

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Hebrews 12:16-29

Lesson 17

As we wrap up the last verses of Hebrews 12, we are reminded of the two different ways of approaching God – through the Old Covenant methods or through the New Covenant method. In closing the chapter, we are given the fifth and final warning of Hebrews: *See that you do not refuse Him who speaks.* May your study of these verses produce in you an even greater awe and respect for our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

DAY ONE: Read Hebrews 12:16-29

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

- a. Hebrews 12:16-29 been divided into two sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

Verses 18-24

Verses 25-29

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

After titling each section, record a title for Chapter 12.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in prior homework lessons: *God* and *Jesus*.

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Hebrews 12:16-29. Remember, as you mark these words, mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

3. Note the term of conclusion, *therefore*, in verse 28. Record the conclusion stated and what it is based upon.
4. Hebrews 12:16-29 contains 3 contrasts (verse 22 and two in verse 26). Mark each time the contrasting word *but* is used. Choose one of the contrasts and briefly reflect on its significance.

5. Using the chart titled *Jesus*, list a few things that Hebrews 12:16-19 reveal about Him.

DAY TWO: Read Hebrews 12:16,17

1. After the exhortations in the preceding verses, Hebrews 12:16 continues with another *lest* warning. Thoughtfully consider this verse as you write it here.
 - a. The word *fornicator* means “immoral” and the word *profane* means “godless”, or “one who lives for the world and not for God”. In what way does Esau's example indicate he was a godless person? (see also Genesis 25:29-34)
 - b. *Esau despised his birthright* (Genesis 25:34). He had no appreciation for the spiritual, but was interested instead in gratifying the desires of his body. What warning do you see in this for believers today?
2. According to Hebrews 12:17, what was the outcome *afterward when he wanted to inherit the blessing*?
 - a. The phrase *though he sought it diligently with tears* does not mean that Esau earnestly sought to repent and could not. Esau was not crying tears of repentance; he was crying because he had lost the blessing. What is the difference between sorrow and repentance?
 - b. In what way would considering the consequences of our actions before making decisions help us?
3. How should Hebrews 12:16,17 compel us to daily seek after spiritual things?

DAY THREE: Read Hebrews 12:18-21

1. Believers have been made partakers of great spiritual blessings through the new covenant in Christ. The author demonstrates this by way of contrast. He begins the contrast in verses 18-21 by describing the scene at Mount Sinai when the law was given to Moses. (Read Exodus 19:9-25; 20:18-21; Deuteronomy 4:10-24 for the historical account.) Use phrases from Hebrews 12:18,19 that describe this scene:
 - a. Hebrews 12:18

 - b. Hebrews 12:19

2. The parenthetical verses of Hebrews 12:20,21 further depict this amazing scene at Mt. Sinai. What additional details do these verses mention?
 - a. Imagine what it would have been like to experience this personally; to see all of this with your own eyes and hear it with your own ears as God revealed His awesome power and holiness in physical manifestations. In what way does this help you to understand Moses' response: *I am exceedingly afraid and trembling?*

3. The writer pointed the readers back to Mt. Sinai and the old covenant relationship between God and man but not without first telling them *you have not come to the mountain.* verse 18a The Greek word for *come* here is the same as in Hebrews 4:16. What does this verse reveal about where we can *come*?

DAY FOUR: Read Hebrews 12:22-24

1. In these verses the writer completes the contrast he began in verse 18 by beautifully describing where believers of the new covenant have come. Complete the phrases from Hebrews 12:22-24 that reveal to us the glories of the place we have come:
 - a. Hebrews 12:22 *But you have come to Mount Zion and to _____*
_____ , the _____ , to an _____

 - 1.) *Mt. Zion is God's heavenly city, Jerusalem.* The earthly Jerusalem would be destroyed in 70 AD, but the heavenly Jerusalem would endure forever. Philippians 3:20a declares of believers that *our citizenship is in heaven.* This is where we will spend eternity with Jesus. Selah. How does this minister to you today as a runner in the Christian race?

b. Hebrews 12:23 To the _____ and _____
_____, who are _____, to _____
_____, to the _____.

Challenge: Identify the two groups referred to in Hebrews 12:23.

c. Hebrews 12:24 to _____ the _____
_____, and to the _____ that speaks
better things than that of _____.

- 1.) The new covenant and its blessings are so much *better*. Jesus Christ is the *Mediator* of this covenant. He is the One Who shed His blood. While Abel's blood cried out for vengeance, Jesus' blood cries out for God's mercy and grace to be extended to us. What does this mean to you today?

2. What a difference Jesus makes! Before Jesus came God seemed distant, threatening, and unapproachable. Now that Jesus has come, God invites and welcomes us through Christ into His holy presence. How does this affect you?

DAY FIVE: Read Hebrews 12:25-29

1. The writer begins this passage with an urgent appeal followed by a severe warning. Thoughtfully consider the appeal of Hebrews 12:25a as you write it here.

2. Read the warning of Hebrews 12:25b-27 in the TLB paraphrase: *For if the people of Israel did not escape when they refused to listen to Moses, the earthly messenger, how terrible our danger if we refuse to listen to God Who speaks to us from heaven! When He spoke from Mount Sinai His voice shook the earth, but, "Next time," He says, "I will not only shake the earth, but the heavens too." By this He means that He will sift out everything without solid foundations, so that only unshakable things will be left.* How should this have impacted the Hebrews who were going back to the rituals and legalism of Judaism?
 - a. How should this affect you today?

3. Ponder Hebrews 12:28 as you write it here phrase by phrase.

- a. Underline what *cannot be shaken*.
- b. *Let us have grace* can also be translated *let us hold fast grace*. What does this mean in a practical sense?
- c. It is because of and by God's *grace* that we can *serve God acceptably*. With what attitude and motive are we to do this according to Hebrews 12:28c?
 - (1.) Why would these conditions of the heart be required for our service to be acceptable or pleasing to God?
 - (2.) List a few ways a believer can *serve God*.

4. Ponder the final declaration of Hebrews 12:29 as you print it here.

- a. This verse is taken from Deuteronomy 4:24 and reveals an eternal truth concerning the nature and character of God. In what way should this knowledge instill a deep respect and reverence for the Lord?
 - (1.) At times we tend to be too casual when we think of God, pray, worship, and serve Him. We often do these things half-heartedly and with little or no fear of the Lord. What can we do about this?
- b. "Fire either consumes or refines; it depends on the material that is in the fire". Think about this for a moment. Draw an application from this for your own life.

DAY SIX: Review Hebrews 12:16-29

1. Record an instruction or insight you received from the following passages:
 - a. Hebrews 12:16,17

 - b. Hebrews 12:18-21

 - c. Hebrews 12:22-24

 - d. Hebrews 12:25-29

2. What in Hebrews 12:16-29 will help you run the race and finish well?

3. Share how your appreciation of Jesus and the blessings of the new covenant has grown through this week's study.

4. Share a way you have been:
 - a. encouraged

 - b. challenged

 - c. warned

*Since then we have been given a kingdom that is "unshakable",
let us serve God with thankfulness in the ways which please Him,
but always with reverence and holy fear.*

-Hebrews 12:28 Phillips