Hebrews 4:14-5:10 Discussion Questions

- Hebrews tells us that Jesus is our "great high priest." What did a high priest do in the Old Testament? What does it mean that Jesus now fulfills this role perfectly for us?
    - Why is it important that Jesus didn't take this position for himself, but was appointed by the Father? What does this tell us about God's disposition toward us?
    - Why is it significant that Jesus' priesthood lasts forever? How does this benefit us?
- Verse 14 tells us to "hold fast our confession." Why might we as Christians be tempted to loosen our grip on the gospel? What temptations or hardships might tempt us in this way?
    - Pastor Merida said, "To endure, we need more than commands. We need a better look at Jesus." How does beholding Jesus help us persevere in faith?
- The passage says Jesus was tempted in every way we are, yet without sin. How does this make Him able to sympathize with us?
    - Pastor Merida said Jesus knows the full force of temptation because He never gave into it. How might this change the way we approach our own temptations?
- Verse 16 invites us to "draw near to the throne of grace" with confidence. Does it surprise you that we have this kind of access to God's presence?
    - What might keep us from approaching God with confidence? (see Matthew 27:50-51)

- The passage promises that we will receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need. What is the difference between mercy and grace?
    - Can you think of a situation where you needed one, or both?
- Pastor Merida quoted Richard Sibbes, who said, “There is more mercy in Christ than sin in you.” Do you believe this? What keeps you from believing this?
    - What would change if you really believed this to be true?
- What do we learn about the humanity of Jesus in verses 7-8?
    - How might this challenge our expectations about what obedience to God must always look like?
- What does it mean that Jesus “learned obedience” through suffering? How does this make Him a more sympathetic high priest?
- How does His experience of suffering give us confidence to bring our own pain, fears, and struggles to Him in prayer?
    - Pastor Merida noted that prayer has a transforming effect on us. How have you found prayer reshaping your mind and heart before God?
    - Pastor Merida also encouraged us to approach God’s throne with **humility, joy, large expectations, and confidence**. Which of these attitudes is most difficult for you? What would it look like to cultivate it this week?
- Verse 9 calls Jesus the “source of eternal salvation.” How does Jesus’ perfect obedience, suffering, and death make Him our all-sufficient Savior?