



Bible Study: Hebrews

Outline and Reflection

Hebrews: The Stories of Great People of Faith
Paul, Onesimus, and Philemon

How to Love the Difficult Person: Forbearance

The heroes God used were not normal in-the-box people or perfect people. Some were loud, quiet, tax collectors, orphans, prostitutes, etc. Many of the people God used throughout history were the “difficult people.”

Scripture is full of imperfect people with imperfect stories. We often want to hide our differences, the tender places that set us apart from others. God’s response is that His strength is more evident in our weaknesses.

Spend some time in prayer and search your heart to identify those areas that are weaknesses for you. Are there tender places in your heart that you feel set you apart so that you hide those differences?

Forbearance is patient self control, restraint and tolerance. It means we refrain from exercising a right and choose to extend grace beyond what someone deserves.

Are you a steadfast friend? Do you have steadfast friends in your life who extend grace and forbearance? How can you allow God to cultivate forbearance in your own heart?

“Learning to see an imperfect person perfectly.”
Sam Keene

Philemon was transformed by Jesus through Paul’s influence. He quickly became a leader in the local church. As a leader he felt he needed to try to change and control Onesimus, who had always been difficult.

Do we look at others and think we should control and change them?
Or give them what they deserve?

Do you personally relate to any of the people in our reading? Paul, Philemon, or Onesimus? Are there others in your life who remind you of one or more of them?

We need to push through our hurt and forgive people for not meeting our expectations.

Is there someone you need to forgive? Spend some time in prayer surrendering the hurt and disappointment and ask God to help you forgive.

In choosing to extend grace, we are allowing a great work.

God sees us as children forgiven by His grace.
Are there people you need to choose to see differently?

Relationships are complicated, but we can choose to hold on and trust God.

Additional Scripture to Ponder

And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

2 Corinthians 12:9

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:26-28