

## DISCIPLESHIP DURING THE WEEK

These "Sermon Discussion Questions" are designed for study during the week for believers in a wide variety of ages & stages in their walk with Christ.

1. What does the author have in mind when he urges his readers to offer a sacrifice of praise? What does it look like for us to obey this instruction practically? What does the fruit of our lips have to do with this sacrifice of praise?

---

---

2. How are our submission and obedience to our church leaders contingent on the substance of what they teach us? Why is it important to submit to our leaders with joy? Why is it to our detriment if our obedience and submission are given grudgingly?

---

---

3. How is the author's verse 18 petition for his readers to pray for him related to his desire? Why do church leaders and teachers especially need the prayers of their people? How does verse 18 encourage you to pray for your pastors?

---

---

4. What are we asked to do "through" Christ (Heb 13:15)? Why should we do this? What type of sacrifice does God require (13:15; compare Mic 6:6-8)?

---

---

5. How are you encouraged by Jesus enduring the rejection and judgement of God for you? What are some ways in which we can respond to that great gift?

---

---

\*Selected questions borrowed and adapted from *Exalting Jesus in Hebrews* by Albert R. Moeler

"Pastoral discipleship from the pulpit for you through the week.  
Each of our pastors has designed content with you in mind."

## FOR FAMILIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN

If you want to connect with our family ministries, contact Pastor Ken  
(kenc@fpcrome.org)

Hebrews 13:15 states "let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God". Ask your children if they know what that means. Talk about ways that you all can praise God today and this week. Make sure to point out that the verse says that we are praise God "continually".

2. Read Hebrews 13:16 and ask your children how our praise and worship from verse 15 might lead to us to "do good and share with others".

3. In Hebrews 13:17 the author writes about church leaders. Make sure your children know who our church pastors are. Also ask them if they know what church elders and deacons are. Most weeks, the church elders and deacons are listed on the back of the bulletin. Take time to pray for our church elders and deacons.

4. Hebrews 13:20-21 is a Benediction. Ask your children if they know what a Benediction is. Talk with them about how it is a blessing based on the truths of Scripture. Benedictions pronounce God's blessing on His people.

- a. Ask your children what they learn from this Benediction.
- b. Talk with your children about how this Benediction reminds us that the power to live the Christian life must come from God.

5. Since this is the last sermon on Hebrews, talk with your children about your highlights from our study of Hebrews this year.

## Big Idea

Because God knows what his people need, live out your life as a sacrifice of praise by the way you serve, obey, submit and pray for those that God has appointed to lead His church.

## Outline

1. A need for guides (v. 17)

---

---

2. A sincere call for prayer (v.18)

---

---

3. A people whose life overflows with praise (v. 15-16)

---

---

## Gospel Applications

1. Read Hebrews 13:15 again. *"Let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name."* This verse dovetails with Hebrews 12:28, *"And thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe."* Worship of Almighty God is to be our most natural response to redemption. Let us be a people whose life overflows with praise because of what God has done for us through Jesus.

2. Submitting to our commissioned Godly leaders of the church is one way of submitting to God and to the gospel.

# "Sacrificial Living"

## Hebrews 13:15-19 ESV

**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.

## Historical Context

"Thus far the writer gives practical exhortations about life in the community (13:1–6) and warns the readers about finding strength in old covenant practices (13:7–17). They should continue to eat at Jesus' "altar" and suffer reproach with him. They will show that they are willing to suffer such reproach if they obey their leaders (13:17). The letter ends with a call to pray for the author (13:18–19), a prayer wish (13:20–21), one final exhortation (13:22), greetings (13:23–24), and a benediction (13:25). Such matters are often found in the closing of letters. In 13:18–19 the author solicits prayer for himself, for he himself may be in trouble with the authorities. He says he has a clear conscience and expresses his desire to conduct himself in an honorable way. He also asks them to pray that he will be restored to them soon.

Thomas R. Schreiner, Hebrews, ed. T. Desmond Alexander, Thomas R. Schreiner, and Andreas J. Köstenberger, Evangelical Biblical Theology Commentary (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2021), 426–427.

## FOR STUDENTS

If you want to connect with our student ministries, contact Pastor Jimmy (jimmyl@fpcrome.org)

1. What are we asked to do "through" Christ (Heb 13:15)? Why should we do this?
2. What type of sacrifice does God require (Heb.13:15; compare Mic 6:6-8)?
3. What should we never neglect (Heb 13:16)?
4. What are the leaders required to do (Heb.13:17)? How can you better support the leaders in your community?
5. For what type of prayer does the author of Hebrews ask (13:18)? Why does the author ask for prayer (13:19)?
6. Take some time to reflect upon how you can pray for leaders in your church, community, nation, and world.
7. How does this passage help you in your view of church leaders?
8. How are you encouraged by Jesus enduring the rejection and judgement of God for you? What are some ways in which we can respond to that great gift?

