



FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

Year 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People

Module 6—Jesus and His Church

Lesson 6: Submitting to God's Way through Our Offerings and Sacrifices—Hebrews 11-13

ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read selected passages from Hebrews 12 together out loud as a group. Encourage each person to journal through the passage using these questions. After allowing sufficient time for reflection, invite the group to share their thoughts.

How is this God's story?

How is this others' story?

How is this my story?

How is this the world's story?

ENCOUNTER 2—Community Discussion

(Read the biblical reflection included with this lesson. The questions are designed for your group to enter into a meaningful dialogue about the Scriptures. The bulleted teaching points are taken from the reflection and correspond to the questions.)

GOD'S STORY

How do you think most Christians view God's discipline?

- God's discipline for many believers is seldom thought about. Sometimes we find ourselves or others complaining about our circumstances. We complain without recognizing that the circumstances we find ourselves in are likely the consequences of our own sin.

What is God's discipline like?

- Correction and discipline are not to be confused with cold-hearted punishment. God's discipline of us is a response of God's love for us. God desires for each of us to be holy people. God, therefore, will use difficult trials, and various dilemmas to bring us back to God in genuine repentance. Resulting from this discipline is a deeper faith, a renewed relationship with God and a transformed life.
- God's correction functions for our own wellness and wholeness and so that God might be glorified with our transformed and transforming lives. God desires that we reveal lives of holiness and that are lives reflect the new nature that God has given us.

OUR STORY

What do you think it means for Christians to be like Jesus?

- To be holy is to be like Jesus. A life that reflects the life of Jesus reflects the glory of God. Through the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit, within us, there emerges a passion to renounce the sin in our lives and focus on Jesus.

OTHERS' STORY

How is the message of Hebrews 12 good news to those outside the church?

Why is peace something that the world is in desperate need of, yet seems to act in ways that create a world that is far from peaceful?

THE WORLD'S STORY

How can we as Christians live in peace and holiness?

- Faith and endurance permit believers to follow the way of peace and holiness. As Christians follow their calling continually, thoroughly, and with desire, a greater sense of peace and holiness emerges.
- Peace with humans, of all nationalities and ethnicities, will be constructive to our own pursuit of holiness as persons and as faith communities. Peace and holiness go together. As you might expect, there cannot be peace exclusive of holiness.

What are five areas in each of our lives that we can strive for holiness?

- There are typically five categories in which we need to strive to be holy people. These five categories are:
 - God—How are we honoring God with our life?
 - Self—How are we respecting self with our intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual, etc. life?
 - Church—How are we finding ways to serve together as a church?
 - Family—How are we finding ways to grow toward Christ as a family?
 - Society—How are we finding ways to live holy for the sake of the world?

PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer.)

God in heaven who reigns over all the peoples and nations,

We need the kind of faith that moves mountains today and every day because there are situations in our lives that are shadowed over. We sometimes feel as though we can't even begin to move out of the shadow.

We believe in You and Your power to move mountains. In Matthew 17:20, You tell us, "if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you." God of all, take what faith we have and nurture it into a huge tree of faith so that we can testify to being moved out of the shadows.

Thank You, Lord, that with You, nothing is impossible. In Jesus' precious, mighty and holy name we pray. Amen.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

(Read the weekly practice out loud, and challenge your group to practice missio beyond today.)

Sometime this week, find the time to read this passage from the gospel of Luke:

Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come. It would be better for them to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around their neck than to cause one of these little ones to stumble. So watch yourselves. "If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them."

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you" (Luke 17-1-6).

- What are the ways this passage speaks to your life?
- In what ways can you increase your faith this week?

BECOMING MY STORY

(Encourage the group to spend time this week in God's Word, allowing it to penetrate their heart and life.)

Matthew 17:20

Hebrews 11:1

Colossians 1:5

1 Thessalonians 3:2

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above scriptures. Reflect on how the passage is God's story, my story, others' story and the world's story. In the context of Hebrews 11-13, consider the following questions:

How are these Scripture passages related to the message in Hebrews 11-13?

How do these scriptures tell us about the story of God being continued from Hebrews 11-13?

What is God saying to you through these passages?

Consider other passages you might know related to Hebrews 11-13 and read them this week, journaling as you go.