

LG | LeaderGuide

[Primary Text: Hebrews 5:12-6:12]

PRAY

Pause. Acknowledge that you are about to open God's word.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate His word.

WARM-UP

Prepare our minds to receive God's word.

- LG Foundations (on back page): What did you learn from our last foundations training (topic: "World Vision")?
- When reflecting on the message this past Sunday, what most resonated with you?

ILLUMINATE

Open your Bibles to the primary text. If you do not have a Bible, your leader can provide one.

- Let's read together our primary text. What major themes do you see here?
[A call to Christian maturity, characteristics of a mature believer, warning against apostasy](#)
- After reading chapter 5:12-14, how would you describe someone who is "unskilled in the word of righteousness"? How would you evaluate yourself? When you open the Bible do you feel comfortable?
[Someone who is unskilled in the "word of righteousness" is someone that cannot properly handle the message that leads to salvation. They are a child that requires repetitive teaching and lives off the milk of the word. This is not a problem for a new believer, but it is a problem of ultimate significance for one who has already been trained \(not new to the church and the message of Christ\).](#)
- The Bible does not say that all Christians should be pastors or elders, but it does say that we should all be capable of teaching the basic principles of the oracles of God (v.12). Are you able? What is your framework for teaching someone the principles of the faith?
[As disciples of Christ, we should always be reviewing the basic principles of God \(the fundamentals of the faith – sin, repentance, faith, the gospel, etc.\). \[Ask the question: How did you learn the basics of the Bible? Who taught you? How did they teach you?\]](#)
- Verse 14 speaks of the spiritually mature, those who train their powers of discernment. What does this mean?
[Only those who have diligently studied the Scriptures and have trained their powers of discernment can handle the "meat" of God's word. These learners of the Bible can distinguish good from evil and their spiritual maturity has lead them and continues to lead them to moral maturity.](#)

- Who is ultimately responsible for the spiritual growth of a believer – the Church or the individual?
Ultimately, the individual is responsible for their spiritual growth. The church's role in the growth of the believer is to equip the saints for work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12), but ultimate responsibility falls on the individual (2 Timothy 2:15).
- In chapter 6, the author speaks of elementary doctrine. What is it and why did he mention those things specifically to his audience?
 - 1. A foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith in God** – Many in the church were returning to Judaism and its emphasis on works. Faith in God through works would not save them.
 - 2. Instructions about washings and the laying on of hands** – Many in the church were focused on ceremonial washings (OT law) rather than unity in Christ through Christian baptism.
 - 3. Resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment** – The author was explaining that while this topic is important it is not of supreme importance. Rather, what is supreme is Christ being our advocate on the day of judgment.
- What does apostasy mean? Is it possible for a believer “fall away” from faith?
Like the parable of the sower, the truth of the gospel lands in several types of soil. Some reject the truth of Jesus, some believe but turn away from the Lord when the world becomes more attractive to them than God, and some seeds land in healthy soil, producing fruit and healthy roots that anchor them to the ground. Those who never bear fruit and do not produce anchoring roots are susceptible to finally falling away – they hear, taste, and even share in the Holy Spirit, but never truly surrender to Jesus. **One who has true saving faith can never lose their salvation (John 5:24, Rom 8:39; 11:29, 1 Cor 1:6-8, Phil 1:6; 2 Thess 3:3)**. [This was not a message intended to incite fear, but a clear warning to those who did not believe and an exhortation to those with saving faith, to press on.]

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. What does tonight's conversation lead you to pray for?