

Group Discussion Guide for Week of 8/2/2020

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text from Sunday Sermon; *Hebrews 12:1-3 (NIV)*

12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

General Question Bank

Observation (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)
Know (what does the text say about God?) **Be** (what does it say about us?) **Do** (what does it call us to do?)
Together (What is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?)

Discussion/Topic Starters (Ice Breakers)

- What's the longest race/physical activity you have done? Or what in your life has required the most endurance?

12:1-3

Introduction: v.1 starts by ("Therefore") pointing back to all the examples of faith from Hebrews 11; which examples of faith from Hebrews 11 speaks the most to you over the course of this series?

Why do you think we are to look back at the examples of faith (v.1) before we strive to live the full and enduring journey of faith ourselves?

O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

***Another way to ask: "Choose one verse or phrase from the passage that stands out to you. This could be something you're intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further." Now share it with the group*

O: What is the difference between "everything that hinders" and "the sin that so easily entangles" (v.2)?
Why is it important to throw off both?

O: Who is the ultimate example of faith and endurance (Heb 12:2)? Why? **Know**
What did He have to endure (v.2-3)
How was He able to endure it (v.2)?

O: Observe the verbs in v.1-2; what do they reveal about our journey of faith? **Do**

I: What was so shameful about the cross (v.2)? see Deut 21:23, Matt 27:35-44, Mark 15:22-32, Gal 3:13

I: What was "the joy awaiting" Jesus, what does this mean? See Isa. 53:11, Phil 2:9-11, Heb 2:9-10, Heb. 12:2

I: What does it mean to "think on" or "consider Jesus in v.3"?
What is it about Jesus we should consider, and how can thinking upon that spur us on to endurance?

A: V.2 states that Jesus not only initiates our faith but also perfects our faith. How have you seen Jesus perfecting your faith recently and where in your life would you like to see Him working more in? **Be**
What "weight" or "sin" is keeping you from this full life of faith?

A: How can making God's will and focusing on Jesus help us run our own race of faith? How can you (we) make "thinking" or focusing on Jesus (v.3) more of a priority in your (our) life?

A: How has/can this series through Hebrews ch.11 in the midst of Covid-19 impacted you?

-How WILL you respond this week? What one question do you want us to ask of you next week in regard to this?

Recommended Follow-up:

- **Pray:** Pray about all the different areas in this passage (preparing for, participating in, and persevering through, the race/life of faith.) Use the scripture (Heb. 12:1-3) as a means of praying through different topics (faith examples, stripping off weight and sin, active participation in the race, etc.)
- **Respond:** Spend this week responding to God's word as fleshed out in the group time, as well as journey through this week's BRAND NEW devotional guide through Proverbs!.
- **Read:** Next week's sermon (8/9/20) will focus on Hebrews 12:4-13. Take time prior to next Sunday to read & study the passage, pray through the passage, meditate on the passage, as well as journey through this week's companion devotional guide.

An explanation on how Riverside structures these discussion guides*:

Riverside defines a disciple of Jesus as a **“Know, Be, Do”** person. And since Jesus told us to “make disciples” we use the “Know, Be, Do” framework in our discussion guides.

Riverside leadership regularly asks questions around these areas:

- “What do we need to **know** about God?”
- “Who do we need to **be**?”
- “What do we need to **do**?”

Here is what we mean by “Know, Be, Do” (based on Colossians 1:9-10, see below)

Know – *“to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives..., growing in the knowledge of God”* Not just knowing about Jesus, but knowing Him personally, intimately, and deeply. This is also about knowing the scriptures, knowing the voice of the Holy Spirit, even knowing yourself.

Be – *“so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way”* Becoming more like Jesus (sanctification). This is about our character and our heart and our motivations, our passions and convictions change the more we get to Know Jesus (and others).

Do – *“bearing fruit in every good work, ...”* Knowing Jesus and Becoming like Jesus practically will change our actions. As we grow in these areas we will naturally DO the things that Jesus did while in the flesh on earth (living and loving like Jesus). Some broad categories around DO are evangelism and justice and service.

Notice *“bearing fruit in every good work”* then yields more *“growing in the knowledge of God.”* In other words, while “Know, Be, Do” are three distinct words, they are deeply interconnected.

As a side note, the next chapter states: *⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Col. 2:6-8)* To aid in this process Riverside also has a **daily devotional guide available each week**.

Colossians 1:9-10, NIV

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,...

* As discussed in Riverside’s HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid “go through this guide word-for-word.” There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guide relies heavily upon the following resources: Thomas, Mack. *The Complete Bible Discussion Guide: Old Testament and New Testament, Serendipity Bible for Personal and Small Group Study*, Zondervan, along with the following group studies specific to Hebrews: Tom Wright (978-0-281-06379-6), Kay Arthur (978-0-7369-2306-4), Wiersbe (978-0781445665), MacArthur (978-0-7180-3515-0).