

FURTHER STUDY GUIDE

THE VEIL TORN: ACCESS TO THE HOLY OF HOLIES

BACKGROUND INFO

In the Old Testament, the Holy of Holies was the innermost chamber of the Tabernacle and the Temple, representing God's immediate, earthly dwelling place. A thick, heavily embroidered veil separated this sacred space from the rest of the Temple. Only the High Priest could pass through this veil, and only once a year on the Day of Atonement (*Yom Kippur*), carrying the blood of animal sacrifices to atone for the nation's sins. The physical barrier served as a constant reminder that human sin created a profound separation between a Holy God and His people.

When Jesus Christ died on the cross, this barrier was supernaturally torn down, initiating a new era of direct, unhindered access to God for all believers.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

What is a physical barrier or wall (historic, geographic, or personal) that you were relieved to see finally come down?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE VEIL OF SEPARATION: SIN'S BARRIER

Read Exodus 26:31-33, Leviticus 16:2-3, Isaiah 59:2

1. How does the intricate design and thickness of the veil described in Exodus reflect the magnitude of God's holiness?

2. In what ways did the physical architecture of the Tabernacle reinforce the spiritual reality of humanity's separation from God because of sin?

3. Before Christ, what did the strict rules surrounding who could pass through the veil communicate about the requirements for approaching God?

THE VEIL TORN: CHRIST'S DEATH OPENS THE WAY

Read Matthew 27:50-51, Ephesians 2:13-14

4. Matthew notes that the veil was torn "from top to bottom." What is the theological significance of the direction in which the veil was ripped?

5. How does the timing of the veil tearing—coinciding exactly with Jesus' final breath—prove the completion of His sacrificial work?

6. If you were a priest serving in the Temple at the exact moment the veil tore, how do you think you would have reacted? How does that contrast with how we view the event today?

THE WAY OPENED: DRAW NEAR WITH BOLD CONFIDENCE

Read Hebrews 10:19-22, Hebrews 4:14-16, Hebrews 9:11-12

7. According to the author of Hebrews, what gives us the right or "boldness" to enter the Holy of Holies today?

8. What does it look like practically in your daily prayer life to "draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith"?

How does knowing that your conscience is "sprinkled clean" change how you handle guilt, shame, or past mistakes when approaching God?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

THE VEIL OF SEPARATION: SIN'S BARRIER BETWEEN GOD AND PEOPLE

Take a moment to reflect on the weight of isolation sin causes. The veil was not a flimsy curtain; it was a massive, impenetrable wall of separation. It stood as a daily declaration that unholiness cannot survive in the presence of absolute holiness. Reflect on your own life: Do you ever try to build mental or spiritual "veils" to hide from God because of guilt?

Acknowledge sin's destructive impact on relationships, and thank God that He did not leave the barrier standing.

THE VEIL TORN: CHRIST'S DEATH OPENS THE WAY

Visualize the dramatic moment on Calvary. As Jesus cried out and gave up His spirit, God's own hands ripped that ancient barrier apart from the top down. The ultimate structural symbol of "Keep Out" was permanently transformed into an open door. Christ's broken body broke the power of separation. Let the truth settle in your heart: the work is finished; no structural barrier remains between you and your Creator. The price has been paid in full.

THE WAY OPENED: DRAW NEAR WITH BOLD CONFIDENCE

Because the veil is torn, you are no longer an outsider looking at a closed room. You are an invited child called into the King's immediate presence. You do not need to approach God with hesitation, fear, or a sense of unworthiness, because the blood of Jesus now defines your worthiness. As you close this study, commit to stop living as if the veil is still there. Approach His throne today with bold, unshakeable confidence, knowing that your heart is clean and the way is wide open.

QUESTIONS | REFLECTIONS | OBSERVATIONS
