

Sermon Based Small Group Guide

February 3, 2019 sermon:

Hebrews: Jesus is Greater "How to finish well"

Warm up: (15-20 minutes)

Questions for discussion:

1.) A good start doesn't guarantee a happy ending. We've all had times when we started something off strong only to be tempted to quit when things got tough. What's something you were tempted to quit but are glad you didn't?

2.) I have a friend who prayed for his brother's salvation for over 20 years before it became a reality and his brother surrendered to Christ. Can you remember a time when you continued to pray and walk in faith and obedience to God even though the situation seemed IMPOSSIBLE and CRAZY? What was the situation and what was the outcome?

Digging deeper: (20-30 minutes)

1. For many of us it's easy to follow God when his way makes sense to us and aligns with our desires. Yet it can be just as easy to stop following God's way when it threatens our "freedom" to do what we want, believe what we want or live life our own way. This can cause us to veer off God's path and onto our own. The verses below highlight the dangers of following our own path, as well as the "freedom" of following God's. As you read these verses, how might they challenge the belief that following God means a loss of freedom? Psalm 16:11 Psalm 19:7-9 Proverbs 5:1-14 Romans 6:19-23

2. Many times fear plays a huge part in causing us to doubt God's plan. While it's not a sin to doubt, acting on that fear can have major consequences and often ensures we miss out on what God intended. In the book of Numbers, we see the story of 12 leaders who were told to spy on Canaan, a land God was giving to the Israelites. Read through Numbers 13:1-3, 13:17-33 and 14:20-23, how do you see fear take root and alter the plan God had for his people?

3. Regardless of whether we've gotten off to a good start or not, the truth is our story is still being written. There's hope in having a God who believes in us and went to great lengths to provide a path towards redemption. As you think through the story of your life, what hope or reassurances are given in the verses below that could help you write your next few chapters? Ephesians 2:1-7 Colossians 1:13-14 Galatians 4:4-7

Application: (5-10 minutes) Fear, doubt and disobedience are most easily overcome when we share those thoughts/feelings with other who can help, encourage, and remind us of God's promises. Share how your Life Group is helping you with this. (If it is!)