

City On A Hill



LIVING OUT YOUR FAITH



Life Group Guide

Hebrews 12–13

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To shine the light of Jesus and
reveal His kingdom in our city and beyond.

From Church At The Gabba



We are so glad you are journeying together in
God's Word as a life group.

At Church At The Gabba, our mission is:

**To shine the light of Jesus and
reveal His kingdom in our city and beyond.**

This City On A Hill life group guide has been prepared
by Church At The Gabba to help groups follow Jesus
together through Hebrews 12–13 and live out His kingdom
in everyday life.



Find Out More

gabbachurch.org

Visit our website for more information, ministries,
service details, and ways to connect.



A Prayer For Your Group

Lord, keep our groups centred on Jesus,
united in love, and faithful in your Word.
May we shine Your light in our city and beyond,
so that many would come to know You.
Amen.





About This Series



As we move forward as a church, it is our desire that we live out our mission together: 'To shine the light of Jesus and reveal His kingdom in our city and beyond.' As we explore how to do this, Hebrews 12–13 helps us make that mission practical in our everyday lives. These chapters call a tired and pressured community to keep their eyes on Jesus, receive God's formation, live as citizens of an unshakeable kingdom, practise a distinctive common life, follow Jesus beyond the places of comfort, and become a people shaped by the God of peace.



A Suggested Life Group Rhythm



Welcome — Share briefly, reconnect, and notice where God has been at work.



Read — Read the week's passage aloud. Consider using two readers or two translations.



Discuss — Work through the questions naturally. You do not need to answer every question.



Practise — Choose one concrete response to carry into the coming week.



Pray — Pray from the passage and for one another, the church, the city and beyond.