*\*Selected questions borrowed and adapted from Hebrews: How Jesus speaks into everything by John D Barry.*

Scriptures for further study:

Micah 6:6-8

Eph 5:15-21

Col 3:12-17

## FOR NON-BELIEVERS OR NEW BELIEVERS

If you want to know more about Jesus and Christianity, contact Pastor Jonathan (jonathans@fpcrome.org)

1. After all we have looked at throughout Hebrews, would you be prepared to commit your life to Christ by “acknowledging his name”? (Verse 15) What would keep you from confessing his name right now?

2. Our world tells us that YOU are number one. But when you become a believer in Jesus Christ, then 1) praising God and doing what pleases him (verse 15), and then 2) doing good unto others (verse 16) become the focus. Effectively, you become number three! Jesus said living for yourself is actually to lose your life, whereas living for God and others is to truly find life. (See Matthew 16:24-25). Why do you think Jesus said this and what do you think he means by this?

3. Again, our world teaches that you should obey no one but yourself and just follow your own heart. But Christianity is different and better. We submit to others, and we learn to respect and listen to godly leaders. Why do you think this kind of obedience is actually good for us?

Like Christina. But even more so...we need something to fix our gaze upon...we need a home to pull us forward...and according to Hebrews, that is Jesus Christ...like the home on the hill in the painting, Jesus is the pinnacle of God’s plan of redemption...so considering this painting and background, here these words afresh from Hebrews chapter 12, verses 1-2:

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and the sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who, for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

And so, church, let’s begin this journey in Hebrews together...which is not disconnected from our humanity and our struggles...for we to live in Christina’s world...a world of suffering, pain, and hardship...but we are in a relationship with the savior, Jesus, who has overcome the world...and because of His supremacy, calls us to fix our eyes on Him in order that we might persevere in faith. -Tremper Longman, EBC, 23-25

## About the artwork

Andrew Wyeth is perhaps the most famous American artist of the 20th century. He, along with John Singer Sargent, are the only two American artists invited into the Academy of Fine Art in Paris, France. President Kennedy awarded Wyeth the presidential medal of freedom, the only visual artist to receive such an award. He was also awarded presidential medals from George H Bush and George W Bush.

His art is connected to his humanity. He was a man that experienced loss and grief in this broken and fallen world and often expressed his pain in visual form through art.

His most famous work, and the one that best expresses his struggle with pain and grief, is a painting called Christina's World (1948). Christina is a friend of Wyeth and had a disease that left her unable to walk. Instead of choosing a wheelchair, she preferred to crawl using her arms. The painting is a picture of her struggle...but it is also a picture of her hope...in the painting her hands are gripped to the ground portraying her daily suffering, yet her body is leaning towards the farmhouse, which was her home. Life was a struggle, but her gaze and hope were on her home, which kept her moving forward and not giving up.

The book of Hebrews has a very similar theme...the writer expresses the hope and gaze of home in the person and work of Jesus Christ...the struggle to give up or turn back was very real for the audience...most scholars believe the original audience was Jewish Christians who were facing persecution...it would have been a struggle for them to keep moving forward in the profession of Jesus Christ because with that profession came pain and hardship.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES



## What is Pulpit Driven Discipleship?

Discipleship from the pulpit to communities therein pressed into the head, heart and hands of image bearers of God every day.

**Pulpit Driven Discipleship** is the name of a process of discipleship. Discipleship begins on Sunday with the sermon faithfully preached by our pastors then the message of sermon is digested and pressed into the heart throughout the week through prayer reflection and discussion in the home or in smaller discussion groups. It is in this context that life transformation and growth occur.

The pastoral leadership team and the Adult Discipleship Ministry Team are excited to walk together through the Book of Hebrews. Please prayerfully consider incorporating PDD as your primary means of discipleship. We believe that PDD is appropriate for individuals, couples, families, and groups of all kinds. This great resource can be found in the bulletin on Sunday, and will be available on-line and via email each week.

Director of Adult Discipleship Rob Davis welcomes discussion, questions, and comments of all kinds. Rob Davis 706-252-5216, RobD@fpcrome.org

## PULPIT DRIVEN DISCIPLESHIP



*Andrew Wyeth, Christina's World, 1948 ;*

## **Perseverance by Promise** ***A Study of the Sermon to the Hebrews***

**July 3, 2022**  
**Hebrews 13:15-19 ESV**