

How to Church

Mmmmm.... Awkward

Week 3: Don't Leave.

Being a Christian does not mean being happy all of the time. Being part of the church does not mean that all of your relationships will be perfect. But working through the hard stuff means that we get to see God's glory and we will get to experience life in richer and more beautiful ways. We will not see beauty and glory in its fullness here on earth, but the glimpses are absolutely incredible.

OVERVIEW

V. 32-35a The OT followers of God accomplished great things and were faithful to God in their calling

V. 35b-39 The OT followers of God experienced terrible consequences of their faithfulness to God at the hands of people.

None of them were rewarded in this life.

V.40 The work of the OT followers of God wasn't even "completed" until Jesus.

V.1 Pain, Trials, Failures "Hinder" and "Entangle"

V.2-3 Focus on Jesus, who by example, demonstrated how enduring through the pain of following God can lead to something great – in his case the Salvation of the World.

Scripture: Hebrews 11:32-12:3

11 ³² And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. ³⁵ Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. ³⁶ Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were put to death by stoning;^[a] they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— ³⁸ the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground. ³⁹ These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, ⁴⁰ since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

LESSON GOAL: That Students would understand that being a Christian doesn't mean having a perfect life – but instead a meaningful relationship with Jesus.

RELATE:

What's the weirdest or grossest thing you've ever eaten?

READ:

List all the things that the people mentioned accomplished, endured, or experienced. What was the reward they received?

THINK:

Does enduring something painful ever pay off in the long term? List some examples.

LIVE:

Who in your life do you talk to about difficult things or big questions when it comes to faith? Take a moment to write down one thing you have been wondering about or one painful thing you've been dealing with and make a plan to talk with another person about that one thing.