



GROUP QUESTIONS FOR **APRIL 26**

Series: *By Faith*

Worship (Hebrews 12:18-29)

Icebreakers!

1. When you first learned about God, did you hear more about God's holiness, justice, and judgment; or God's love, mercy, and welcome?
2. Which of those, in your experience, has been missing more in the church today?

Growing Together

3. **Study Hebrews 12:18-29 on the back of this page.** Circle important things you see, and put arrows by anything that could be hard to understand. What big ideas stand out?
4. Why does seeing God's powerful judgment of sin matter, like He showed at Mount Sinai in giving the Ten Commandments? How much do people see God like that today?
5. What makes the vision of God's glory in heaven so much better than the terror against sin? Does our church show people a balanced picture of Sinai and Zion or not?
6. How can we wander away from God, or even reject Him, even after displays of His glory like this? How did it happen in the Bible ... and how do we protect ourselves against it?
7. What do people in America believe is really *real*, down deep – what's "unshakable"? If that's different from what Christians believe, what difference does it make?
8. When our mind and heart finally recognizes God as glorious, how does that understanding affect us? What does your response of worship look like?
9. **From the message this Sunday: What questions do you have? What encouraged you? What challenged you? Where did you see the Gospel?**

Head, Heart, and Hands

10. How can you keep training your thoughts on the glory of God—no longer raging against your sin, but welcoming you into heaven's celebration by the blood of Jesus?
11. What should your heart be feeling more: God's judgment and wrath against sin (already poured out on Jesus at the cross)? Or God's joy with the angels over your repentance and salvation? How can you train your heart to feel what God feels towards you?
12. How will dwelling on God's celebration in glory increase your worship of Him day by day?

Hebrews 12:18-29 (ESV)

For you have not come to what may be touched,
a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest
and the sound of a trumpet and a voice
whose words made the hearers beg
that no further messages be spoken to them.
For they could not endure the order that was given,
“If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.”
Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “*I tremble with fear.*”

But you have come to Mount Zion
and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,
and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,
and to God, the judge of all,
and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,
and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse him who is speaking.

For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth,
much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.

At that time his voice shook the earth,
but now he has promised,
“Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.”

This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—
that is, things that have been made—
in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.

Therefore **let us be grateful** for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken,
and thus **let us offer to God acceptable worship**, with reverence and awe,
for our God is a consuming fire.