



## Open it

1. What's one warning that your parents have given you that you always take seriously?

## Daily Devotions

### Day 1

#### Today's Theme: Explore It

Read Hebrews 10:26–39

2. What is expected for those who keep sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth?
3. What do those who continue sinning deliberately do to Jesus according to verse 29?
4. What attitude should we have towards being subject to God's judgment?
5. What things had these Christians endured early in their faith?
6. How does God's righteous one live according to verse 38?

## Day 2

### Today's Theme: The Purpose of Warnings

#### Read Hebrews 10:26–27

Imagine your math teacher tells you that you have to do your homework or you'll get an "F." That night, you take the time to do your homework, but your friend doesn't and still gets an "A." This happens a couple of times and gets you thinking: there really isn't any consequence for not doing your homework. From then on, you decide you are no longer going to do your homework either. A warning is only as strong as its consequences. If there are really no consequences, then the warning doesn't carry any meaning.

Hebrews has a few warnings for Christians to pay attention to, and these warnings seem to have severe consequences! But why did God choose to give us warnings? Some people might think this shows that God is cruel and merciless. But really, I think it shows that God is incredibly loving! After all, only a cruel and merciless person would allow those they love to continue down a path they knew would only lead to their own harm. A loving person will warn those they love of the dangers that lie ahead if they remain on the current path.

The purpose of any warning isn't just to scare you. It's meant to inform you of the dangers that lie ahead and what actions you should take to avoid those dangers. A warning is meant to effect change when we hear it.

**7. What are some warnings that you see in your life today that serve to help you?**

**8. What is your response as you read this warning in Hebrews? How does it make you feel? Does it make you want to change anything in your life?**

### Day 3

#### Today's Theme: Deliberate Sin and God's Wrath

#### Read Hebrews 10:26–31

This passage is a stern warning for those who have received the knowledge of the truth to quit sinning deliberately. The consequences for continuing in this sin is being subject to God's wrath, and we're told that "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

What is deliberate sin? Sinning deliberately means that you know the right thing to do but you still choose to sin. Within the context of this warning in Hebrews, this deliberate sin is the habitual, willful rejection of God and open rebellion against Him.

When you know the good news of salvation in Jesus and yet choose to continue living in deliberate sin, you trash the name of Jesus and disrespect the sacrifice He made on the cross. You have essentially said that you don't want Jesus, you don't care about what He's done for you, and you are going to live your life your way.

If that is the attitude someone is going to have toward God, then it's true — there is no longer a sacrifice for them! They've rejected the only sacrifice that could save them and therefore are now subjected fully to God's wrath.

Therefore, STOP SINNING DELIBERATELY!!!

9. Give some practical examples of how you could sin deliberately?

10. Why does this passage warn so strongly against "sinning deliberately" once you have received the "knowledge of the truth"?

11. Why is it healthy for Christians to maintain a healthy understanding of God's wrath? How might this warning help keep you from sin?

## Day 4

### Today's Theme: Faith Perseveres

#### Read Hebrews 10:32–39

When I was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade I went to a week-long sports camp at a local college. I was excited for the chance to learn from college coaches and was eager to prove myself to them. Early in the week, I gave everything I had and executed each drill with every ounce of excellence and perfection I could muster. But as the week went on, some of those same drills became much more difficult as I grew more and more tired, and I began cutting corners and getting sloppy with my game. I remember the coaches urging us to not give up in our effort and discipline but to dig deeper and play with the same intensity we had in those first few days. The point they were teaching us was that the way you finish is perhaps even more important than how you start.

The same was true for these Christians in Hebrews. When they started out in their faith, they faced many different sufferings on behalf of their faith in Jesus with joy — they would be publicly humiliated and beaten, they'd be thrown in prison, and even have their stuff taken from them just because they believed in Jesus. But as time went on, some of that intensity started to disappear more and more to the point that they were contemplating leaving their faith in Jesus behind.

But like my coaches in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the author of Hebrews gave them a bit of a pep talk to boost their faith and encourage them to stick with it! He reminded them that they've made it through tough times before and that by living by faith, they'll make it through these as well. After all, "we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls"!

Faith carries you through the difficult times. Faith carries you through being made fun of for believing in Jesus. Faith perseveres to the end because faith is convinced of greater things!

**12. What difficulties have you faced in life that caused you to question your faith in Jesus? How have you seen God be faithful throughout all the trials and difficulties you've faced?**

**13. How has your faith in God helped you overcome those trials in the past? How can it help you overcome your troubles today?**