

He gets what it's like to have the person you trusted most betray you for someone else.

Luke 22:47-48 - 47 While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, 48 but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

He gets what it's like to be tempted by pride and power.

Luke 4:5-7 - 5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7 If you worship me, it will all be yours."

He gets what it's like to be in a blended family with a step-father, half-brothers, and half-sisters.

Mark 6:1,3 - 1 Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. 3 Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?"

He gets what it's like to feel more connected to his mom than his dad.

John 19:25 - Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

He knew the pressure that comes with people wanting so much of you that it begins to wear you out.

Mark 1:36-38 - Simon and his companions went to look for Jesus, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else."



He knew what it was like to create boundaries with people who weren't safe.

*Matthew 7:6 - Do not give **dogs** what is **sacred**; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.*

He gets what it's like to forgive people who are currently still hurting you.

Luke 23:34 - Father forgive them for they know not what they do.

He gets what it's like to feel the temptation to be a people-pleaser.

*John 2:23-25 - 23 Now many people saw the signs Jesus was performing and believed in his name.
24 But Jesus would not entrust himself to the hearts of man, for he knew what was in man's heart.
25 He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in man.*

He knew what it was like to feel abandoned by his Father.

Matthew 27:46 - My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

-
- What is an area, sin, struggle, hardship or situation (from the list above) that you haven't believed that Jesus can relate to?
 - The author of Hebrews writes of the suffering that Jesus underwent. James then tells us to consider it joy to undergo trials and temptations. How does focusing on Jesus' suffering prepare your heart for similar trials? Does it encourage or discourage you? Why?

QUESTIONS FROM WEEKDAY READING (pgs 305 - 332)

WEEKLY QUESTIONS:

1. *What's something you noticed for the first time?*
2. *What questions did you have?*
3. *Was there anything that bothered you?*
4. *What did you learn about loving God?*
5. *What did you learn about loving others?*

The Unashamed God | (p. 320)

- Hebrews 11 is filled with stories of faith. In the middle of this, it says that God is not ashamed to be called their God. Why is faith the foundation of our relationship with God?
- How do you define and articulate the essence of faith based on page 319-321?

Hearing and Doing | (p. 328)

- We live in a culture of short term memory and forgetfulness. James says that, to listen to the Word but not do what it says is to look in the mirror and then forget what you look like.
- How are you remembering to live out God's Word after your hear it (on the weekend) or even read it (through the week)?