



Growth Group Curriculum Lent 2021
Week 5 – March 21, 2021 – Hebrews 6:13-20

Growth groups are one of the best and easiest ways to find community at church. In this time of the virus and social distancing, please meet safely outside or online. If your growth group would like to meet online or if you are aware of needs that the church can help fill, please let us know at connect@ljpres.org. Thank you for loving and caring for each other.

The preacher begins chapter 6 with challenging words. He tells the church that they need to start going deeper in their faith. The time has come for them to get “more serious” about their faith and about what God has done for them in Jesus Christ. In verse 12, they are warned to not get lazy about their faith, to not drift away from the hope they have in Jesus Christ. The preacher’s concern is not about them discovering Jesus, but about them holding onto Jesus. He wants them to not lose the faith.

As an example, he talks about Abraham and God’s promise. God is a God who keeps His promises. When God makes an oath like he did with Abraham, God will fulfill what He has promised. The promise mentioned in Hebrews 6:14 comes from when Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac and the angel of the Lord stopped him. See Genesis 22:15-18. This angel of the Lord was no simple angel. It was the prefigured Christ. How do we know that? Because he swears by Himself and only God can do that.

In verse 19, the preacher says we need to reach for the hope that is set before us in Jesus and as we reach for that we should be encouraged. The believers were growing tired and weary. We are not sure exactly what was happening, but their faith was being tested. So the preacher talks about the hope we have and connects that hope with the image of an anchor. For the early church, the anchor was an important image. This anchor is none other than Jesus and it is firm and secure.

The reason our hope is firm and secure is because it is attached to the presence and holiness of God. The inner sanctuary, that is referenced in verse 19, takes us back to the holy of holies in Exodus 26:31-34. This was where the dwelling of God was, and no one, except for the high priest, could enter. However, with the arrival of Jesus we meet the great high priest who enters and never has to leave because he has made the perfect sacrifice. Our complete forgiveness has been obtained.



The preacher concludes by reminding his congregation that they should have hope because Jesus is the forerunner of our faith. He has gone before us and prepared the way and we are called to hold onto him because he is our anchor and brings hope to our lives.

Exploring the Text

Read Hebrews 6:13-20

¹³ When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.” ¹⁵ And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised. ¹⁶ People swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. ¹⁷ Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. ¹⁸ God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. ¹⁹ We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰ where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.

Questions

If you are answering these questions alone, we would urge you to try journaling. Rather than just pondering the answers, try writing them out along with a prayer to the Lord.

- 1) There are a number of hymns and worship songs (The Solid Rock, Cornerstone, etc...) that use the imagery of the “anchor holding within the veil.” What is your favorite hymn or worship song? Why?
- 2) Our text today talks about how God is faithful and doesn’t change. However, we live in a world that seems to be changing all the time. How does change effect you? Do you like a routine, or are you okay when things change?
- 3) Why do you think the preacher uses Abraham as an example when he talks about God keeping His promises?
- 4) Verse 17 talks about the unchanging nature of God’s purpose. What is the preacher talking about when he mentions this?
- 5) How would you define hope?
- 6) As mentioned earlier, there are hymns and worship songs which use the idea of Jesus as the anchor within the veil. How does this image help you as you think about your faith?
- 7) God’s promise to Abraham had been that through his family line the nations of the world would be blessed. Abraham had to wait a long time for that promise to be fulfilled and yet he still kept the faith. What have you learned about “faith and waiting” over the years?
- 8) Is there someplace in your life where you could use some encouragement? Share about that and then spend some time praying for each other.

