



GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM
February 17, 2019
"HEBREWS" - Week 3

For more information or to join a Growth Group, please visit our Growth Group page online at cbclife.org/groups or call the church office at 408.288.4115.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

For those who weren't there or even those who didn't understand it very well it will help them to get acquainted with the text and topic. These questions are also designed to be "softball" questions in order to get people to engage and participate.

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

This is an opportunity to clarify the teaching for those who may not have understood it. This can also be a jumping off point for great discussion. Sometimes groups don't get past this question and that's ok! Remember, you want to "scratch where it itches" so don't feel the need to rush past this.

MY STORY

1. We've all had times when we started something off strong only to be tempted to quit when things got tough. What's something you were tempted to quit but are glad you didn't?

DIGGING DEEPER

2. For many of us it's easy to follow God when his way makes sense to us and aligns with our desires. Yet it can be just as easy to stop following God's way when it threatens our "freedom" to do what we want, believe what we want or live life our own way. This can cause us to veer off God's path and onto our own. The verses below highlight the dangers of following our own path, as well as the "freedom" of following God's. As you read these verses, how might they challenge the belief that following God means a loss of freedom?

Psalm 16:11; Psalm 19:7-9; Proverbs 5:1-14; Romans 6:19-23

[Psalm 16:11 \(NIV\)](#)

11

You make known to me the path of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence,
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Psalms 19:7-9 (NIV)

7

The law of the Lord is perfect,
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

8

The precepts of the Lord are right,
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.

9

The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever.

The decrees of the Lord are firm,
and all of them are righteous.

Proverbs 5:1-14 (NIV)

Warning Against Adultery

5

My son, pay attention to my wisdom,
turn your ear to my words of insight,

2

that you may maintain discretion
and your lips may preserve knowledge.

3

For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey,
and her speech is smoother than oil;

4

but in the end she is bitter as gall,
sharp as a double-edged sword.

5

Her feet go down to death;
her steps lead straight to the grave.

6

She gives no thought to the way of life;
her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know it.

7

Now then, my sons, listen to me;
do not turn aside from what I say.

8

Keep to a path far from her,
do not go near the door of her house,

9

lest you lose your honor to others
and your dignity to one who is cruel,

10

lest strangers feast on your wealth

and your toil enrich the house of another.

11

At the end of your life you will groan,
when your flesh and body are spent.

12

You will say, "How I hated discipline!
How my heart spurned correction!

13

I would not obey my teachers
or turn my ear to my instructors.

14

And I was soon in serious trouble
in the assembly of God's people."

Romans 6:19-23 (NIV)

19 I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. 20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. 21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalm 16:11 - The joy we have access to as well as the "eternal pleasures" God has prepared for His children are infinitely greater than the other things that vie for preeminence in our lives. In this sense we are "free" to inherit all that God has for us and not shackled to the temporary pleasures and distractions that would otherwise govern our attitudes and actions.

Psalm 19:7-9; - vv. 7 God's Law (including the totality of Scripture) goes rest to the soul and makes the simple wise by imparting supernatural wisdom.

vv. 8 God's Law brings joy to the heart by showing us our purpose, showing us what we were created for and the best possible way to live. God's Law also "gives light to the eyes" by illuminating the answers to life's big questions. This is similar to vv. 7 saying that God's Law imparts wisdom.

vv. 9 God's Law is pure, righteous and enduring forever. This is a relief in that we can be sure of our eternal standing. There will be no policy changes to God's Law since Jesus is the final revelation.

Proverbs 5:1-14 This passage speaks directly to the sin of adultery, however its implications spread beyond that one sin. The writer is imploring the listener to heed his words so that they will not give into temptation. The consequences of sin here are significant. The outcomes listed are loss of wealth, loss of dignity, profound regret, and humiliation. This passage underscores the importance of following God's commands by describing the possible outcomes if we do not.

Romans 6:19-23 Here Paul is referencing pagan worship, which frequently included lascivious behavior. His point is that prior to coming to a saving faith in Christ, his audience were slaves to sin and "free from the control of righteousness". Now, the regenerate believer has been imbued through the Spirit with a sense of righteousness. The text says we are now "slaves to God" in the same way we used to be slaves to sin. The aspect of this passage that relates to "freedom" is that people are not really free in the sense that they are free to do what they want; this text indicates that we were never really free, we were slaves to sin and now we are slaves to God, who loves us and wants the best for us.

2. Many times fear plays a big part in causing us to doubt God's plan. Nurturing fear and doubt can cause us to miss out on some incredible things. In the book of Numbers, we see the story of 12 leaders who were told to spy on Canaan, a land God was giving to the Israelites. As you read through Numbers 13:1-3, 17-33 and 14:20-23, how do you see fear take root and alter the plan God had for his people?

Numbers 13:1-3; Numbers 13:17-33; Numbers 14:20-23

Numbers 13:1-3 (NIV)

The Lord said to Moses, 2 "Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders."

3 So at the Lord's command Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. All of them were leaders of the Israelites.

Numbers 13:17-33 (NIV)

17 When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. 18 See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. 19 What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified? 20 How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land." (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

21 So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath. 22 They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmai, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) 23 When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. 24 That place was called the Valley of Eshkol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. 25 At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

26 They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. 28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of

Anak there. 29 The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan.”

30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, “We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.”

31 But the men who had gone up with him said, “We can’t attack those people; they are stronger than we are.” 32 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, “The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. 33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.”

Numbers 14:20-23 (NIV)

20 The Lord replied, “I have forgiven them, as you asked. 21 Nevertheless, as surely as I live and as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the whole earth, 22 not one of those who saw my glory and the signs I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness but who disobeyed me and tested me ten times— 23 not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.

- Where have you seen fear or anxiety cause people to doubt God or compromise their beliefs similar to the Israelites?
 - Can you think of any fears that seemed like giants at the time but ended up being much smaller?
3. There’s hope in having a God who believes in us and went to great lengths to provide a path towards redemption. Read through the following verses and consider how our relationship with God is an unparalleled resource for rest in our lives.

Ephesians 2:1-7; Colossians 1:13-14; Galatians 4:4-7; Isaiah 40:31

Ephesians 2:1-7 (NIV)

2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:13-14 (NIV)

13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Galatians 4:4-7 (NIV)

4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. 6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

31

but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

Ephesians 2:1-7 - God made us alive when we were dead (vv. 5). He did this by His grace. The word translated grace is the Greek word *charis* which is also translated "gift". God also gives a position next to Jesus. God sees us not as subjects though we are; He views us primarily as children. Who will enjoy the "incomparable riches of his grace" (vv. 7)

Colossians 1:13-14 - A key aspect of this verse is that the atonement was principally a rescue mission. In today's Western Christian culture many people inside and outside the church view Jesus as an option, or someone that they will pay more attention to at some point in the future. It is as if we have missed the severity of our situation. Christ came not primarily to teach or heal but to rescue. This passage should throw the precariousness our condition presents into sharp relief.

Galatians 4:4-7 - Believers are no longer creations of God, rather they are children who will receive an inheritance. The word "Abba" was an affectionate name for "father"; it would be the equivalent of saying "daddy". This should be shocking. If it is not then we have taken God's grace for granted or misunderstood the consequences of sin.

Isaiah 40:31 - Hope in the Lord is the only thing that will never let us down. We can put our faith in people, programs, strategies, political parties, etc... they will all fail us at some point. If we pin all of our hopes on Jesus and the salvation He makes possible we will never be disappointed. This certainly builds intractable joy in the heart of God's sons and daughters.