



## Growth Group Studies // Term 4, 2022

Week	Title
One	<b>Hebrews 8:1-13</b> – A Greater Covenant
Two	<b>Hebrews 9:1-28</b> – A Greater Sacrifice
Three	<b>Hebrew 10:1-18</b> – A Greater Perfection
Four	<b>Hebrew 10:19-39</b> – A Greater Perseverance
Five	<b>Hebrews 11:1 – 12:3</b> – A Greater Faith
Six	<b>Hebrews 12:4-13</b> – A Greater Discipline
Seven	<b>Hebrews 12:14-29</b> – A Greater Inheritance
Eight	<b>Hebrews 13:1-6</b> – A Greater Worship (Part 1)
Nine	<b>Hebrews 13:7-25</b> – A Greater Worship (Part 2)

# Study 5 – A GREATER FAITH

## Hebrews 11:1 – 12:3

### Getting Started

1. Who is someone in your life that has a faith you admire? Why?

### Read Hebrews 10:39-11:3

2. Hebrews 10:39 defines who we are – “... those who have faith and are saved”.
  - a. Use Hebrews 11:1-3 to help write your own definition of faith.
  - b. Thinking back over Hebrews 1 – 10, what is our faith in?

### Read Hebrews 11:4-40

3. These verses describe the faith for which “the ancients were commended” (v.2). Break into smaller groups and divide up the following table. Once each group has completed their sections, quickly share your observations with the other groups.

Who	What did they hope for? Why?	What did their faith produce?
Abel		
Enoch		
Noah		

<b>Who</b>	<b>What did they hope for? Why?</b>	<b>What did their faith produce?</b>
Abraham		
Sarah		
Isaac		
Jacob		
Joseph		
Moses' Parents		
Moses		
Israel		
Rahab		
Those we "do not have time" to be told about!! (vv. 32-38)		

4. Look again at vv. 13-16. Ultimately, what were all these people hoping for?

5. According to vv. 39-40, why did they not receive it?

**Read Hebrews 12:1-3**

6. What do you think it means that Jesus is the “pioneer and perfecter of faith”?

7. How would you define the “race marked out for us”?

**Thinking It Through**

8. As you run the race, what help do you find in:

a. knowing that you are “surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses”?

b. “fixing [your] eyes on Jesus”?

9. What hindrances and entanglements has this passage encourage you to throw off? Share one with your group.

# *Study 6* – A GREATER DISCIPLINE

## Hebrews 12:4-13

### **Getting Started**

1. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'discipline'? Mark on the spectrum below how you feel about the idea of being disciplined:

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*No thanks!*

*Bring it on!*

### **Read Hebrews 12:4-13**

2. How might Hebrews 10:32-35 and 12:3 help us understand what is meant in v. 4? What situation do you think the original recipients of this sermon-letter were in?
3. What then, is v. 4 not saying?
4. In vv. 5-6 there is a quote from Proverbs 3:11-12. How does the writer of Hebrews interpret the situation of the original recipients?
5. Using vv. 5-11, spend some time unpacking the positive reasons that God disciplines His children. You might like to list them out before discussing each one.

6. V. 10 says our human fathers “disciplined us for a little while as they thought best.” One implication of this is that their discipline of us was not always good.

How can we be sure then, that God’s discipline is always ‘for our good’ (v. 10)?

7. Vv. 12-13 draw out an implication of God's discipline.
  - a. What is the command?
  - b. How will we do it? Read Proverbs 4:20-27.
  - c. What do you think is meant by the illustration of “the lame” being “healed”?

### **Thinking It Through**

8. Where do you see “struggles against sin” in your life, and in the lives of other Christians? Share how these verses have encouraged you?
9. How will these verses encourage us when hardship makes it feel like God is:
  - a. Absent?
  - b. Unwilling to help?
  - c. Punishing us?

