

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 30, 2006

Passage: Hebrews 13:17-19

Memory Passage: Hebrews 13:17

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 13:7.** Also read Hebrews 13:17 and Hebrews 13:24. What three things does the writer instruct his readers to do in their relationship with their leaders?
- (b) What was the New Testament pattern for every church (Acts 14:23; Acts 20:17)?
- (c) Why is the term “elder” plural? What do Acts 14:23 and Titus 1:5 tell us about leadership in the early church?
- (d) What term for what these elders do is repeated in all three verses in Hebrews 13 (vs. 7, 17, 24)?
- (e) Compare this to 1 Timothy 3:4-5. What does this indicate about one of the elder’s responsibilities? What should be our response to the leaders that God has given us?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 13:7 and Acts 14:23. Talk together about leadership in the church. How is it different from leadership in businesses? How is it similar to leadership in a family? Share together about some reasons that you are grateful for the leaders that God has given to your church. Spend some time thanking God for each of them.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 13:7.** What two things does verse 7 tell us that these leaders do?
- (b) Why are both essential for leaders (Matthew 23:1-3)? In Matthew 23:4-11, what are some other attitudes and actions that should be present among church leaders that were not present among the rabbis that Jesus criticized?
- (c) Why is being an example so important for anyone who serves as an elder? What did Paul say about his own example (1 Thessalonians 1:5-6; 2 Thessalonians 3:9)? What do 1 Timothy 4:12 and Titus 2:7 tell us about the importance of being examples?
- (d) Read 1 Peter 5:1-4. What are some ways that elders are not to lead? What are some of the responsibilities that they should have?
- (e) In 1 Peter 5:4, what is one motivation for these elders? How does this fit with the idea of rewards that we have seen in Hebrews?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 13:7 and 1 Peter 5:1-4. Think about what it means to be a leader in anything. Why is being an example so important in leadership? What happens to a person’s leadership when he/she is not a good example? Share some of the good things you have seen in your leaders. Pray that God will give you the desire to also be “an example to all who believe.”

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 13:17.** What two things are these believers told to do in relation to their leaders?
- (b) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13. Why should we love and esteem our leaders?
- (c) What should motivate these leaders to serve faithfully? *To whom* will they give an account for their ministry (Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10)? *When* will this take place?
- (d) What kinds of things break the hearts of church leaders [causes them “grief”] (Philippians 4:1-2)? What things make it joyous for them (3 John 1:4; Philippians 2:12)?
- (e) What will be the effect on the whole fellowship if some people do not obey and submit to their leadership? Why is this?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 13:17 and 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13. How should people in the church respond to leadership? Talk together about obedience and submission. Define the terms. How would your family be affected if there was no respect and obedience in the family? What would it be like to live in such a family?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 13:18.** What would you say is the one thing that leaders desire most from the Body of believers?
- (b) What did Paul frequently request from his readers (Romans 15:30; Ephesians 6:19-20; Colossians 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:25; 2 Thessalonians 3:1)?
- (c) In difficult times for a church, who needs to be prayed for the most? What is one of the greatest burdens facing church leadership (2 Corinthians 11:28-29)?
- (d) What should be one of the leader’s greatest concerns according to Hebrews 13:18 (Acts 23:1; 24:16)?
- (e) Why would this matter for leaders (1 Thessalonians 2:9-10)? What happens in a church when this is not true among the leaders? What kinds of situations might these early churches have faced that would have caused some leaders to compromise? What would have been the effect on the whole church?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 13:28 and Proverbs 22:1. What is a “good name?” Why is it important for a Christian? Why is it essential for a leader? What are some things that take away a person’s “good name?” Why should we pray that those in leadership

would “have a good conscience” and live “honestly in all things?” Do you do this? Pray that you might desire a “good name” that honors and pleases Christ in everything you do.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Peter 5:5-11.** How does this passage relate to leadership? How does it relate to our relationships with one another? How does our unity and love for one another affect the leaders in our church?
- (b) How does God respond to those that are proud rather than humble and submissive? Read Hebrews 12:28-29 again.
- (c) What does God promise in 1 Peter 5:6-9? When will this happen? How might these words have been encouraging to the suffering Christians in Hebrews?
- (d) Why should we “cast all our cares on Him” (1 Peter 5:7)? How is this an encouragement in suffering?
- (e) What was the writer’s prayer in Hebrews 13:19? What was Paul’s desire when he was in prison (Philippians 1:18-20)?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 Peter 5:5-11. What is humility? Talk together about a situation where you saw someone act in humility. Read Romans 12:10 and Philippians 2:1-4. How can we be humble in relationships? Why is humility important in our obedience to God? Will a person obey if they are not humble? Explain. Pray together that God will give you all humble hearts that desire to obey Him always.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read **Hebrews 13:17-19.** What are the responsibilities and duties of leaders in the church? What makes their job a joy? What makes it difficult and heart-breaking? Do you pray regularly for your leaders? Is prayer your first response when you disagree with them? Pray for worship services tomorrow, that those who lead might be encouraged by the obedience of those they lead.

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Pleasing God by Our Obedience
“Obey them that have rule over you...”