



worship at home

Easter Sunday, April 12

Hebrews 13:20-21

20 Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Where we're at in Hebrews

As the author of Hebrews closes out his letter, he gives a benediction that incorporates many of the letter's themes: the peace we have with God and others, the new covenant that's made such peace a reality, and the call to live in obedience to God. He reminds his readers that the spiritual growth he has been calling them to pursue is made possible and certain by God himself.

Discuss

By mentioning Jesus' resurrection (v 20), the author highlights God's power. His point is that since God has power to do that, he has the power to "equip" them (v 21) to live in a way that pleases him. In what ways do you struggle to obey God? In your life, are there sinful habits that feel hopeless or unchangeable? Complete this sentence: "If God can raise Jesus from the dead, he can help me _____."

As "the great shepherd" (v 20), Jesus is attentive to the needs and concerns of his "sheep". How have you seen Jesus care for you? Do you ever feel like your concerns are too small or insignificant for his attention?

God has given us every resource we need to "do his will". What are some of the resources God has given to us? How can ensure that we are using them?

God equips us so that we might "do his will" (v 21). That is, we need God to work in us so that we can obey him (see also Philippians 2:13). How is this an encouragement to believers today? How does knowing that God is enabling your obedience motivate you to further obedience? What happens if we only focus on our role in obedience and forget God's? Or if we focus only on God's role in our obedience but neglect our own?



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Questions for preschoolers

Q: What did Jesus do wrong?

A: Nothing! He obeyed God perfectly his whole life!

Q: What did Jesus die for?

A: He died for our sins so we could be with him forever.

Q: Is Jesus still dead?

A: No! He was more powerful than death and lives in heaven now!

Questions for elementary

Q: Where does peace come from?

A: God gives peace to his children. In times of uncertainty, we can be certain that God will supply his peace to our hearts when we fix our eyes on him. We can have peace no matter what hardships may come in this life because we know that death is not the end for us.

Q: What is the eternal covenant?

A: Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins. He rose from the dead to prove that he is God. His resurrection shows that his sacrifice was sufficient. Those who trust Jesus for their salvation, though their bodies may die, will rise again to eternal (forever) life. This promise of eternal life through our faith in Christ is the eternal covenant.

Invite your kids to talk about their personal faith in Christ. Do they recognize sin in their life? Do they believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay for their sins and rose again from the grave? Discuss as appropriate, then pray together, thanking Jesus for this gift of salvation. As a family, use the resurrection rolls activity ([found here](#)) to discuss Jesus' death and resurrection.



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Questions for students

We have a "God of peace" according to Hebrews 13:20. How does the resurrection secure our peace in Christ? How have you experienced his peace during this time that we are in?

Hebrews 13:21 says God will equip us and work in us to do his will. The strength to please God is provided by God himself. God's power is working in the Christian and the church to bring glory to Himself. How does this motivate you to work hard for the Lord in pursuing Christlikeness? Serving others?

The Word of the Lord is timeless and is relevant for every generation. In what ways have you seen Hebrews and the rest of Scripture speak into our current circumstances? How has this been a comfort to you?