

LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 9 November 2008

Taking God at His Word
Hebrews 12:1-13

Read Hebrews 12:1-13

Also, now, have a quick scan of chapter 11.

1. What is the great cloud of witnesses and what does it have to do with God's promises?
2. Why link the cloud of witnesses ('therefore' v1) with us throwing off '*everything that hinders....*' etc ?

A big theme in Hebrews is perseverance (10:36) as we run the race (12:1) of the Christian life. Last week we were exploring in Hebrews 3 and 4 the theme of entering into God's rest.

3. Take a minute or two to recap what that means.
4. How can *rest* be compatible with *persevering in a race*!?
5. How is the person mentioned in 12:2 more than just an example of faith?

Read Hebrews 10:32-34

6. In what ways are you tempted to lose heart in your Christian life and witness?
7. How might 12:3 encourage you?

Read Proverbs 3:5-18

The notion of the Lord disciplining those he loves and of us enduring hardship as discipline can be difficult for us to get our heads (and our hearts!) around.

8. How do ***the Lord's discipline, the Lord's wisdom and the Lord's promises*** fit together in the healthy Christian life?
9. We will all be experiencing different challenges in running the race. Perhaps now would be a good time to pray for **everyone** in your group by name, even if you are unaware of what any person's particular challenges are, taking inspiration for your prayers from Hebrews 12...and maybe also Hebrews 10...

¹⁹ Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.