

Mt. Lebanon Church/ Big Isaac Community Church

Sunday School Lesson

2.22.2026

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Run Toward Holiness

Hebrews 12: 1 - 17

As believers, in order to run toward holiness, we must evaluate our priorities to see whether or not they align with God's will, and to do so requires a willingness to let go of everything in our life that hinders our relationship with God. So, why are we encouraged to run toward holiness, because God knows that running away is only a temporary means of escape. Therefore, we run toward holiness because through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit we recognize our need for a savior, and we recognize our dependence upon Christ, so that we might understand the purpose of our life here on earth. So, by faith, through prayer and obedience in the study of God's word, we seek wisdom, we seek knowledge, and we pray for understanding, by changing our mindset from just breaking free of the situations and circumstances in our life, to finding his divine solutions through surrendering and turning complete control of our life over to God. So, God's word encourages us to run to him, where he is waiting to welcome us, regardless of our condition, therefore, we do not need to be perfect to approach the throne of grace, for he will offer up understanding and help.

Proverbs 18: 10,....the name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it, and is safe....

Gods' mercy, his grace, his faithfulness, and his power and might, provide an absolute security to those who are willing to live in a right relationship with him. So, this means that as believers, we make active, intentional choices to trust wholly and completely in God. We are called to find security in our salvation, rather than looking for it in our own self-righteous abilities or material worldly possessions. So, for the righteous, who are those made right with God, through faith in Christ Jesus, can run to him with the confidence of knowing that we are safe in him, and we know that our enemies cannot reach us, for we are safe in his dwelling.

Hebrews 12: 1 – 2,....seeing we....are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside....the sin that doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race....set before us....looking unto Jesus the....finisher of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God....

Our greatest example of running toward holiness was Christ himself, for his motivation came from knowing that his finished work on earth would bring redemption for all of humanity, at which point he would return to the Father. Therefore, it was his obedience, through suffering, that made the task set before him a joy. This encourages us as believers to endure hardship and motivate us to keep on going when facing trials and tribulations, looking past our present suffering, and finding joy in the eternal perspective of our hope. So, we draw on our strength, by looking unto Jesus, putting away the lustful desires of the world that doth so easily hinder our relationship with God, and we persevere in our faith in Christ Jesus, which is the source of our spiritual strength.

Hebrews 12: 3 – 8,....consider him that endured....contradiction....against himself....lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds....ye have not yet resisted....ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you....despise not the chastening of the Lord....for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth....if ye endure chastening....God dwelleth with you as with sons....but if we be without chastisement....then ye are bastards, and not sons....

God does not want us as believers to grow weary in our service unto him. So, through the truth of his word, he gave unto us the greatest of examples in his Son Christ Jesus, and that example shows unto us how to gain strength, motivation, and perspective, for he wants us to understand that life's struggles are real, and only discipline, through obedience, can bring about spiritual maturity in our life, shaping us into the image and the likeness of his Son, through spiritual chastisement, for spiritual chastisement is not designed for destruction, but to bring us, as believers, into repentance and spiritual growth, when we run toward his holiness. This gives unto us purpose, and motivation, which helps us to respond with confidence, showing the divine love of Gods saving grace to the world.

Proverbs 3: 11 – 12,....my son, despise not the chastening of the Lord, neither be weary of his correction....for whom the Lord loveth he correcteth, even as a father correcteth the son in whom he delighteth....

Divine discipline is a sign of the power of God's love. It encourages us as believers to accept chastisement with humility, so that it might guide us into a deeper relationship with God. It is an experience that is beneficial for our spiritual peace of mind, giving unto us the strength to trust in God with our whole heart, leaning not unto our own understanding, and in all our ways acknowledging him, and allowing him to direct our paths.

Hebrews 12: 9 – 11,....we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence, shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of Spirits, and love....for they....chastened....after their own pleasure, but he for our prophet, that we might be partakers of his holiness....no chastening for the present seemeth....joyous, but grievous, nevertheless afterward it yielded the peaceable fruit of righteousness....

Gods discipline is a purposeful action, designed for the believers ultimate good, so that we might share in his holiness. It is not temporary, but it is based upon the limited knowledge or emotions of the world, and upon the divine wisdom of God, which is our eternal benefit. It is a profitable process that produces within the body of Christ, a lasting gathering of righteousness and peace, which encourages every believer to achieve Gods purpose and plan, in preparation for our eternity with him.

Psalms 94: 12,....blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O Lord, and teachest him out of thy law....

Discipline is a blessing from God, as he teaches us faithfulness through his word. It is our obedience to the promises and commandments of his word, that serves as our motivation to receive his understanding through the example of Christ wisdom and knowledge. This preparedness ensures us of our security and is our continued guidance into the righteousness of God.

Hebrews 12: 12 – 17,....wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and feeble knees....make strait paths....lest that....be turned out of the way, but let it rather be healed....follow peace with all men, and holiness....looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God....for....afterward....he was rejected....he found no place of repentance....though he sought it carefully....

As believers, we must actively guard our hearts against falling away from the grace of God. Therefore, we must maintain our spiritual accountability, remaining consistent in our actions, in our thoughts, and in our motivation, holding true to our spiritual values, pursuing after a deeper relationship with God. So, we run toward holiness, because holiness is not optional, it is essential, and it is non-negotiable in our life in Christ. It represents a life that is transformed by the grace of God, a life that is set apart from the world, which is necessary, so that our life as a believer might align with Gods purpose and plan for us, which results in being accepted by him. As believers, we must pursue holiness. Which comes by the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, it guards us against the consequences of sin, it brings us to true happiness and peace of mind, it leads us into a closer walk with God, and into our ultimate hope of living eternally with God.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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