

Saving the Best for Last

Studies in Hebrews



A Box of Chocolates

Intro to Hebrews 12-13

- The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life**
- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
 - **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
 - **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
 - **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
 - **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

As Forrest Gump's mother told him, "Life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're going to get." There may be a caramel, fudge or coconut filling lurking underneath a dark, white or milk chocolate topping. We don't always like what we get, but it is still tolerable; after all, it is chocolate. This week's study presents a similar truth. We may not like what life brings our way, but it is still enduring, even good, when our loving heavenly Father filters it. The most important determinate of enjoying a box of chocolates is the mindset we have toward it. It is all good, even if it's not our favorite. In the same way when we go through the difficulties of this life as God's children we must remember that God uses these to discipline and

train us to enjoy Him. We are naturally opposed to God's thoughts and ways, but His discipline will strip away these barriers and line us up with Him. So we must endure this positive discipline from God, because the result is the "peaceful fruit of righteousness" to those who have been trained by it. The next step in our Christian growth is to express a positive attitude; we must we must value peace with others and personal holiness to experience intimacy with God. Our tendency is to allow life's difficulties to make us bitter, and so to fall short of enjoying God's grace. This is illogical for followers of Jesus Christ, though, because He has made God so approachable. While we must respect His great power we must also engage in fellowship



Jesus is God's best and last answer for man's sin.

with Him confidently because we know that we are His children. Finally, we must engage in positive obedience. Walking with God always comes down to everyday living. We must show our love to Him by responding with heart-felt, positive obedience to His Word. When we do we will not only bless others and honor God; our faith in Him will continue to mature. We must believe that no matter what comes our way, it is good, just like a box of chocolates.

Daily Study Questions for Hebrews 12-13

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.thehospitalchurch.com/smallgroups/ABFs/leaderresources)

1. Read Hebrews 12:1-4. What are we told to do (v1, 3), and what is our motivation (v1, 2, 3-4)? What is the key to doing this (v2)? Apply.	
2. According to 12:5-8 why does God bother with disciplining us (v5-6, 7)? Why is His discipline important (v7, 8)?	
3. From 12:9-13 what should be the results of discipline (v10, 11)? For it to be a good thing for us, how must we react to it (v9, 11, 12-13)?	

Hebrews 12-13 Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. In Heb 12:14-17 what 2 things are we told to do and why (v14, 15)? How does Esau show the harm that comes from failing to do this (v16-17)?</p>	
<p>5. Based on 12:18-24 how did the Jews feel about Mt Sinai (v18-21)? What does Mt Zion represent (v22) and how is this better (v23-24)?</p>	
<p>6. Looking at 12:25-29 what danger should we avoid (v25) and why (v25-27)? What should we do (v28) and why (v28-29)?</p>	
<p>7. From 13:1-6 what commands are we to obey (v1, 2, 3, 4, 5)? What are the reasons (v2, 3, 4, 5-6)? Is there one you especially need to apply?</p>	
<p>8. Using 13:7-14 whose examples should we follow (v7, 8, 12-13)? What actions do these examples tell us to follow (v9-10, 13-14)?</p>	
<p>9. According to 13:15-19 what positive things should we do (v15, 16, 17, 18) and with what attitude (v15, 17)?</p>	
<p>10. In 13:20-25 how is Hebrews characterized (v22)? In what ways does the prayer of v20-21 encourage us in our faith?</p>	
<p>11. Review Heb 12-13. Pick out 3 or 4 instructions that you need to practice this week. Write down some ways you can do that.</p>	

Scripture to Remember

“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”

Hebrews 12:11 (NIV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

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Life Group Questions—Let's Get Real about Holiness (1 Pet 1:10-25)

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. When you think of the word “holy” what comes to mind? Do you think you would like to be described that way? Why or why not?
2. Read 1 Peter 1:13. Discuss what it means to “gird your minds for action”, “keep sober in the Spirit”, and “fix your hope on Jesus”. How can we do these things?
3. Looking at v14-17 why does remembering that we are in God's family help us to cultivate holiness?
4. Talk about the differences between the “mean” God, the “mush” God, and the “majestic” God. Why should we balance our love for God with our respect for Him?
5. Discuss the *everyday* importance of the fact that we have been redeemed by the blood of Christ (v18-21). Why should that lead us to be holy in all we think and do?
6. Bring up anything else important to you from Sunday's message if there is time.