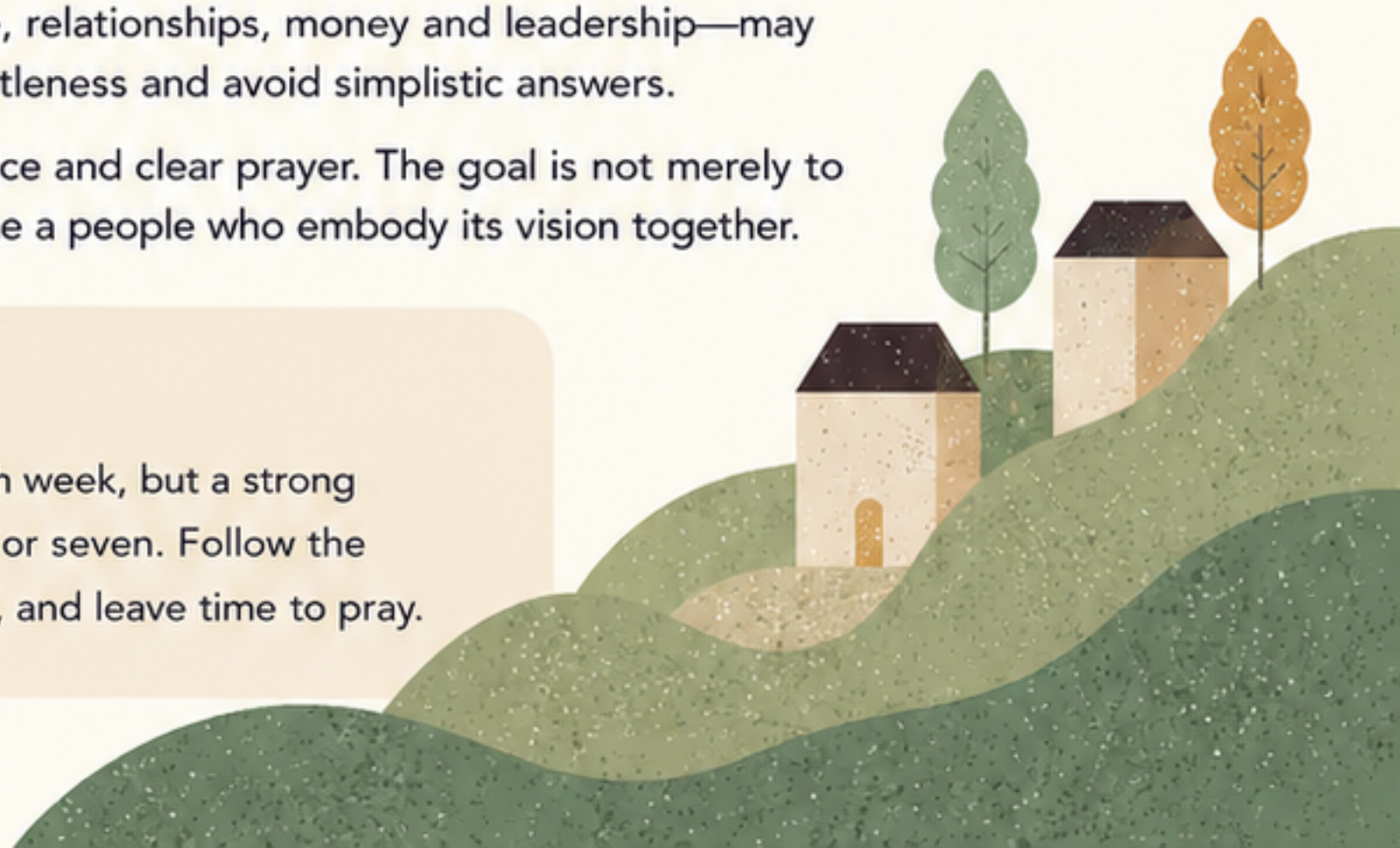
For Group Leaders

- Let the passage set the agenda. The questions move from observation to interpretation, application and prayer.
- Create room for different levels of biblical confidence. Invite participation without putting anyone on the spot.
- Some themes—suffering, discipline, relationships, money and leadership—may touch personal pain. Lead with gentleness and avoid simplistic answers.
- Aim to finish with one shared practice and clear prayer. The goal is not merely to understand Hebrews, but to become a people who embody its vision together.



Leader Reminder:

Ten questions are provided each week, but a strong conversation may only need six or seven. Follow the Spirit, keep the passage central, and leave time to pray.



Week 1

Eyes On The Hill



Hebrews 12:1-3



Big Idea

The Christian life is a long-distance race run together. We endure by laying aside what hinders us and fixing our attention on Jesus, who has already run the path before us.



Before You Begin

This opening week establishes the posture for the whole series: not frantic effort, but faithful endurance centred on Jesus.



Read the Passage

Read Hebrews 12:1-3 aloud. Pause briefly, then invite the group to name a word, phrase or image that stood out.



Discuss Together

1. As you arrive tonight, where do you feel energised, and where do you feel tired or discouraged?
2. What words, images or movements stand out to you in the race metaphor of verses 1-3?
3. How does the 'great cloud of witnesses' connect our faith with the story and faithfulness of God's people before us?
4. Verse 1 distinguishes between 'sin' and 'everything that hinders.' What are some things that may not be sinful in themselves but can still weigh down our discipleship?
5. Why do you think the writer emphasises perseverance rather than speed, success or comparison?



Discuss Together



6. What does it look like in ordinary life to 'fix our eyes on Jesus' rather than simply trying harder?
7. How do the cross, the joy set before Jesus, and His present place of authority help us interpret hardship?
8. Where are you most tempted at present to 'grow weary and lose heart'?
9. What is one weight, distraction, pattern or fear that God may be inviting you to lay aside?
10. How can this group help one another run faithfully this week rather than leaving each person to struggle alone?



Practise This Week

Shared Response

Name one 'weight' you will intentionally lay aside this week. Each day, pause for five minutes, reread Hebrews 12:2-3, and consciously turn your attention back to Jesus.



