



# UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

## WEEK 7 - *HEBREWS 6:13-20* - SEPTEMBER 23-29

### LEADER NOTES

The strength of the Christian faith doesn't depend on the individual Christian's level of trust in God. Faith doesn't work that way. Faith that's shaky or weak is still faith. The strength of the Christian faith lies in the object in which we place our faith, a God who never lies and always accomplishes His purposes. This reassurance is important following last week's lesson on apostasy. The author of Hebrews writes 6:13-20 to remind Christians that though they might have a weak faith, the object of their faith is not weak at all and He will accomplish all His purposes in our lives.

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# COMMUNITY

*OPEN THE GROUP BY CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER AND ALLOWING A MOMENT FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE A PLACE TO BELONG.*

**START THE GROUP BY TAKING PRAYER REQUESTS, FINDING OUT ABOUT PEOPLE'S WEEK, AND PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER.**

## OPENING QUESTIONS:

*ARE THERE ANY PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE YOU KNOW YOU CAN COUNT ON? WHAT MAKES THESE PEOPLE SO TRUSTWORTHY? THERE'S AN OLD EXPRESSION, "YOU HAVE MY WORD." WHAT IS YOUR WORD AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT? WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT YOU KNOW GOD'S WORD IS SURE?*

# SCRIPTURE

**TAKE THIS TIME TO STUDY THE BIBLE TOGETHER. REMEMBER, THE GOAL IS NOT JUST TO CONVEY INFORMATION, BUT TO HELP PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP LEARN TO READ THE BIBLE FOR THEMSELVES.**

## THE POINT

**GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES, AND ALL OF HIS PROMISES ARE FULFILLED IN CHRIST BY FAITH.**

### Hebrews 6:13-20

13 For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, 14 saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." 15 And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. 16 For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. 17 So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. 19 We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, 20 where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

# STUDY NOTES

## WEEK 7 NOTES : Hebrews 6:13-20

The passage in consideration, Hebrews 6:13-20 is written to help Christians know there's at least one thing we can count on... God.

God, the Creator of the Universe, the One who saves us, can be trusted. In fact, God is an "anchor for our soul."

To prove this point, the author considers Abraham, the Father of the Faith. When God called Abraham, he was seventy-five years old and childless. Yet, God made Abraham a staggering promise. God promised he would be the father of many nations! Abraham was probably pretty pumped. Yet, despite God's promise time kept passing by, and still Abraham had no son. In fact, we get a couple of snapshots that show us Abraham at eighty-six and ninety-nine with still no kid. Almost twenty-five years after God's promise and zilch, nothing, nada, no kiddos, none in the oven, and seemingly no hope of conception. Nevertheless, Abraham believed. The author of Hebrews tells us he waited patiently. The result? He obtained the promise.

How could Abraham have been so faithful, so trusting, so patient?

The author of Hebrews tells us the grounds for Abraham's faith.

### **Abraham trusted that God's purpose never changes.**

Hebrews points out God made Abraham a promise, and this promise was sure because God has an unchangeable purpose. What does this mean? Well, it means that God, in His Sovereignty, is ruling the earth exactly to plan. There are no surprises for God, nothing can hinder His purpose, and He never makes a mistake. Sometimes we wrongly imagine God's rule over the earth as something like a strategic game of chess. He tries one tactic and maybe if that goes poorly He tries another. Nothing could be further from the truth. God is not playing a strategy game. God is executing His purpose in world history for the redemption of mankind and the glory of His name. This means that if God makes a promise He can be trusted to execute His promise because His plan does not change.

The unchanging nature of God's plan forms a firm foundation on which our faith can be built. If the purpose of God is always the same we we can trust Him. It doesn't

matter what is happening in the world around us, because He is always working to redeem mankind and glorify Himself.

### **Abraham trusted God's word never changes.**

The unchanging nature of God's purpose was not the only grounding for Abraham's patient faith. Abraham also knew God's word never changes. God took an oath to Abraham. God promised Abraham many children. God gave Abraham His word. God never goes back on His word. God never goes back on His words because it is "impossible for God to lie." The one thing God cannot do is bring dishonor to His name. That's impossible. So, if God says something, you can take it to the bank! This is why Christians believe God's Word, the Bible, is inerrant and unchanging. When God gives His word He doesn't go back.

The unchanging word of God gives an additional foundation on which to build our faith. If God's word doesn't change and God doesn't lie, we can trust Him no matter what.

### **A Faith Worth Imitating**

The author of Hebrews wants us to know God can be trusted completely, and because of this we should respond with a life of faithfulness to God. What does a life of faithfulness look like? The author of Hebrews points us to Abraham as an example of a life of faith and trust. Abraham is brought up because the author encouraged the people to imitate those who had gone before us in faith. (6:12). In the very next verse, the author brings us to Abraham. The point? If you want to know what it looks like to live a faithful life, look to Abraham. You may not realize this but this is a real encouragement. It's encouraging because you can live like Abraham. Abraham trusted God and lived faithfully, yes. However Abraham was not perfect. Abraham struggled to believe. Abraham sinned. Abraham messed up. However, when Abraham messed up he repented and returned to God and trusted in God's plan. That's what faith looks like!

For more resources, click [HERE](#).

# QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *What does it mean that God's purpose never changes? How do we see God's purpose going forward in the world today?*
- *Why is it important to know God's Word never changes in a world like ours?*
- *Does it surprise you Abraham is used as an example of faith? Who are other examples of faithful Christians inside and outside the Bible?*
- *What does it mean to have an "anchor for your soul?"*

# COMMISSION

**AS YOU WRAP UP YOUR GROUP, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EVERYONE KNOWS WE GO INTO THE WORLD ON MISSION FOR JESUS. USE THIS TIME TO FOCUS EVERYONE TO LIVE ON MISSION AS YOU LEAVE.**

***WE ALL NEED AN ANCHOR FOR OUR SOULS, FAITH IN GOD PROVIDES THAT FOR US. WHO ARE SOME PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE WHO DESPERATELY NEED AN ANCHOR FOR THEIR SOULS? TAKE SOME TIME TO PRAY FOR THEM AS THE GROUP COMES TO A CLOSE.***

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