

MEFC Community Group Study Questions

For the week of November 24th – 30th

Getting Started

1. Of all the elements that compose our public worship gatherings, how important is the benediction to you? Imagine the moment in your mind right now. You've been asked to stand as you are able, and the pastor fixes his eyes on the congregation, raises his hands and begins: "The Lord bless you and keep you...". What are you thinking? What goes on in your heart as the words of a benediction are pronounced over you?

Digging Deeper

2. Benedictions are many and varied across the pages of the Bible, but there are some basic contours that are common to all of them. Consider a handful of some of the most well-known benedictions: Numbers 6:22-26; Romans 15:5-6, 13; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Galatians 6:18; 1 Thess. 3:12-13; 1 Thess. 5:23-24 and 2 Thess. 2:16-17. What do you notice? Does one of these especially strike you with particular power? Which one and why?

Open Your Bible to Hebrews 13:20-25...

3. Hebrews is obviously known for its warning passages (2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:11-6:12; 10:26-39; 12:12-29). Yet, the final note struck in this letter is one of extraordinary encouragement. Read carefully through the benediction in vv.20-21. Why is the unique content of this blessing such a fitting capstone to all that we've studied so far?
4. What catches your eye in the final greetings (vv.22-25)? What sorts of themes do these four verses touch upon that we've encountered already in the letter?
5. As you think back over our study of the Letter to the Hebrews during these last six months, what truths are going to continue to remain with you into the days ahead? Take some time as a group to encourage one another with specific chapters and verses.
6. Consider the warning passages once more: 2:1-4; 3:7-4:13; 5:11-6:12; 10:26-39; 12:12-29. If those who have truly come to share in Christ always persevere to the end (3:14), what is the role of such warnings in the lives of genuinely born-again believers?
7. Over the course of our series, if we have sought to lift up any truth supremely it's that Jesus is *better*. Which one of these Scriptures is your favorite: 1:4; 6:9; 7:19, 22; 8:6; 9:23; 10:34; 11:16, 35, 40; 12:24? Why?

8. Close your time together as a group by thanking the Lord for all he's taught us in our study of this magnificent letter of the New Testament. As you pray, give special attention to the warnings throughout Hebrews we are wise to heed as well as the promises throughout Hebrews we are invited to trust.

Sermon Notes for 11/24/19
Hebrews 13:20-25
“The Great Shepherd of the Sheep”

➤ **A benediction isn't a wish or even a prayer - it's a *promise* - and it's yours by grace through faith in Jesus**

• **As we leave this letter filled with harrowing _____, don't miss the opportunity to receive this remarkable _____ (vv.20-21)**

→ ***Final greetings* (vv.22-25)**

Next Week: Psalm 2 - “My King” - *1st Week of Advent*