Pray

- For renewed attention to Jesus amid distraction and weariness.
- For courage to release what hinders faithful discipleship.
- For the church to become a community that helps people endure.



“May the God of peace ... equip you with everything good for doing His will.”

— Hebrews 13:20–21



Formed On The Hill



Hebrews 12:4–17



Big Idea

God's grace does not leave us unchanged. In hardship and community, He forms us toward maturity, peace and holiness, strengthening what is weak and healing what is wounded.

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Before You Begin

This passage does not teach that every hardship is a direct punishment from God. It invites believers to see that even within hardship, God can train, mature and restore His children.

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Read the Passage

Read Hebrews 12:4–17 aloud. Pause briefly, then invite the group to name a word, phrase or image that stood out.

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Discuss Together

1. What thoughts or emotions arise for you when you hear the word 'discipline'?
 2. How does the writer reframe the community's struggle in verses 4–11, and what is hopeful about that reframing?
 3. What is the difference between punishment that merely condemns and formation that seeks growth, restoration and maturity?
 4. In what ways does the parent-child picture help us understand God's care? Where should we also be careful not to press the analogy too far?
 5. What might it mean to 'share in His holiness' and produce a 'harvest of righteousness and peace' in everyday life?
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Discuss Together



6. Verses 12–13 call the community to *strengthen* weak hands and knees and make level paths. What would this look like in a life group or church?
 7. Why do you think the pursuit of peace and holiness belong together in verse 14?
 8. How can a ‘root of bitterness’ begin, and how can it damage more than the person who first carries it?
 9. What does Esau’s story reveal about trading long-term inheritance for immediate appetite or relief?
 10. Where might God be inviting you toward training, healing, reconciliation or a more mature response in this season?
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Practise This Week

Shared Response

Choose one area of formation: a relationship to repair, a pattern to practise, a wound to bring into the light, or a responsibility to embrace. Take one specific step before the group meets again.

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Pray

- For grace to recognise God’s forming work without minimising pain.
- For peace, holiness and healing in strained relationships.
- For those who feel weak, wounded, discouraged or spiritually tired.



“May the God of peace ... equip you with everything good for doing His will.”

— Hebrews 13:20–21



The City On The Hill



Hebrews 12:18–29



Big Idea

In Jesus, we have come to Mount Zion—the joyful city of the living God. We receive an unshakeable kingdom and are called to live with gratitude, reverence and hope.



Before You Begin

The passage contrasts the fear of Sinai with the welcome of Zion, while still taking God's holiness seriously. Christian worship holds confidence and awe together.



Read the Passage

Read Hebrews 12:18–29 aloud. Pause briefly, then invite the group to name a word, phrase or image that stood out.



Discuss Together

1. How do the places, cities and communities we belong to shape the way we understand ourselves and behave?
2. What contrasts do you notice between Mount Sinai in verses 18–21 and Mount Zion in verses 22–24?
3. What does the statement 'you have come to Mount Zion' suggest about the present identity of those who belong to Jesus?
4. Which part of the picture of the heavenly city most captures your imagination, comforts you or challenges you?
5. How does Jesus as mediator—and His blood that speaks a better word—stand at the centre of our welcome into this city?



Discuss Together



6. Why does the passage warn its hearers not to refuse the One who speaks?
 7. What things in life, culture or even church can be shaken? What remains unshakeable?
 8. How should receiving an unshakeable kingdom reshape our priorities, fears and ambitions?
 9. What might worship marked by both gratitude and reverent awe look like in gathered church and daily life?
 10. How can our life group and church become a visible 'outpost' of God's city in the neighbourhoods, workplaces and relationships around us?
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Practise This Week

Shared Response

Complete a simple 'kingdom audit.' Notice one area shaped mostly by fear, status or instability, and choose one action that reflects trust in God's unshakeable kingdom.

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Pray

- Thank God for welcoming us through Jesus into His joyful city.
- For courage where familiar securities are being shaken.
- For our church to reveal the life and values of God's kingdom in the city.



