

HEBREWS

SHADOWS



Hebrews (Sept. 6 to Nov. 8: One Book. Three Series)

In Hebrews, we see three major — and continual — themes. First, Jesus Christ is greater than any angel, priest, or old covenant practice. Second, Christians must not forsake the great salvation that Jesus has brought about. And third, believers must hold on by faith to the true rest found in Christ, and must encourage others in the church to do the same.

Group Discussion

Main Text:

Hebrews 5:11-6:3, Galatians 5:22-23

1. Who is one of the most mature people you've known? What makes them mature? What makes someone immature?
2. Read Hebrews 5:11. When were you most on fire in your faith in Jesus? Have there been times when you've been lazy spiritually? On a scale of 1-5 (5 being most passionate about your faith) where are you at today?
3. Read Hebrews 5:12. *Maturity is an expectation.* What things keep people from maturing in their faith? Have any of these things hindered you?
4. Read Hebrews 5:13. *Immaturity has a shelf life.* What examples can you think of in life where immaturity is not acceptable? (Physical, emotional, education, etc.) Why are people more willing to accept spiritual immaturity than these other things? Are there areas where you've accepted spiritual immaturity?
5. Read Hebrews 5:14. What things have you done that required training and preparing in order to accomplish? How is training for something different than just trying at something? How can you train for spiritual growth?

Next Steps

Read Galatians 5:22-23. The fruit of the Spirit listed here, show us what should be present in a Christian's life when they are healthy and growing. Which two of these have you grown in the most? Which two of these do you need growth in the most?

(Below is a Fruit of the Spirit list with questions from the sermon. You do not need to go through these questions as a group. This is just a tool for reference).

Love: Is your heart tender towards God? What about towards your family? Friends? Those who disagree with you? How did you reflect God's love for lost people this week?

Joy: What irritated you last week? Were you more inclined to speak words of complaint or gratitude? How often did you laugh? Did you have fun? Were you able to have joy even in the midst of frustration?

Peace: To what degree was your heart and mind at rest in God last week? How consistently were you troubled and anxious? Was it a week of contentment or discontentment? Did you find yourself relating to others in a way that promoted peace, or that stirred up needless conflict? Does there always seem to be drama in your life?

Patience: How did you respond when you didn't get your way or were frustrated? Were you able to wait gracefully when you needed to? How did you respond to people who didn't respond how, or as quickly, as you wanted?

Kindness: How inclined were you to lend a helping hand, even when you were busy, or when you knew you wouldn't receive any recognition? Did you encourage or affirm anyone? How often did you say please or thank you? Were there times when your prejudices caused you to act unkindly to someone?

Goodness: Did you do anything for the benefit of others and not yourself? Were you generous? What portion of your time and resources did you give to the work of God? Or the poor? Or to others? Do you tend to give the least amount acceptable? Is your prevailing feeling that you never have enough, or that you have more than enough?

Faithfulness: Would people around you say you were dependable last week? Did you keep your word even with the small things? How did you do with procrastination? How faithfully did you serve Jesus by using your spiritual gifts? How obedient to God's word were you?

Gentleness: How consistent were you at speaking truth with grace? How often did you get angry? Did you cause pain to someone by something you did or said? Are you growing in your ability to listen? Did you come along someone to offer comfort, or were you moving so fast you didn't even think of being gentle?

Self-Control: Was sin more or less troubling to you last week? How likely were you to give in to temptation? What about your mouth? How often did you speak without thinking? How inclined were you to say things, maybe in anger, or just to draw attention to yourself, that you know you shouldn't have said?