



worship at home

Sunday, April 5

Hebrews 13:17-19, 22-25

17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. 19 I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner....

22 I appeal to you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly. 23 You should know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I shall see you if he comes soon. 24 Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those who come from Italy send you greetings. 25 Grace be with all of you.

Where we're at in Hebrews

Hebrews 13 contains practical advice for how this church should serve God and persevere in their faith. In verses 1-6 the author encouraged these believers to be committed to one another. In verses 7-16 he encouraged them to stay committed to the gospel message. As he closes out his letter, he encourages them to submit to their current leaders (v 17), asks for their prayers that he might be with them again soon (vv 18-19), and gives a final plea for them to take to heart what he's written (v 22).

Discuss

In practical terms, what does it look like to "obey" and "submit to" your church's leaders? What reason does the author give for submitting to them? In what ways do your leaders carry a heavy burden?

How can you help make your church leaders' job a "joy"?

The whole letter of Hebrews is referred to as a "word of exhortation" (v 22). What difference do you think this letter would have made in the lives of its original readers? What difference do you think God is wanting this "exhortation" to have in your own life?

The leaders care for the "souls" of their church. In the current pandemic, what does it look like to prioritize your spiritual well-being? What does it look like to make the spiritual well-being of others a priority?



Questions for preschoolers

What are some ways your parents take care of you?

What are some ways you can obey your parents?

What are some things you can take care of yourself, without grumbling? (Chores, pets, cleaning, etc.)

Questions for elementary

Q: Who has God put in authority over your life? What does verse 17 tell us to do?

A: Talk about the different authorities in your child's life: parents, teachers, coaches, etc.

Verse 17 tells us to obey and submit to them.

Q: What does it look like to submit? Why is it necessary and good for us to submit to our leaders? How does submission effect our witness to the world?

A: When we submit to those in authority over us, we are being obedient, oftentimes over what we would prefer to do. Our leaders (church leaders, parents, teachers, etc) are keeping watch over us and are looking out for what is best for us. When we submit with joy and not with groaning, we make ourselves look different from the world because we are laying aside our selfish desires. Doing this joyfully (without arguing, groaning, or complaining) points others to Jesus.

Q: Brainstorm leaders on a larger scale (government leaders, church leaders - pastor, elders, etc.) Talk about how God has put them in important but often difficult roles. How can we serve our leaders?

A: We can pray for them, asking God to give them wisdom in their leadership and protection for themselves and their families. The enemy desires to attack leaders because of their great influence over people, so it is important that we pray for them frequently. We can also obey and submit joyfully. Always be ready to encourage our leaders, ask how we can serve them, and build them up with our conversations.

Discuss with your family practical ways you can serve leaders in your life this week, then make a plan to make it happen. Pray with your family for the leaders the Lord has put in your lives.



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Questions for students

Think of the specific leaders the Lord has placed in your life. This can be parents, siblings, small group leaders, or pastors. How have they helped you in your relationship with Christ?

The author of Hebrews encourages his listeners to obey and submit to their leaders. How can you help your leaders lead you? How can you be a good follower?

How are you thinking about the eternal perspective, and how God is using this pandemic to shape you?

Find a guide to Holy Week and more resources for the coming week at providencefrisco.com/holy-week.