“May the God of peace ... equip you with everything good for doing His will.”

— Hebrews 13:20–21



Life On The Hill

Hebrews 13:1–6



Big Idea

The light of Jesus becomes visible through a distinctive common life: enduring love, generous hospitality, solidarity with those who suffer, faithful relationships and contentment rooted in God's presence.

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Before You Begin

Hebrews moves from a majestic vision of worship to remarkably practical relationships. The life of God's city is seen in how people are welcomed, remembered, honoured and cared for.

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Read the Passage

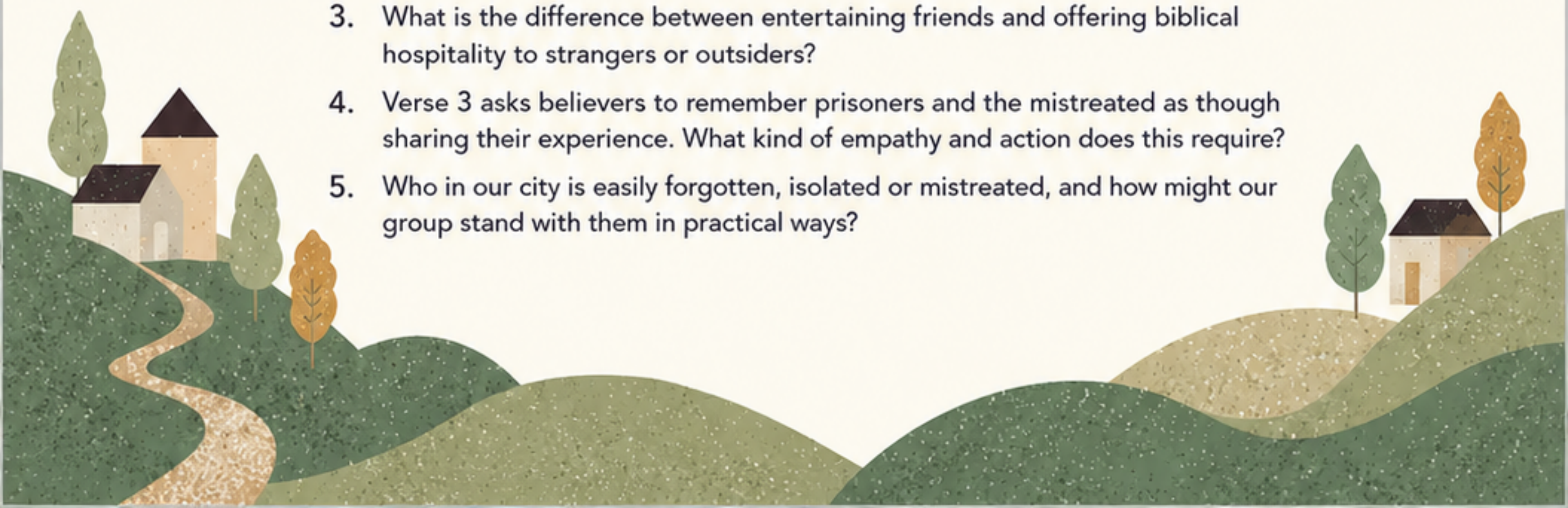
Read Hebrews 13:1–6 aloud. Pause briefly, then invite the group to name a word, phrase or image that stood out.

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Discuss Together

1. Which instruction in verses 1–6 feels most natural to you, and which feels most challenging?
2. Why might the writer need to say, 'Keep on loving one another'? What can cause love within a church community to fade?
3. What is the difference between entertaining friends and offering biblical hospitality to strangers or outsiders?
4. Verse 3 asks believers to remember prisoners and the mistreated as though sharing their experience. What kind of empathy and action does this require?
5. Who in our city is easily forgotten, isolated or mistreated, and how might our group stand with them in practical ways?





