

Sermon Study Guide - 23 May 2021

Series: Family

Text: Hebrews 3:12-19



This guide will help you facilitate a study of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. Look at the Big Idea and Takeaway for our CGs sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused. For a deeper dive into the passage, refer to the [text notes](#) on the passage.

Overview

Series Overview

This is a 5-weeks series exploring how God desires for our natural families to help us grow in the faith, and how his church is the family we are all part of regardless of our natural families. Starting with a biblical theology of the family, we will then move on to explore two Old Testament scriptures on natural families, and subsequently two New Testament scriptures on the church family.

The goal of this series is to show how family is central to the mission of God, and is not an end in and of itself. We want to see how our earthly families are a gift God has given us to serve Him, and how the church is then given to us to be our truer and lasting family, that doesn't diminish our earthly families but actually empowers us to love and serve them even better.

Big Idea

God has called us into His rest and given us one another to persevere in our faith and to hold onto Christ.

CG Takeaway

For our CG to take responsibility for one another and to see one another as vital to the perseverance of our faith by:

- watching out for unbelief
- exhorting one another to heed the word of God
- stirring one another up to love and good works
- meeting and encouraging one another.

Fallen Condition Focus

- Seeing our faith as an individual experience, therefore feeling that we are alone in our suffering and challenges.
- Neglecting the family of Christ given to us to help us persevere.
- Hardening our hearts against God's word that is given to us through the body of Christ, and allowing unbelief to grow.
- To not see that God has placed us in a long lineage of redemptive community and failing to heed the warnings and examples of the family of Christ that has gone before us.

Hebrews 3:12-19

12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. **13** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. **14** For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. **15** As it is said,

"Today, if you hear his voice,

do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

16 For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? **17** And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? **18** And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? **19** So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

Study Guide

Icebreaker: What are some of your favourite activities that help you recharge and rest?

Observation: Hebrews 3:12-19 is referring to an Old Testament account. Summarize the story and discuss the heart of the issue that Israel was facing.

1a. What is an evil, unbelieving heart? Why do you think that the author of Hebrews had to warn his readers about it?

1b. Why does the author describe sin as deceitful and able to harden our hearts against God?

2. What are some life circumstances, challenges, struggles, or even sinful tendencies in our hearts that are hardening us against God? How do they make us disbelieve God?

3a. If we are constantly plagued by the above mentioned challenges and struggles, how can we have confidence that we can and will eventually enter God's rest? (Gospel question)

3b. How does the rest we have now in Christ foreshadow the rest that we will eventually enter together?

4a. What are some hindrances or reasons to why we do not exhort each other, or are involved in each others' lives while we strive to enter God's rest? How does the rest we have in Christ inform the way we ought to be involved in each others' life while we enter into God's ultimate rest?

4b. What are some ways God has given us in our specific circumstances, that we can watch and exhort one another every day as we strive to enter God's rest together? Think about some ways how each of us can individually start to exhort, speak life into, encourage, disciple, those that God has placed in our lives.