

Priest;” “Jesus, the Perfect Sacrifice.”

● Although we cannot obey the law, Jesus fulfilled the law. Unlike the sinful high priests, Jesus, our Great High Priest, is without sin. Unlike the animal sacrifices that had to be offered repeatedly and could never really take away sin, Jesus is the perfect sacrifice for all who will trust Him as Savior.

● Draw straight vertical lines all over and around Mount Zion.

● These lines represent the people who have come to Jesus for their relationship with God, the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven, those who have been made perfect Jesus the mediator of the New Covenant. Have someone read again Hebrews 12:22-24.

Group discussion

● Call attention to the fourth outline point and have someone read aloud Hebrews 12:25-29.

● Moses was the one who warned them on earth about

Wrapping It Up

● God is awesome and holy and the Bible tells us we should fear God. But because of Jesus we can fear God without being afraid.

● Call on someone to lead in a closing prayer.

obeying God’s law and staying away from the mountain. The punishment for ignoring Moses’ warning was death. Jesus is the one who has spoken from heaven. Why is refusing Jesus and the new covenant worse than refusing Moses and the old covenant?

Making It Personal


Thinking about how we try to relate to God

● How do people today sometimes relate to God the Mount Sinai way instead of the Mount Zion way? Wait for responses.

● What can we do to help them understand and begin relating to God through the New Covenant that Jesus offers? Wait for responses.

● Could someone here share your personal testimony in terms of how you once were afraid of God and trying to please Him on your own, but then you found a better way by trusting Jesus?

Wait for responses.



Faith at Home
Ask your family to discuss: How can we fear God without being afraid?

Teacher’s Toolbox

*Getting your class into God’s Word
and God’s Word into your class*

ExcitingBibleStudy.com

Bible Series

Hebrews 12:14-29

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HOW TO USE TEACHER’S TOOLBOX: Make a four-page folded teacher’s leaflet from the first two sheets by printing two-sided (or by putting the blank sides together). The other two sheets are for duplicating, displaying, distributing, or otherwise using as called for in the lesson plan.



Faith at Home – A specific application of today’s Bible passage to family life, to be used for individual reflection, family discussion, or class activity.



Getting Started

Remembering experiences

● Ask the class to remember the time they were most frightened. Let two or three volunteers tell about that time, each taking only 30-60 seconds to summarize the event and how they felt.

● A frightening experience is indelibly imprinted in our minds, never to be forgotten. It may have tremendous impact for how we live in the future, the decisions and choices we make, how we think and how we feel. One of the most frightening experiences the Israelites had as a nation was at Mount Sinai when God came down to give them the Ten Commandments. That experience defined their relationship with God from that point forward. Today we are going to learn about that frightening experience and see how it differs from the experience that we can have through Jesus Christ.

● Call on someone to pray for the class to have spiritual understanding.

Exploring God's Word

Lesson outline

- Display Item 1, which shows the following lesson outline.

Hebrews 12:14-29

The Requirements of Holy God

(v. 14-17)

Relating to God the Mount Sinai Way

(v. 18-21)

Relating to God the Mount Zion Way

(v. 22-24)

The Terrible Results of Refusing God

(v. 25-29)

Questions and answers

- Call attention to the first outline point. Have someone read aloud Hebrews 12:14-17.
- Use the following questions to help learners dig into the verses.
 - What are some things that these verses tell us we should “make every effort” to do or to avoid? (live in peace with all men, be holy, not miss the grace of God, let no bitter root grow up to cause trouble and defile, not be sexually immoral, not be godless)
 - What does it mean that “without holiness no one will see the Lord”? (holiness, being set apart by God for God, is a requirement of a relationship with God; we can realize “positional” holiness through a relationship with Jesus but still should seek “practical” holiness through living for Jesus)

- Why was Esau’s selling of his inheritance a “godless” act? (it dishonored the significance of the covenant God had made with Abraham and his descendants)
- What in this passage shows that our regret or even remorse over rejecting God cannot cancel out the results of that rejection? (Esau later sought the blessing even with tears but he could not have it)

Visual illustration

- **The Bible says that we are to be holy because God is holy. He expects holiness of us. There are two approaches to having a relationship with God. One is the Mount Sinai way and the other is the Mount Zion way.**
 - On the chalkboard draw two mountains. These can be very simple; just a large inverted “V” will do. Inside the mountains, label the left one “Mount Sinai” and the right one “Mount Zion.” Beneath Mount Sinai print “Old Covenant” and beneath Mount Zion print “New Covenant.” (If you prefer, use Item 2 which already has this much of the drawing on it.)
 - **The next two sections of our outline show the contrast between two ways of seeking a relationship with God. One is the Mount Sinai approach of the Old Covenant; the other is the Mount Zion approach of the New Covenant. Before we continue read-**

ing in Hebrews, let’s read from the Old Testament about what happened on Mount Sinai the day God came down to give Moses the Old Covenant, the Ten Commandments and the law.

- Have learners find Exodus 19:9-25 and ask someone to read the passage aloud. As they read, add to the drawing of Mount Sinai the following features as they are mentioned:

- a dense cloud
- bold lines from the sky indicating God speaking
- a line indicating a border around the foot of the mountain to keep people away
- a sign that says “Keep Away – Do Not Touch”
- a dead animal on the side of the mountain with an arrow in him
- lightning bolts in the sky
- a long horn with lines coming out to indicate a loud trumpet blast
- wavy lines outside the border around the foot of the mountain to indicate people trembling
- flames and smoke billowing up from the top of the mountain
- wavy lines on the sides of the mountain to show it is trembling
- **This was a frightening experience for the Israelites. They were fearful because of the holiness of God. Now let’s read more about that experience in Hebrews 12:18-21.** Have someone read those verses aloud.

● **These verses give even more insight into the emotional impact the event had on the Israelites, speaking of the “gloom” and how the people “begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded,” and how even Moses trembled with fear at the terrifying sight.**

- Next to Mount Sinai print “Fear and Dread” to summarize the emotions caused by this approach to relating to God.
- List these words next to Mount Sinai: Law, Priesthood, Sacrifices.
- **The Old Covenant way of Mount Sinai involved trying to attain holiness by keeping God’s law, and making sacrifices. The priests were the imperfect mediators between people and God. Even they needed sacrifices to cover their disobedience of God’s law.**
- Have someone read aloud Hebrews 12:22-24.
- **Mount Zion symbolizes Jerusalem the place where Jesus sealed the New Covenant with His blood shed on the cross.**
- Draw a cross on the top of Mount Zion and surround it with tiny “v’s” to symbolize the “thousands upon thousands of angels.”
- Next to Mount Zion print “Joyful Assembly.” Then list these phrases: “Jesus, the Fulfillment of the Law;” “Jesus the Great High

Hebrews 12:14-29

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(v. 14-17)

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