Discuss Together



6. How do faithfulness, honour and integrity in our closest relationships contribute to the public witness of the church?
 7. Why is the love of money spiritually dangerous, even when a person does not consider themselves wealthy?
 8. How is Christian contentment grounded not in having enough, but in God's promise never to leave or forsake us?
 9. Where might the confession 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid' speak into a current fear or pressure?
 10. What is one practice from this passage that our group could take up together rather than only as individuals?
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Practise This Week

Shared Response

Choose one concrete act of neighbour-love: welcome someone, share a meal, contact an isolated person, support someone suffering, practise generosity, or simplify a purchase in order to give.

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Pray

- For love that continues when relationships require patience and sacrifice.
- For people who are imprisoned, mistreated, isolated or overlooked.
- For contentment and freedom from fear, greed and comparison.



“May the God of peace ... equip you with everything good for doing His will.”

— Hebrews 13:20–21



Outside The Hill



Hebrews 13:7–16



Big Idea

Jesus calls His people beyond comfort, respectability and self-protection. We go to Him 'outside the camp,' bearing His name and offering lives of praise, goodness and generous sharing.

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Before You Begin

The church shines not by protecting a safe religious centre, but by following Jesus into the places of need, rejection and costly love.

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Read the Passage

Read Hebrews 13:7–16 aloud. Pause briefly, then invite the group to name a word, phrase or image that stood out.

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Discuss Together

1. Who has modelled faithful Christian living for you, and what part of their faith is worth imitating?
2. What is the difference between imitating a leader's faith and copying their personality, preferences or platform?
3. How does the truth that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" provide stability in times of change?
4. What kinds of 'strange teachings' or spiritual distractions can draw Christians away from the grace of Jesus today?
5. How can religious performance, belonging or habit replace a heart that is genuinely strengthened by grace?





Discuss Together



6. What did it mean for Jesus to suffer 'outside the city gate,' and what does the invitation to go to Him 'outside the camp' communicate?
7. Where might following Jesus place us alongside people, needs or causes that are uncomfortable, costly or socially unimpressive?
8. How does the statement 'here we do not have an enduring city' challenge our attachment to comfort, reputation, property or success?
9. What is a 'sacrifice of praise,' and how is it different from praise that is easy or convenient?
10. How do doing good and sharing with others become acts of worship that reveal God's kingdom beyond the church gathering?



Practise This Week

Shared Response

Take one 'outside the camp' action. Go toward a person, place or need that would normally remain beyond your routine, and bring the presence, dignity and generosity of Jesus.