# *Study 7* – A GREATER INHERITANCE

## Hebrews 12:14-29

### **Getting Started**

1. What's the most valuable thing you've ever lost?

### **Read Hebrews 12:14-29**

2. How does the example of Esau explain the commands and warnings of vv. 14-17?
  
3. Vv. 18-21 describe the mountain that we have *not* come to. What mountain is being spoken of? What happened there? Try drawing a picture of the scene being described. (c.f. Exodus 19, Deuteronomy 4-5)
  
4. Vv. 22-24 describe the mountain that we *have* come to. The description is made up of important (and unusual!) phrases. Discuss together what they mean:
  - a. "Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem"
  - b. "the church of the firstborn"
  - c. "the spirits of the righteous made perfect"

- d. "Jesus the mediator of a new covenant"
  - e. "the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel"  
c.f. Genesis 4:10-11
5. Having defined all the phrases, see if you can summarise vv. 22-24 into a sentence. What is our inheritance?
6. What is the warning in v. 25? Why, according to vv. 26-27, is it vitally important?
7. What do you think it means to "worship God acceptably" (v. 28)? What connections can you see between vv. 14-17 and vv. 28-29?

### **Thinking It Through**

8. Is the worship of God a fearful or joyful activity?
9. Vv. 14-17 call us all to holiness. How might the repeated phrase – "See to it that no one ..." – shape the way we live this out? What could this look like for your Growth Group?



# Study 8 – A GREATER WORSHIP (PART 1)

## Hebrews 13:1-6

### Getting Started

1. “Worship is an all of life activity for the Christian”. Agree or Disagree? Why?

**Hebrews 13:1-19** is the final section of this sermon-letter, before it ends in **vv. 20-27**.

*A quick reading might leave you with the impression that this is a haphazard list of commands stuck on at the end! But when we are careful to remember the context, it changes how we listen to these verses. So:*

2. How do you think Hebrews 12:28-29 shapes our understanding of Hebrews 13?

### Read Hebrews 13:1-6

3. Consider each of the commands in verses 1-6:

#### a. Verse 1

- i. What is the command?
- ii. What is the reason?
- iii. What practical changes could you make to your Growth Group to encourage this?

**b. Verse 2**

- i. What is the command?
- ii. What is the reason? (c.f. Genesis 18:1-33)
- iii. To get practical, how could hosting meals create opportunities to share Jesus? What stops us from doing this more?

**c. Verse 3**

- i. What is the command?
- ii. What is the reason?
- iii. Most of us don't personally know Christians imprisoned for their faith. How might we keep this command?

**d. Verse 4**

- i. What is the command?
- ii. What is the reason?
- iii. As we seek to ensure God's purposes for marriage are "honoured" in our lives, how might we better support each other in purity – married or single?

**e. Verses 5-6**

- i. What is the command?
- ii. What is the reason?
- iii. When do you find financial contentment hard? When do you find yourself drawn towards the love of money? What are some practical steps you can put in place to worship God in the way you deal with money?

*Spend some time committing all these things to God in prayer as we seek to "worship God acceptably with reverence and awe".*

# *Study 8 – A GREATER WORSHIP (PART 2)*

## Hebrews 13:7-25

### **Getting Started**

1. Is there a Christian leader who profoundly shaped you as a follower of Jesus? Share with the group what made them so influential in your life.

### **Read Hebrews 13:7-21**

2. How do vv. 7-8 and vv. 17-19 help us understand the role of Christian leaders? See if you can write a job description for Christian leadership.

3. At first glance, it might appear as though vv. 9-16 have little to do with Christian leadership. However, we have seen that the verses either side do (vv. 7-8, vv. 17-19). This suggests there is a strong connection.

Use the following questions to work through vv. 9-16. Once unpacked, consider what they contribute to our understanding of Christian leadership.

- a. From v. 9:
  - i. what is the warning?
  - ii. what seems to be the situation of the original readers?
  - iii. what do Christian hearts need/not need?

- b. What is the grace that will strengthen our hearts? (vv. 10-12)
- c. What will this grace produce in us? How? (vv. 13-16)
- d. What connections can you see between vv. 9-16 and Christian leadership?
4. Look again through the closing prayer of vv. 20-21. How does this add to our understanding of Christian leadership? Can you refine the job description you wrote earlier?

## Thinking It Through

5. Discuss. How important is Christian leadership?
  
6. What are we to do if our Christian leaders fail in their work?
  
7. Brainstorm together. This passage invites us to “remember”, “consider”, “have confidence in”, “submit”, and “pray” for our leaders.
  - a. How have you seen this done well? How have you seen it done poorly?
  
  - b. What will you do differently in light of this passage?

***If you have time ... share with the group the one thing that has stood out to you the most as we have studied Hebrews 8 – 13 together.***