

Mar 15, 26 – Small Group Questions
Hebrews 12:1-2, 18-29 “Endurance and the Kingdom to Come”

This passage brings the preacher’s appeal in Hebrews to its climax. Throughout the letter he has urged weary believers to hold fast to Jesus and run the race set before them. In these verses he brings his listeners to a fork in the road. Two paths lie ahead, two mountains rise before them. One path leads to Mount Sinai, a place of fear and distance before a holy God. The other leads to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, where Jesus the mediator welcomes his people into joy, belonging, and new creation.

As you discuss together, notice both the warning and the hope in this passage. The preacher wants us to see clearly what we have in Jesus, and how that future shapes the way we live now.

Read Hebrews 12:1–2; 18–29 and Exodus 19: 9-20; 20: 18-19

1. The passage contrasts two mountains: Mount Sinai and Mount Zion. As you listen to the description of each, what words or images stand out to you? What emotions or experiences seem to be associated with each mountain?
2. Throughout Scripture people often react strongly when they encounter God’s holiness (Isaiah cries “Woe is me,” Peter says “Depart from me,” Moses trembles). Why do you think human beings respond this way in the presence of God?
3. Verses 22–24 describe what believers “have come to” in Jesus. What are some of the realities listed here? Which one encourages you the most right now?
4. Verse 24 says that Jesus’ blood “speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.” What do you think that means?
5. In verses 25–27 the preacher says that God will one day “shake” the heavens and the earth. What do you think this shaking represents? What kinds of things will remain after that shaking?
6. The preacher says that we “have come” to this kingdom already, not simply that we will come to it someday. How might that truth shape the way we live our lives now?
7. The sermon reflected on how much of our work in this world can feel small or unfinished — like painting only a single leaf of a much larger tree. How does the hope of God’s unshakable kingdom encourage you when your work or efforts feel incomplete?

Closing Reflection: Verse 28 says, “Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship.”

Where have you seen signs of that kingdom this week?

What might it look like for you to live this coming week in gratitude for the unshakable kingdom we have received and so bring delight to the giver?