

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Series: Better: A Study of Hebrews
Message Title: Better Than Quitting
Speaker: Lance Burch
Date: November 27, 2016

UP NEXT

- **New Christmas Series** - "Merry Christmess" Beginning December 11th
- **Christmas Eve Service Times** - 3:00pm, 4:30pm, 6:00pm, & 7:30pm
- **Christmas Day** - We will not have church services on Sunday, December 25th.

MAIN IDEA

None of this is new... it's just our turn!

INTRODUCTION

- We've covered a lot of heavy truths in Hebrews so far.
 - We've learned everybody has a better idea than Jesus but Jesus is better than an idea. (Heb. 1-2), that obsession with Jesus is healthy, obsession with anything else is sick. (Heb. 3), that when you feel like running, do it. Just run towards Jesus, not away from him. (Heb. 4-5), that something real is always better than the shadow of something. (Heb. 8).
- The recipients of Hebrews were growing weary. Their new faith was proving to be difficult and anti-cultural. They were tempted to quit and return to their old way of doing "church". However the author of Hebrews is encouraging them (us) to keep moving forward in their Christian lives.

DISCUSSION

- What do you wish you had never quit?
- Have someone read [Hebrews 12:1-4](#)
- Many people interpret verse one to mean all of the members of Hebrews 11 and even loved family members who have previously gone on before us, as being in a stadium setting cheering us on as we live our lives. In other words, everyone who has gone before us are "witnessing" us live life.
 - While this can be encouraging at times, it can also be a little creepy if you think about what they are allowed to witness.
 - However, this may not be the best way to interpret this verse. In fact, the term "witness" used in this verse is better translated "martyr" (*someone killed because of their religious beliefs*).
 - In short, we should consider that these *witnesses* are not witnessing us as we conduct our lives. Instead, they are witnesses *to* us of how faith and endurance should be lived out.
- **Hebrews 12:1a** says, "*let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up.*"
 - Do you think there is a difference between 'traps' the devil might set for us, and the sin that we attach to ourselves that slow us down? Which to you think the author is referring to here?

- Have someone read ([1 Corinthians 9:24-27](#))
 - How do we “run the race” as Christians today?
 - How do we “run the race” with patience?
- **Hebrews 12:2** says, *“Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne.”*
 - What do you think the author is referring to when he speaks of the “joy” awaiting Jesus? Surely the author wasn’t referring to the cross as being a joyous thing.
 - Have someone read ([Philippians 3:8](#))
 - How does this help explain how Jesus could focus on “what was to come”?
- Does Joy = Happiness?
- Lance made several statements...
 - *Faith isn’t new... it’s just our turn to have it!*
 - *Weight isn’t new... it’s just our turn to lose it!*
 - *Sin isn’t new... it’s just our turn to flee it!*
 - *Suffering isn’t new... it’s just our turn to endure it!*
 - *The Gospel isn’t new... it’s just our turn to believe it!*
 - *This Race isn’t new... it’s just our turn to run it!*
- **Which of these statements speaks to you the most and why?**

APPLY IT

- According to your answer to the above question... what are you going to do this week to live that out?

FAMILY FAITH TALK - (help those younger kids understand this passage)

Name: Icy Marbles Challenge

Teaches: Endurance - (Hebrews 12:2)

This is a favorite of our family. We begin by placing several loose marbles into a cooler filled with tap water. The task is to sit beside the cooler in a chair and stick your foot into the cooler to retrieve as many marbles as you can using only your toes in an allotted time (say 30 seconds). It’s not too difficult and you can even reward them by giving a piece of candy for every marble they extract for example.

Once everyone has had a turn, up the stakes by promising them a better reward for each marble retrieved (candy, money, tv time, etc). But wait, here’s the catch, during this second round, add lots of ice cubes to the water. Now they have to stick their feet into the ice-cold water to retrieve the marbles. Much more difficult and hilarious!

After rewarding what was promised take some time and talk about Hebrews 12:2 which says, “Jesus endured the cross because he knew there was joy coming afterwards”. Much like they had to endure the icy water because they knew there was a greater reward coming afterwards.