

“Great High Priest and Anchor”

Session 4 – Hebrews 4:14-6:20

Bible Study Method:

Word Studies (Hold Firmly, Fully Realized)



INTRO

Say It:

Jesus is not just a distant King; He is our "Great High Priest." The Hebrews understood that a priest was their mediator. He was the only one allowed into the "Most Holy Place." And he represented them before God. They wanted a priest who would deal gently (5:2) with them. . . one who understood them and could sympathize with their weaknesses. Jesus is the bridge between our weakness and God's holiness. Because He understands us, we are called to grow up in our faith and hold fast to a hope that is as steady as an anchor.

In the first verse of our reading (4:14) the author encourages these weary Christ followers to "hold firmly" to their faith in Jesus despite their persecution and struggles. In the following section, he explains why.

SECTION 1 – One Who Understands

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

Read It: Hebrews 4:14-5:10

Discuss It:

- **What do you think the author meant in Hebrews 4:14 when he told them to "hold firmly" to the faith they professed and why would this have been important?**

Say It: Word Study: The Greek word translated as "hold firmly" is "Krateō" and it means to "seize" or "cling" to something "with all your might."

- **Hebrews 4:15 says Jesus was tempted in every way that we are, yet remained without sin. How does it change your prayer life to know that Jesus isn't just watching your struggle, but actually understands the feeling of it?**

- Hebrews 4:16 tells us to "draw near with confidence." What is the difference between maintaining appearances before God and approaching Him with biblical confidence and authenticity?
- Why do you think it was necessary for Jesus to suffer "loud cries and tears" (5:7) to become our perfect High Priest?

SECTION 2 – A Call to Maturity

Hebrews 5:11-6:12

Read It: Hebrews 5:11-6:12

Say It

Word Study: In verse 6:11, the Greek word translated as "fully realized" is "*Plērophoria*" and it means "entire confidence." It's a deep-seated certainty that isn't based on our performance, but on God's character.

The author makes it clear that it requires diligence to walk in this kind of confidence. However, verses 5:11-14 make it sound like the Hebrews have drifted and are wavering from their persecution and struggle.

Discuss It:

- Hebrews 5:11-14 describe a people who have drifted and verse 14 encourages "constant use." (NIV) In our mission of maturing and developing faith, why is practice more important than knowledge or information?
- The warning in Hebrews 6:4-8 is intense. Why is "drifting" (from Session 2) so dangerous when it comes to our spiritual growth? How could someone who has "tasted the heavenly gift" (6: 4) still "fall away" (6:6)?
- Hebrews 6:10 mentions that God won't forget your work and the love you showed His people. How does sacrificial generosity toward others help prevent our own hearts from hardening??

SECTION 3 – Reflection

Reflect on It:

Say It:

We just read that maturity comes from "constant use." We're going to take a few minutes of silence to listen and think about what God might be saying to us individually.

First, I want you to ask yourself, "Where are you currently "drifting" or settling for a comfortable routine instead of growing? Where are you drinking milk instead of eating solid food?

Now ask God : If you were to take one "solid food" step this week (practicing a difficult truth, choosing a hard conversation, or a specific act of generosity), what would it be? Use this time to ask the Holy Spirit to show you one area where He wants to "develop" you right now.?

SECTION 4 – Jesus is the Anchor

Hebrews 6:13-20

Read It: Hebrews 6:13-20

Discuss It:

- **Hebrews 6:19 calls our hope an "anchor for the soul."** When the world and "popular opinion" tells you God has forgotten you, how does this "firm and secure" anchor keep you from drifting?
- **Hebrews 6:20 calls Jesus a "forerunner" who has entered on our behalf.** A forerunner is someone who goes ahead to secure the path for others. How does knowing Jesus has already "secured the destination" change the way you handle the "wilderness" moments of your week?

DO IT

- **The High Priest Prayer:** Spend 2 minutes naming a specific weakness or "failure" from this week. Specifically ask your High Priest for the "mercy and grace" promised in 4:16.
- **Solid Food Challenge:** Instead of just reading a verse, choose one Biblical Truth to practice this week (e.g., forgiveness, generosity, or encouragement).
- **Maturity Check:** Identify one "basic" truth you know but haven't "practiced" lately. Commit to one act of sacrificial generosity or outward focus this week to strengthen your faith.
- **The Anchor Text:** Send a text to someone in the group this week with one "Biblical Truth" that has been an "anchor" for you lately.

PRAY IT:

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You that You are not a distant King, but a sympathetic High Priest. Thank You that our hope is not an "ideal," but an anchor firmly held by You. We are grateful for the milk we have received, but teach us to feast and hunger for the solid food found in Your word. Help us move past comfortable routines and develop the practices of a mature faith that holds fast to You in every storm. Amen.