



UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

WEEK 15 – HEBREWS 13:1-25 – NOVEMBER 18-24

LEADER NOTES

This is our last week studying the book of Hebrews; we have seen above all else that King Jesus is better. He has ushered in a new covenant, mediated through His blood, and by faith in His name; we have a great inheritance that lies before us. In your groups this week, emphasize that because of our great hope, our life should look different from the rest of the world.

Leaders, please continue to be diligent in taking group attendance and completing the Gospel Connection's and Conversations form. You can find the form [HERE](#).

You can find other sermons from our Teaching Pastor's [HERE](#).

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:

- *WHAT IS SOMETHING IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU HAVE SOUGHT AFTER?*
- *WHAT IS ONE TAKEAWAY FROM OUR STUDY IN THE BOOK OF HEBREWS?*

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

WE MUST LIVE SEEKING THE ETERNAL CITY.

Hebrews 13:1-25

Let brotherly love continue. 2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. 3 Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. 4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. 5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear;
what can man do to me?"

7 Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. 9 Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. 10 We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. 11 For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. 12 So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. 13 Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. 14 For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. 15 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. 16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. 19 I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner.

20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

22 I appeal to you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. 23 You should know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I shall see you if he comes soon. 24 Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those who come from Italy send you greetings. 25 Grace be with all of you.

STUDY NOTES

WEEK 15 NOTES : Hebrews 13:1-25

Similar to the book of Romans, Hebrews is a book that's largely theological, with reference after reference to the Old Testament. Yet, the book of Hebrews is also similar to the book of Romans in that it was written to a specific group of believers at a specific time in a specific location.

Thus, it's in Hebrews 13, where the author switches from a pastoral exhortation to practical application. In Hebrews 12:28, the author says, "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." Because we have an inheritance above, a coming kingdom where we reign with Christ in glory for all time, we must live in this world with endurance, holding fast to the confession of our hope.

And it's because of that great inheritance, the author says, we not only are empowered to endure, but we should be motivated for proper worship and service to God. The author doesn't leave us hanging on what he means by "acceptable worship." In fact, he gives us ten principles for seeking the heavenly city and offering up to God obedient worship through the Lord Jesus.

- 1) **Love Each Other (v.1)**
- 2) **Show Hospitality (v.2)**
- 3) **Remember the Mistreated (v.3)**
- 4) **Let Marriage Be Held in Honor (v.4)**
- 5) **Be Content in Christ (v.5)**
- 6) **Trust Your Leaders (v. 7, 17)**
- 7) **Hold on to the Truth (v. 8-9)**
- 8) **Suffer Well (v. 10-15)**
- 9) **Show Compassion (v. 16)**
- 10) **Pray for Each Other (v. 18)**

While much could be said on applying each of these principles to the life of the Christian, it must also be noted there is an incredibly straight-forward application to each. These aren't simply suggestions, but commands for the believer. Furthermore, it's not as if these principles appease or please God in and of themselves. The author has already stated, "...without faith it is impossible to please him." Rather, these principles are to be offered up to God by faith in the Lord Jesus as "...as sacrifice of praise to God."

The author summarizes this, as well as his message from the rest of the letter, in his benedictory prayer in v. 20-21. Thus, we no longer offer to God the sacrifices of bulls or rams as in the old covenant because God has provided a better sacrifice, who mediated a better covenant through his own blood. By faith in his name, we now offer to God the sacrifice of our lives, walking in worship-filled awe of who God is, awaiting the heavenly kingdom. How we worship, how we walk in anticipating the coming of that kingdom, is how we live out these principles given forth by the author.

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

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *According to the author of Hebrews, what is our motivation for worship?*
- *What does it look like to live a life of worship according to Hebrews 13?*
- *Which of the ten principles stand out to you?*
- *Of the ten principles for seeking the heavenly city, which is the most difficult for you? Which comes most naturally to you?*
- *How do you think the world around you would view Christ-followers if we walked according to these ten principles?*

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 LIVE OUR LIFE IN THIS WORLD SEEKING THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM ABOVE, WHERE CHRIST OUR KING IS SEATED ON HIS THRONE. BECAUSE WE HAVE A GREAT INHERITANCE BEFORE US, WE LIVE IN THE NOW WITH HEARTS OF GRATITUDE, DESIRING ABOVE ALL ELSE TO GLORIFY GOD AND ADVANCE HIS GOSPEL INTO THE WORLD.

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