



Week 45: Hebrews

Study Guide for the week of Nov. 2-8

Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week, meditate upon Heb 12:1-2.

Which of the men and women in the Bible (part of the cloud of witnesses) are you especially drawn to? Why? What have they taught you about God and being in a relationship with him?

Who do you know personally in the cloud of witnesses? Who has shown you or spoken to you of faith? Of perseverance in the race? Think through your life and notice especially those people who impacted your faith most profoundly or most surprisingly.

You also are a part of the cloud of witnesses. Who are you influencing in the faith? Encouraging?

Spend time in prayer thanking God for surrounding you with this cloud. If God brings someone specific to mind, consider sending them a note or making a phone call to thank them for being “cloudy.” ☺

Discussion starters

1. What does it mean when someone sympathizes with you? How does it make you feel when someone comes alongside you to walk with you in your life? Reread Heb 4:15. Have you ever considered Jesus as understanding your life because he’s “been there, done that”? Why or why not? Has your understanding of Jesus been based more upon the image of the impassive Buddha or the crucifix with Jesus in agony on the cross? Do we have an impassive or involved God?
2. Describe one of your favorite meals as a kid. Now describe one of your favorite meals as an adult. Have your tastes changed as you matured? Do your faith “tastes” run more to milk or solid food (Heb 5:11-14)? What things can you do so your faith “diet” matures from milk to solid food?
3. Do you appreciate it when an author clearly states the main point of their writing? Reread Heb 8:1. What is the main point of the book of Hebrews? Hint: read Heb 8:8-12. Now read Jer 31:31-34. Jeremiah looks forward to the time when the new covenant God promises is inaugurated – the time the author of Hebrews (and we) can experience.
4. Do you worry about your salvation? Should you? Reread Heb 10:19-23. How does the author of Hebrews answer those two questions?

Bible verse to memorize: Heb 11:1