

Being Home

Hebrews 9:1-15

Christmas Gifts

Tragedy: A costly, wonderful gift that is not seen or valued

Garden of Eden

Yet human rebellion cut us off

His presence is too holy for people

Yet His presence is life

So...the Most Holy Place in the tabernacle

9:1-10

[Reviewing tabernacle in the wilderness]

"The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the **Most Holy Place** had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning." Hebrews 9:8

9:11-15

The Big Idea

Our flourishing and joy-filled life
is freely available and only available
through Jesus Christ
if we'll draw near to God in Christ

The Most Holy Place

Garden of Eden

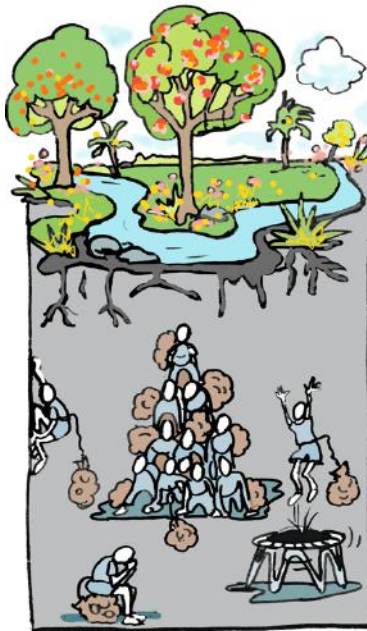
Cut off because of Sin

Old Covenant: 1 person (High Priest),

1 day per year, in a cloud of smoke

We try for Life...or we give up

What we could never do, Christ did. He has opened the way to God



"You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven!" Hebrews 12:22-23

Draw near to God

The perfect sacrifice in the perfect tabernacle by the perfect priest opened the way forever

So come

"...Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:14-16

"...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings..." Hebrews 10:19-22

Do we?

"...'Martha, Martha,' the Lord answered, 'you are worried and upset about many things.'" Luke 10:39-42

Invited to the feast, "But they all alike began to make excuses..." Luke 14:18-20

The worst tragedy: The way is open to Almighty God, and we don't go Our soul seeking God as a living person

"As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When can I go and meet with God?" Psalm 42:1-2

- Listen to God: Bible, meditation, silence
- Speak with God: lament, petition, worship
- Walk with God: obey
- Together as God's people

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. How does access to God's presence bring joy?
2. What keeps you from drawing near to God?
3. How could we do good things (like reading the Bible and praying) without actually drawing near to God?
What does it look like actually to draw near?
4. What helps you draw near to God?

Conversation starters with people in daily life, whether or not they are Christians

When you imagine God's presence, what do you imagine?