

What have you done lately?

Here are the four points covered in this study of Hebrews 13, along with a question of personal application for each. Answer each question in your own words.

The Authentic Christian Life

1. Loving people

What have you done lately to demonstrate your love for a stranger, someone in prison, or someone being mistreated?

2. Trusting God

What have you done lately to demonstrate that you are trusting God instead of money?

3. Honoring leaders

What have you done lately to show your pastor you love him, honor him, respect him, and are glad to follow his leadership?

4. Living right

What have you done lately to fulfill God's will for your life using the special ways in which He has equipped you?



Faith at Home

Discuss with your family how you together could display a proper understanding of what it means to love people rather than money and to use money rather than people. Plan some specific actions.

Wrapping It Up

- It is easy to become complacent in our Christian lives. Today's study has reminded us that it is important to love people, trust God, honor our leaders, and carry out God's will for our lives. If we don't do those things, then we are falling short of living the authentic Christian life.

- Call on someone to lead the class in prayer.

Teacher's Toolbox

*Getting your class into God's Word
and God's Word into your class*

ExcitingBibleStudy.com

Bible Series

Hebrews 13

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HOW TO USE TEACHER'S TOOLBOX: Make a four-page folded teacher's leaflet from the first two sheets by printing two-sided (or by putting the blank sides together). The other two sheets are for duplicating, displaying, distributing, or otherwise using as called for in the lesson plan.



Faith at Home – A specific application of today's Bible passage to family life, to be used for individual reflection, family discussion, or class activity.



Getting Started

Contrasting two lifestyles

- Display the following sentences (Item 2):

Love people, use money.

Love money, use people.

- These two sentences describe two different approaches to life.

What might be some of the things a person would do if they love money and use people? Wait for responses. How would a person be different who used money and loved people? Wait for responses.

- Loving people and doing what is best for others is a characteristic of the authentic Christian life. It is one of four characteristics we will find in the last chapter of the Book of Hebrews.



Exploring God's Word

Lesson outline

- Write the following lesson outline on the chalkboard:

The Authentic Christian Life

1. Loving people (Heb. 13:1-4)
2. Trusting God (Heb. 13:5-6, 8-16)
3. Honoring leaders (Heb. 13:7, 17)
4. Living right (Heb. 13:18-25)

- Use the outline to guide the study of Hebrews 13.

Identifying people to love

- Call attention to the first point of the outline, “Loving people.”
- Have someone read aloud Hebrews 13:1-4.
- **Who are the people that this passage encourages us to love?** (other Christians, strangers, those in prison, those mistreated, marriage partners)
- **Who are some other people that the Bible encourages us to love?** Here are some responses they may mention:
 - God (Mark 12:30)
 - neighbor (Mark 12:31)
 - enemies (Luke 6:27)
 - wives (Ephesians 5:25)
- **Loving God and people is a mark of the Christian life. This love is not just a feeling, but consists of actions on behalf of the other person.** Have someone read aloud 1 John 3:18.
- **When we hate anyone else, or hold anger or bitterness in our**

hearts toward someone else, then we are missing one of the greatest blessings of the Christian life—the blessing of loving others.

Object lesson

- Call attention to the second outline point, “Trusting God.”
- Have someone read aloud Hebrews 13:5-6.
- **These verses contrast two approaches to life: depending on God and depending on money.**
- Place your Bible and wallet next to each other on a table or floor in front of the class to use as an object lesson.
- Pick up the wallet. **The money that is in my wallet was not there a year ago. The money comes and goes. Sometimes there is more money than at other times. Sometimes there is no money at all. Circumstances could cause my wallet to be completely empty for a very long time.**
- Put the wallet down and pick up the Bible. **The pages in this Bible are always the same. They never change. They always say the same thing and they always mean the same thing. Certainly I grow in my understanding of what these pages say each time I read them, but the pages never change. When I trust in God, I am trusting in someone who is dependable, faithful and never-changing. When I trust in**

money, I am trusting in something that has no intrinsic value and can vanish in an instant.

- Have the class read in unison Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”
- **Remember what we have learned in the Book of Hebrews about Jesus’ sacrifice for us.** Have someone read aloud Hebrews 13:9-14.
- **Since Jesus has given the ultimate sacrifice, we should gladly offer to God our own sacrifice of praise. According to Hebrews 13:15-16, of what should our sacrifice of praise consist?** (confessing His name, doing good, sharing with others)

Group discussion

- Call attention to the third outline point, “Honor leaders.”
- Have someone read aloud Hebrews 13:7, 17.
- Use the following questions to lead a group discussion.
 - What are the four actions that these verses say we should take toward our church leaders? (remember, imitate, obey, submit)
 - How do you feel about each of those words in relation to your pastor and other church leaders?
 - Why do some churches or church members relate to their leaders with criticism, skepticism, disdain, and resistance, rather than

the ways these verses tell us to?

- What problems come from that type of relationship with our church leaders? How does that affect the church, even when only a few relate negatively to the pastor and other leaders?
- What types of behavior among church members do you suppose causes a pastor to lose the joy of leading a church?
- How can we restore a more positive relationship with leaders, respecting them and following them?

Question and answer

- Call attention to the fourth outline point, “Living right,” and have someone read aloud Hebrews 13:18-25.
- **The writer expresses his desire to live honorably in every way. What does it mean for a Christian to live honorably?** Wait for responses.
- **The writer prays that his readers would be equipped with everything good for doing God’s will. What are some things that we need in order to carry out God’s will in our lives?** Wait for responses.

Making It Personal

Applying the lesson

- Give each person a pencil and a copy of the following (duplicate Item 1:

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