

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Series: Better: A Study of Hebrews
Message Title: Better Than The Norm
Speaker: Lance Burch
Date: December 4, 2016

UP NEXT

- **New Christmas Series** - "Merry Christmess" Beginning Next Week
- **HOLIDAY INFORMATION**
 - Next Week December 11-17 is our last official week of Life Groups. Rather than submitting questions that week, I'd like for all of your groups to have that week available for a Christmas party, social, get-together, etc.
 - Life Groups will resume beginning **Sunday, January 8th**. We hope you enjoy your time off from Life Groups but feel free to hang out as much as you want as a group over Christmas!
 - For those of you who can't wait until January to resume... Christmas is coming early! You can help yourself to the bountiful bevy of Christmas content hosted on **Right Now Media** by going here: <https://www.rightnow.org/Content/Channel/729>
- **Christmas Eve Service Times** - 3:00pm, 4:30pm, 6:00pm, & 7:30pm
- **Christmas Day** - We will not have church services on Sunday, December 25th.
- **New Year's Day** - We will have only one service on New Year's Day and it will be at **11:00am**

MAIN IDEA

We are to live a life that demands an explanation.

INTRODUCTION

- In the Bible there is no division between *doctrine* and *duty, revelation* and *responsibility*. The two always go together. The emphasis on the last part of Hebrews is living out by faith that which you know to be true.
- In Hebrews 11 we were shown great *Examples* of faith...
- In Hebrews 12 we were given great *Encouragements* of faith...
- Here in Hebrews 13 we are presented with the *Evidences* of faith that should appear in our lives if we are really walking by faith and not by sight.

DISCUSSION

- Using only one or two words how do you think your neighbors/coworkers would describe you? Is this different from how you would *want* them to describe you?
- Before the age of Christian t-shirts, cross tattoos, fish bumper stickers, and K-Love radio... how do you think the early Hebrew believers stood out from the rest of the world? (In other words, how did anyone know they were Christian)?
- Have someone read [Hebrews 13:1-6](#)
 - Of the many challenges in this passage, which one seems most difficult for you?

- Is there one that you are really good at?
 - The word for love used in Verse 1 is the Greek word (*philadelphia*). It is a non-sexual and familial love. A “brotherly love” if you will.
 - Have someone read [1 Peter 1:22](#)
 - The same type of love is explained in this verse. How do we accomplish this type of love today?
 - Hebrews 13:2 speaks of hospitality. This was an important ministry in the early church because persecution drove many believers away from their homes. Further, most of these poor saints could not afford to stay in the local “inn”.
 - In America today, Christians are not kicked out of our homes. So how should we practice hospitality to others?
- Some claim that hospitality is a spiritual gift given only to a few... and that perhaps they do not have that particular gift. However, nowhere in Scripture is hospitality identified as a gift only to be practiced by a few.
- Hebrews 13:3 speaks to having empathy. What is the difference between Empathy and Sympathy?
 - If you have access to **YouTube**, please watch this video <https://youtu.be/1Ewvgu369Jw>
 - Or if you need to search for it, search for **Brené Brown on Empathy**. (*It's a cartoon video*).
 - Hebrews 13:4 seems like a very unpopular verse for our modern American culture.
 - What do you think it means to “give honor to marriage”?
 - In what ways do we dishonor marriage these days?
 - What did Lance intend when we said we should “*live a life that demands an explanation*”?
 - Have someone read [1 Peter 4:4](#)
 - What other ways can we live for the glory of God, so that our lives are marked by question marks?
 - *Hint: There are several answers but don't stray too far from Hebrews 13:1-6. If we simply lived these out, it would look entirely different than our current culture.*

APPLY IT.....

- As a group, have everyone pick one of these traits and share how they are going to express it this season of Christmas.
 - Brotherly Love
 - Hospitality
 - Empathy
 - Fidelity
 - Contentment
- Find a way as a group to record and commit to praying for everyone as they attempt to live out their commitment.

Merry Christmas from Reality Church