

WELCOME LETTER: Hebrews Sermon Study Equipping Class

Welcome to the Hebrews Sermon Study Equipping Class! The purpose of this Equipping Class is for you to grow in your knowledge of and obedience to God's Word as you dig deeper into the sermon text through weekly inductive homework questions, group discussion, and accountability.

This equipping class is unique. Unlike other classes, *the content of this class is not meant to stand alone but will work in partnership with the sermon and your growth group.* The intent is not for you to anticipate the points that Pastor Bret will make in the sermon. Rather, the goal is to enhance the impact of the sermon in your life since you will have already spent significant time during the week thinking through the passage.

The homework questions will guide you in thinking about the text and what it teaches in more detail, but some of the larger conclusions will be left for Pastor Bret to make in the sermon. Your extended study time during the week will allow you to spend more time considering particular words and phrases and their implications and how the sermon text relates to other passages. The homework questions will also allow for more specific and personal reflection and application in your own life.

There will typically be 3 days of questions to be answered throughout the week, taking approximately 20-30 minutes each day, in preparation for group discussion on Sunday mornings. Some questions will help you carefully observe the content and context of the passage, some will help you understand what is being taught in the passage, and others will help you think through how the message being taught applies to real life.

In the big picture, the overall aim is that we all learn to begin with "What does the Bible say?" followed by "So then how should I (and we) think/live/feel/act/pray/obey/etc. in response?" At Summit Woods, we want this to be our pattern in how we approach studying the Bible and in how we approach answering the questions and challenges in life, both for ourselves and as we come alongside each other. We want to see what the Scriptures say and then live accordingly.

Unlike many classes where the teacher up front does most of the talking, these Sunday morning groups are meant to be real discussions among the participants. Therefore, it is essential that the class participants be committed to investing the time at home each week to do the homework and be willing to engage in the discussion on Sunday mornings. We all absolutely understand that there may be a week where the circumstances of life prevent you from completing your homework, but as a general rule, we expect those who sign up for this class to commit to doing the work.

In order for the discussion time to be fruitful, we are depending on you to *come prepared and willing to share* what you have been learning during the week. The facilitators will be there to guide the discussion time and to provide clarification where needed, but the content of the discussion will primarily come from you, the participants, and we want everyone to participate (and no one to dominate) in the conversation. The class will begin promptly at 9 a.m. Please arrive on time so that you do not miss out on any of the discussion!

We encourage you to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

We are so excited to see how the Lord uses this class to grow us all in our knowledge of and obedience to His Word as we seek to live it out together as the body of Christ at Summit Woods!