

JESUS
GREATEST OF ALL TIME
THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

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**STAND WITH JESUS;
STAND WITH TRUTH**
Student Lesson 28

⁷ Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith.

⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. ⁹ So do not be attracted by strange, new ideas. Your strength comes from God's grace, not from rules about food, which don't help those who follow them.

¹⁰ We have an altar from which the priests in the Tabernacle have no right to eat. ¹¹ Under the old system, the high priest brought the blood of animals into the Holy Place as a sacrifice for sin, and the bodies of the animals were burned outside the camp. ¹² So also Jesus suffered and died outside the city gates to make his people holy by means of his own blood. ¹³ So let us go out to him, outside the camp, and bear the disgrace he bore. ¹⁴ For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come.

¹⁵ Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name. ¹⁶ And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God — Hebrews 12:18–29 (NLT).

Open it

1. Who is your favorite teacher and what makes them your favorite?

Daily Devotions

Day 1

Today's Theme: Explore It

Read Hebrews 13:7–16

The author was concerned that his readers would be “carried away by varied and strange teachings” (13:9), including returning to Judaism. So he calls them to remember the godly teachers who had spoken the word of God to them (13:7). Even though these men had now died, Jesus Christ, whom they preached, is the same yesterday, today, and forever (13:8). His grace (13:9) and His sacrificial death on the cross (13:10–12) are at the center of sound doctrine. Jesus and His death on the cross have become our altar, which supersedes and replaces the Jewish altar in the temple. Therefore, we must turn our backs on Judaism and every other religion and hold firmly to Christ and the cross (13:13). If such faith leads to hardship, rejection, persecution, or even death, keep in mind that we are not living for rewards in this life, but for the reward He has promised us in heaven (13:14). That is the flow of thought here, as I understand it. He is saying,

To avoid being carried away by false teaching, imitate the faith of godly leaders and hold firmly to the centrality of Jesus Christ, His sacrificial death, and the promise of heaven.

Sound doctrine always is founded on the word of God (13:7). It centers on and exalts the unchanging Christ (13:8). It revels in God's grace, not in any human works for salvation (13:9). It feeds on the death of Christ on behalf of our sins (13:10–12). It separates from all that do not exalt Christ and it glories in the reproach of the cross (13:13). It puts all its hopes in the rewards of heaven, not of this life (13:14).¹

2. According to verse 7, who are Christians supposed to remember and why?
3. What does verse 8 say about Jesus?
4. What should Christians not be led away by?
5. Where does verse 13 tell us we should go to be with Jesus? Why do we need to go there?
6. What things do verses 15 and 16 tell us we should do?

¹ Sermon by Steven Cole found at <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-54-antidote-false-teaching-hebrews-137-14>

Day 2

Today's Theme: Sticking with the Truth

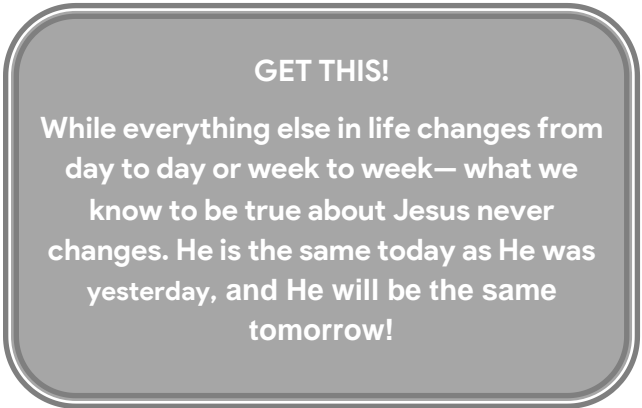
Read Hebrews 13:7–10

You live in a world that is constantly sending you messages. Every advertisement, every TikTok, every YouTuber, every song— they all have a message. You might hear one message from your church and then pull up your TikTok account and find someone broadcasting an entirely different message. You might read one thing in your Bible and then hear something entirely different from your teacher at school. It can be stressful and challenging at times to know what is true and what isn't, to know what you should believe and what you shouldn't.

While it's hard to know for sure sometimes, don't feel alone. You aren't the only one trying to figure it all out. Even the people who first heard the message of Hebrews were faced with the same challenge. That's why it's important to remember the people who have taught you the Word of God.

Remember them not just because of what they taught you, but also because of how they lived. Obviously no one is perfect and we all screw up sometimes, but those people who have taught you about God—were they kind? gracious? loving? patient? Could you tell that they loved God not just by what they said but by how they lived? If so, look to their example of faith.

