

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, January 8, 2006

Passage: Hebrews 5:11-14

Memory Passage: 2 Timothy 2:15

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 5:11-12.** Why does the writer stop in the middle of his explanation about Jesus?
- (b) What problem do his readers have? What are some of the reasons for this problem? Consider Isaiah 6:9-13. What reason is given here? How is Isaiah told to respond when this happens to his listeners? What encouragement is he given?
- (c) What problem did Jesus' disciples have in Luke 24:25-27? What did he do to solve that problem?
- (d) In John 16:12-15, why didn't Jesus teach his disciples more at that point? What did he promise to do to solve that problem? How does the ministry of the Spirit help us in our "hearing" the Word of God? What does this tell us about prayer and dullness?
- (e) What is the problem in Hebrews 5:11-12? Why have they gotten to this point? What warning had they already been given in Hebrews 2:1?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 5:11-12 and John 16:12-15. Talk together about the importance of hearing the Word of God. What can you do as a family to "hear" better? Talk about some practical solutions and suggestions. Pray for each other so that no one will become "dull of hearing" in this new year.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 5:12-13.** What does the writer suggest that his readers should be by now? How do we balance this with James 3:1?
- (b) What do Colossians 3:16; Romans 15:14 and Titus 2:1-8 tell us about our mutual responsibility to teach one another?
- (c) What did they need over and over again? How would their attention to the Word of God change this?
- (d) What does the idea of "milk" convey about these believers (cp. 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; 1 Peter 2:1-3)? How does this "milk" produce growth?
- (e) What is wrong with only having milk? What is the difference between milk and strong meat?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 5:12-13 and 1 Peter 2:1-3. Discuss the goal of spiritual growth and learning. Should even our children begin to think about how *they* might be used to *teach* others the Word of God? Talk about some opportunities that they might have even now and also about ways God could use them in the future, if they are trained by the Word of God. Pray that God would give each person a desire to be useful in sharing and teaching His Word.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 5:14.** What is one factor that distinguishes an immature believer from a mature one?
- (b) How does one become mature – only by hearing? Consider James 1:22-27. What does James tell us is essential for becoming mature? Where does the *blessing* of hearing God's Word come (also John 13:12-17)?
- (c) Is the writer of Hebrews saying the same thing? Where?
- (d) How is discernment a mark of maturity (1 Thessalonians 5:21)? How does one become mature like this?
- (e) *Family:* Read Hebrews 5:14 and James 1:22-27. Talk about how a person becomes mature in Christ. Is hearing essential? Why? Is doing essential? Why? What if a person has one without the other – will they be mature? Ask God to show you how you can live out what you have learned in His Word this week.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Timothy 4:1-8.** What dangers did Paul warn Timothy about in the latter days? Make a list of them. Which do you see plainly describing our times today?
- (b) How does this passage show that the Word of God must be our priority in discerning all things? What kinds of errors occur when people do not stay strong in God's Word?
- (c) What responsibility did Paul charge Timothy with? Also read 1 Timothy 4:15-16. What was Timothy to do with what he was learning (note 2 things in verse 15 and 2 in verse 16)? How will doing each of these help you to grow in maturity?
- (d) At the beginning of a new year, many make resolutions about diets and exercise. What would Paul remind us that we need to make our priority (1 Timothy 4:7-8)?
- (e) Read Psalm 119:97-104. What did meditating on God's Word do for the psalmist? Make a list of the benefits you will receive by spending time in God's Word.
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 Timothy 4:1-8 and Psalm 119:97-101. Discuss the value of exercise. What makes it so difficult? Why do people exercise even though it takes time and effort? How should this apply to our time and effort in God's Word? Pray together that each of you might be diligent to make God's Word a priority in your lives.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read 2 Timothy 2:1-7.** What command does Paul give to Timothy in the first verse? What responsibility does he give him in verse 2? How is this similar to Hebrews 5:12?
- (b) What three illustrations does he use in verse 3-7? What is the common idea in each one? What makes a good soldier, a good athlete and a good farmer?
- (c) How is Timothy to accomplish this (2 Timothy 2:15)?
- (d) What does he warn him about in 2 Timothy 3:14? What will protect Timothy according to 2 Timothy 3:15-17? Why?
- (e) Read Psalm 119:105-112. How does the Psalmist describe God's Word? What is his attitude toward God's Word?
- (f) *Family:* Read 2 Timothy 2:1-7 and Psalm 119:105. Talk about how a person becomes a great athlete. What are the sacrifices involved? Why is daily training essential? How is this similar to becoming mature and strong spiritually? Spend time praying, thanking God for the treasure that we have in His Word.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Hebrews 5:11-14. What was the problem that these Hebrew Christians were having in their lives? Can this happen to anyone? What is God's desire of all of us? How can we grow in spiritual maturity? Is hearing enough? What else is required? Pray that tomorrow many will hear the Word of God with a desire to live it every day of their lives.

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Growing in the Word

"By this time you ought to be teachers ..."