

Now that the author of Hebrews has made this big, climactic point, he wraps up the letter with a series of exhortations or encouragements in chapter 13. In effect, these serve as practical examples of what it looks like to allow grace to shape our lives.

Read Hebrews 13:1-19.

Of the various exhortations listed here, identify one that you think is really important if we're going to live grace-shaped lives. Why do you think it's important?

Identify one of the exhortations that speaks into an area of your life where you know you would like to do better. Remember – it's not about earning God's favour, but it is about wanting God's grace to shape our lives. After allowing some time to reflect, and if it feels safe to do so, share with the group one thing that you think God may want you to do differently in relation to this in the week ahead.

Close in prayer

Read the final verses, Hebrews 13:20-25. We need to get on with living in the freedom, joy and obedience of who we are because of the completed work of Christ. This is true worship.

Now close in prayer together, especially using the beautiful words in vv20-21 as the basis of your prayers for each other.



Fix Your Eyes

The Book of Hebrews Growth Group Study Guide Week 10

14 August 2022

“How to Worship God Properly”

Hebrews 12:14—13:25

Series Overview:

“Fix Your Eyes” is a study of the book of Hebrews. We don't know for sure who the author of the book is. What we do know is that this letter was written to a group of Christ-followers who were experiencing tremendous suffering and hardship. Its message is clear. In the midst of your pain, fix your eyes on Jesus who is the exact imprint of God's nature and the ultimate reflection of God's glory. This is our hope.

Hebrews 12:14 – 13:25

Start by sharing ideas around 'worship'. What is proper worship? What does it look like? What do we often mean when we talk about worship in church?

Read Hebrews 12:14-17.

Why does it say 'make every effort...' if our relationship with God is all about grace?

Look up Deuteronomy 29:18. What do you think is the meaning of the reference to a 'bitter root' here in v15? How are we being called to help each other in this?

The example of Esau is interesting here. How do you see Esau as being different to the examples of faith listed in chapter 11?

What do you see as the serious warning for us here in these verses?

Read Hebrews 12:18-29.

Mt Sinai is where the Law was given with Moses in Old Testament times (Exodus 19 & 20; Deuteronomy 4 and 5), and Mt Zion represents Jerusalem and really the heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 21:2) and the new covenant established by Jesus.

What is the same about Mt Sinai and Mt Zion in these verses? What is different?

What do you think are the implications for God's people in New Testament times?

As a result of the completed work of Christ, we are free now to enter into the presence of God and worship him with our whole lives, in joyful obedience – not crippled or held back by sin and guilt – not bound to Old Testament laws and rituals or religious activity.

In what ways might Christians today be tempted to 'go back to Mt Sinai'?

If we are saved by grace, what are the implications for the way we live? What are the implications for our 'worship'?