God has given them to you as a gift to show you how to follow Jesus so that you can follow their example.



7. **Who is someone who has made a big impact in your faith? What do you remember about what they taught you about Jesus (both by speech and by action)?**

Our faith and its teachings do not change. There is no such thing as new and improved Christianity. What we have is the faith “that was delivered to the saints once for all” (Jude 3). Though the letter’s readers may have new leaders now and their circumstances will change, their Savior remains the same. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Therefore, we should remember the faithfulness of our leaders and not be led astray by anything contrary to the unchanging Christian message.²

This is why we should consider those who taught us about Jesus. While everything else in life changes from day to day or week to week, what we know to be true about Jesus never changes. He is the same today as He was yesterday, and He will be the same tomorrow! If you want to build your life on something solid, build it on Jesus!

8. **What security and confidence does Jesus’ unchanging character give you?**

² Mohler, R. Albert. *Exalting Jesus in Hebrews (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary)* (pp. 226–227). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

Day 3

Today's Theme: Closet Christianity isn't Christianity

Read Hebrews 13:11–14

Have you ever been tempted to try to “hide” your faith in Jesus? You know what I mean—you know you should love Jesus and follow Him, but do you have to live it out so publicly that everyone at school would know about it? Sometimes, we want to just blend in with the crowd and not make it obvious that we follow Jesus.

GET THIS!

Living your life for Jesus isn't just about living part of your life for Him Living for Jesus means following Him with all of your life.

These verses call us out for that! Following Jesus isn't something we do behind closed doors only. Following Jesus is something that has to be done publicly. Why? Here are a couple reasons:

1. Jesus suffered outside the gate for you!
2. Going “outside the gate” to Jesus means taking a stand for Jesus!

Jesus said in Matthew 10:32–33, “Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But everyone

who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.” Jesus gave it all for you to have a relationship with Him. He suffered, was mocked, was despised—all so that you could be saved from your sins. Now, all He asks is for you to live your life for him!

Living your life for Jesus isn't just about living part of your life for Him. It's not just about doing devotions, a couple hours on a Wednesday night for youth group, or even just going to church on Sundays. Living for Jesus means following Him with all of your life. That means that you follow Jesus with how you do your homework. You follow Jesus when you're at home with your family, when you're at church with your friends, when you're at school, when you're happy, sad, mad and everything in between. Following Jesus isn't meant to be part of your life, it's meant to become your life.

What “closet Christianity” really boils down to is our valuing ourselves over Jesus. Maybe it's your own convenience, your preferences, or your reputation. At the end of the day, when you try to hide Jesus in your life, it's not normally because you're taking a stand with Jesus but that you're taking a stand for yourself.

Take a stand with Jesus. Go meet Him outside the gate even if it means bearing the same disgrace He bore for you!

9. Taking a stand for Jesus might seem risky sometimes. What are some things other than Jesus that a teenager might seek safety and security in today?

10. What would “going outside the camp” look like for you as you live out your faith?

Day 4

Today's Theme: Live it Out

Read Hebrews 13:15–16

Sacrifice of Praise

As Christians we know that we owe everything to Jesus. We are who we are today because of what He has done for us. The fruit of lips that acknowledge His name is referring to God's people talking about how great God is and how much He means to us.

11. What does God really mean to you? If you were to gush about God for a minute, what might you say?

Do Good

God's people really should do all kinds of good things! They should be kind to one another, they should be loving, they should be moral people. None of these things are bad. Sometimes we shy away from calling each other to do good because we try so hard to not base our salvation off our "works." After all, the Bible says that we are saved by grace and that grace is the gift of God!

Yet, the Bible also says that if our faith doesn't produce good works in our lives, then we don't really have faith at all (James 2:14–26). So don't shy away from doing good but strive to do good, not to earn your salvation but because of your salvation!

12. What are some practical ways you can "do good" this week?

Share your Stuff

Being generous is part of following Jesus and that's because Jesus is generous with us! Before we go and think that any of the "stuff" we have is really ours, let us remember that the Bible says that God owns the cattle on a thousand hills, that all the silver and gold belong to the Lord (Haggai 2:8) and yet God shares all HIS stuff with us. He allows us to enjoy what really belongs to Him in the first place.

Secondly, Jesus shared more than just His creation with us; He shared His own life with us. He came and lived among man which in and of itself would be spectacular. But Jesus also lived a perfect life and has shared that perfection with us that we too can be righteous. Jesus also gave up His own life on the cross for us, showing just how much He really loves us. God is a generous God, and to follow Him means that we ought to be generous too!

13. How can you be generous with your stuff?