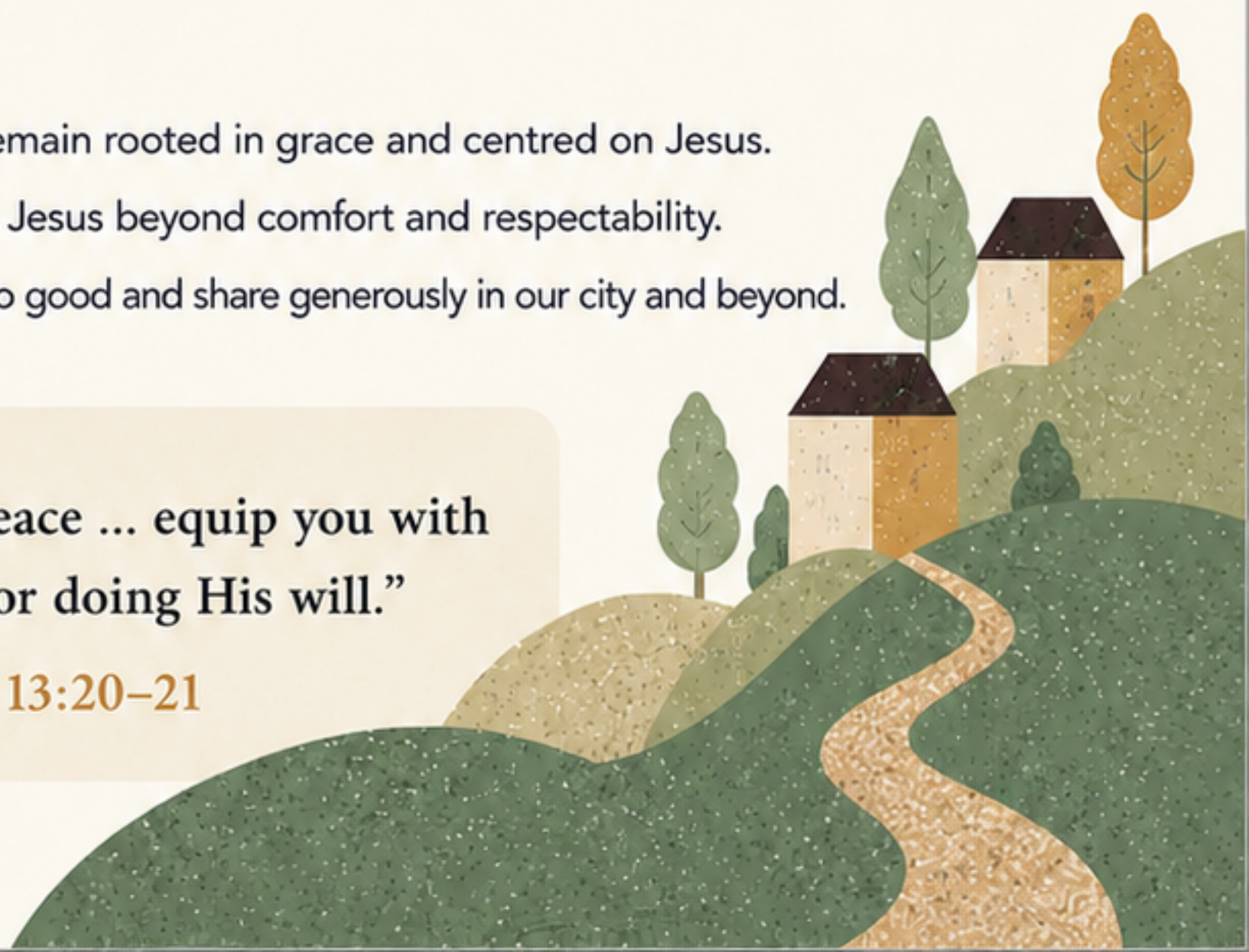
Pray

- For discernment to remain rooted in grace and centred on Jesus.
- For courage to follow Jesus beyond comfort and respectability.
- For opportunities to do good and share generously in our city and beyond.



"May the God of peace ... equip you with everything good for doing His will."

— Hebrews 13:20–21



Peace On The Hill



Hebrews 13:17–25



Big Idea

The God of peace, who raised the great Shepherd, equips His people for every good work. Healthy leadership, faithful prayer and God's active grace help the church live its calling together.

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Before You Begin

The series closes not with self-reliance, but with a benediction. God is the One who equips, works within and sustains His people as they participate in His mission.

