



Sermon Discussion Guide

03.24.24 Message | Chuck Sackett | Hebrews 4:1-13

Key Scripture:

Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, "As I swore in my wrath, 'They shall not enter my rest,'" although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works." And again in this passage he said, "They shall not enter my rest." Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

- Hebrews 4:1-13

Message Highlights:

- When God speaks, we should listen.
- Embrace what is needed to be faithful to God.
- We are not just spectators; we are participants in our faith.

CONVERSATION STARTER

- Share a short story of when not listening to someone or missing details has gotten you into trouble.

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE

- How has the Spirit spoken to you through this section of God's Word?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

- What is similar about Hebrews 4:1 and 4:11? How do they act as brackets around the text?
- How are “not united by faith” (verse 2) and “because of disobedience” (verse 6) related?
- What is the promise of Hebrews 4:9? How is it referred to in verse 1 and verse 6?
- According to Hebrews 4:9, from what do we rest?

We see a few other scriptures referenced in Hebrews chapter four:

- Read Numbers 14:20-35. What are some repercussions for the generation that did not enter the rest God provided?
- In Genesis 2:2-3, God rested when he had finished creation. God does not get tired or run out of power. So, what do we learn about rest through God’s example?
- Read Psalm 95:1-11. Since God is so good (verses 1-7), why do you think the people failed to listen to his voice? Where do verses 7b-11 appear in our text?

THINK LIFE CHANGE (Does your group recognize the personal implications for them as individuals?)

- There is a generation that trusted God deeply and entered The Promised Land, and there is a generation that missed God even though he was constantly working around them. Which one resonates with you more?
- What does hardening one’s heart look like?
- What are some ways you may miss the invite God is giving you because you have hardened your heart?
- Does your faith have a sense of urgency, and why is that important?
- When we identify with Jesus, there is a shadow of the rest to come (verse 9). From what do we rest now that will be fully removed when we enter the ultimate rest?

THINK ENGAGE (Does your group know how to apply the challenge?)

- What are some things that have helped you stay faithful to Jesus?
- What are some new steps that you can take to help you be faithful to Jesus as you continue to walk in your faith?
- What things tempt you to be unfaithful to Jesus?

THINK KINGDOM (Does your group understand the overarching Kingdom, that the work we do is bigger than ourselves?)

- Who do you know who may miss out on a relationship with God because your faith doesn’t have an urgency?
- How can we avoid the same mistakes as Israel, where one generation’s decision not to listen impacted the next 40 years of those under the age of 20?