

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 9, 2006

Passage: Hebrews 13:1-3

Memory Passage: 1 John 4:7-8

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 13:1.** What is the first thing the writer tells these believers to do? Why would this be especially important in times of persecution and struggle?
- (b) How had they ministered to one another *in the past* (Hebrews 6:10; 10:32-34)?
- (c) What are they being encouraged to do *now* (Hebrews 6:10-12; 10:32-36)? Why? What motivations does he offer?
- (d) What is the basis or foundation for loving one another (John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7-11)?
- (e) Read Hebrews 12:27-29 again. What does the writer assure his readers of? How should this affect the way we relate to other believers?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 13:1 and Hebrews 10:32-36. Talk about how people feel when they are going through difficult times. How can love help a person get through such tough times? Who do you know that is going through a difficult time right now? Take some time to pray for this person.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 12:9-13.** What kind of love are we encouraged to have according to verse 9? Will everything we find in the lives of other believers be good? Should we reject them if it is not (Jude 21-24)?
- (b) What kind of love are we exhorted to have in verse 10? What does “in honor preferring one another” mean (Philippians 2:3-4)?
- (c) In verses 11-12, what are the actions and attitudes we are told to have? Make a list of each and discuss what each one means?
- (d) Why is prayer such a vital part of our love of one another? How is our neglect of prayer for members of the Body really a lack of love (cp. 1 Samuel 12:23)? Is this an area you need to ask God for forgiveness and be more diligent about?
- (e) What does verse 13 remind us about true biblical love (1 John 3:17)? Should this be done freely, without any consideration of the situation (Acts 4:35; 2 Thessalonians 3:10)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Romans 12:9-13. Discuss what it means to love other Christians. Should we love them even when they are not doing the right things? Why? What kinds of things should we be doing in our love for one another? Think of someone you know who need to be loved in Christ? What kinds of things can you do as a family that will show this person God’s love? Pray that God will give you eyes to see the needs of others in the church this week.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 12:14-21.** In verse 14, how are believers told to respond to persecution? Where does this model of response to difficult people and situations come from (1 Peter 2:21-23; 3:9)?
- (b) What should be our general attitude toward all people (Romans 12:15)? How does this promote love among believers?
- (c) How does a humble attitude help us to love and bear with others in difficult times (Romans 12:16)? What happens to relationships when we are “wise in our own minds?” Also see Proverbs 3:7; 26:12; and James 3:13-17.
- (d) Read Romans 12:17-21. How does Paul tell us to handle people who treat us wrongly?
- (e) How can we “overcome evil?” Will this make all people to “be at peace with us?” Who should we leave these matters with?
- (f) *Family:* Read Romans 12:14-21 and discuss times when you have had to deal with people who were difficult to get along with. What did you do that was wrong? What did you do that honored God? What does it mean to “be wise in your own eyes?” Why is this dangerous in relationships? Is there anyone that you are having difficulty with? Pray that God will show you how to reach out to this person in His love.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 13:2.** Define hospitality. What is the role of hospitality in Christian love?
- (b) Hospitality is spoken of in these verses: Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8; and 1 Peter 4:9. What is an essential attitude for biblical hospitality? Why do you think this is included in the qualifications for elders?
- (c) What was the requirement toward strangers in the OT (Leviticus 19:34; Deuteronomy 10:18-19)? Why was Israel reminded to treat strangers in their land with love? Why should we (also see Matthew 25:35, 43)?
- (d) What reason does the writer of Hebrews give to his readers?
- (e) Read about some of these situations in the OT: Genesis 18:2-10; Genesis 19:1-3; Judges 13:15-25. Could this be possible today?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 13:2 and Matthew 25:31-46. Talk about the importance of having an open home and an open heart. What are some of the blessings we gain by these? What might we miss if we are not hospitable? Think about some in your church who have been a blessing to others in this way. Thank God for them and their example.

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

- (a) **Read Hebrews 13:3.** What “body” is the writer referring to (1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:21; 3:15)?
- (b) What should we do as members of the same Body (1 Corinthians 12:25-26; Romans 12:15)?
- (c) What are some other responsibilities that we should have toward one another (1 Peter 3:8)?
- (d) What should be our response toward suffering believers? How had the Hebrew Christians done this (Hebrews 10:34)? How can we do this?
- (e) Why would anyone be willing to suffer for his faith (Matthew 5:11-12; Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18)? What was the attitude of early Christians toward suffering (Acts 5:41)? What should be ours (Philippians 1:29)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 13:3 and 1 Corinthians 12:25-26. Share together about suffering believers around the world today. Read some stories from groups such as Voice of the Martyrs and talk about what motivates people to be willing to suffer for Jesus. Pray that the Lord will give each of you the willingness to suffer for His sake.

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

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read **Hebrews 13:1-3 and Romans 12:9-21.** Why is it so important that Christians love one another, especially in times of suffering and persecution? What are some reasons that they might not have this kind of love for each other? Pray for worship services tomorrow, that believers might be encouraged in their faith and that some unbelieving may come to faith.

DATE: July 9, 2006

PASSAGE: Hebrews 13:1-3

Pleasing God by Our Love

“Let brotherly love continue...”