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Read the Passage

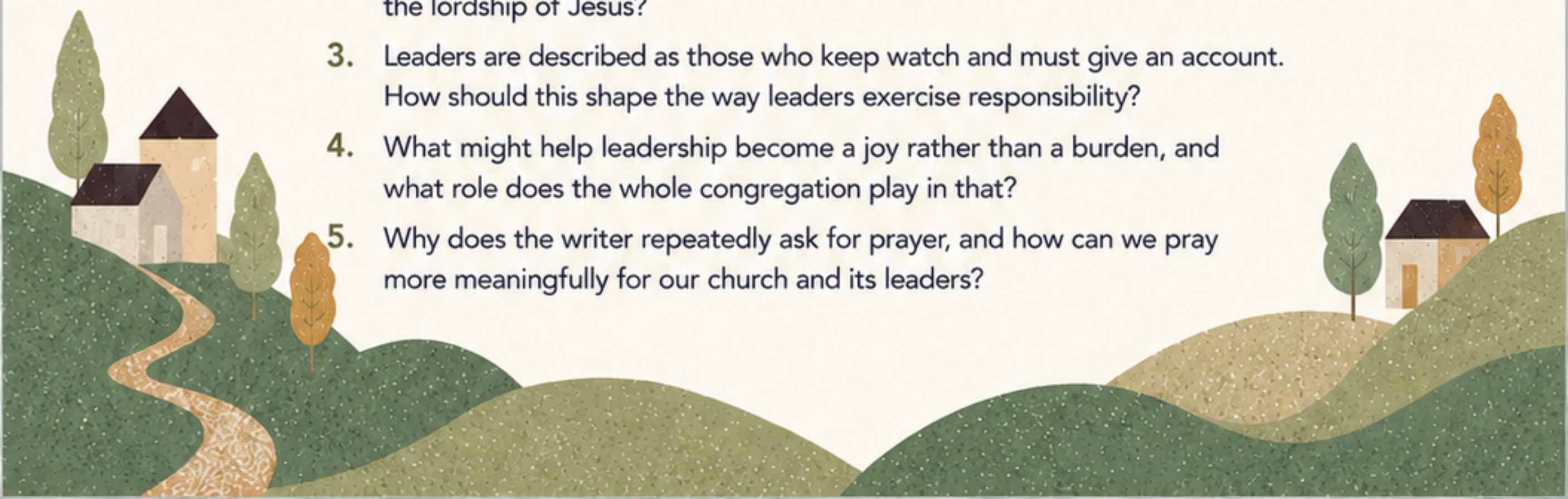
Read Hebrews 13:17–25 aloud. Pause briefly, then invite the group to name a word, phrase or image that stood out.

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Discuss Together

1. What qualities or practices help spiritual leadership become healthy, trustworthy and life-giving?
2. How should we understand obedience and submission in Christian community in a way that includes trust, humility, accountability and the lordship of Jesus?
3. Leaders are described as those who keep watch and must give an account. How should this shape the way leaders exercise responsibility?
4. What might help leadership become a joy rather than a burden, and what role does the whole congregation play in that?
5. Why does the writer repeatedly ask for prayer, and how can we pray more meaningfully for our church and its leaders?





Discuss Together



6. What is significant about God being named 'the God of peace' in the closing blessing?
7. How does the picture of Jesus as the 'great Shepherd of the sheep' shape both leadership and discipleship?
8. What would it look like for God to equip us with 'everything good' for doing His will in our homes, work, church and neighbourhoods?
9. How do we hold together our active obedience and the promise that God Himself is working in us?
10. Looking back over the series, what one commitment would help us more faithfully shine the light of Jesus and reveal His kingdom in our city and beyond?



Practise This Week

Shared Response

Create a simple group covenant for the coming season: one commitment to Jesus, one commitment to one another, and one commitment to the city. Pray the blessing of Hebrews 13:20–21 over each other.



Pray

- For the God of peace to restore, equip and work within His church.
- For humble, courageous and accountable spiritual leadership.
- For the group's commitments to become concrete expressions of mission.



"May the God of peace ... equip you with everything good for doing His will."

— Hebrews 13:20–21



Keep Shining The Light



Thank you for journeying together through City On A Hill. We've fixed our eyes on Jesus, endured well, and discovered the beauty of living as His people. Now, as we go forward, let's keep living out Hebrews 12–13 together—encouraging one another, doing good, and shining the light of Jesus in our city and beyond.



Carry It Forward

- Keep your eyes on Jesus.
- Receive God's forming work.
- Live as citizens of His unshakeable kingdom.
- Love and serve one another.
- Go with peace into the city and beyond.



Pray



“May the God of peace ... equip you with everything good for doing His will.”

— Hebrews 13:20–21



May your group continue to shine the light of Jesus and reveal His kingdom in our city and beyond.

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