

APPLICATION

- Are there things that challenge your confidence in Jesus? Bring them to God in prayer. Ask Him to help you hold on to your faith without compromise.
- Look back and recall God's victories and faithfulness in your life. How may His faithfulness in the past fuel your confidence in the midst of trials and suffering?
- Who around you is going through a hard time right now? How can you stand with them and remind them of the better, abiding possession we have in Christ?

PRAYER

- Thank Jesus for enduring the weight of suffering on our behalf. Thank Him for the faith that enables us to endure hardship, knowing that in Him, we have a better possession.
- Ask God to help you fix your eyes on Jesus so you can walk by faith, not by sight, and to resist the temptation to cling to worldly things as you persevere and endure.
- Pray for opportunities to encourage someone going through a difficult time. Pray for the person's heart to be open and for the Holy Spirit to guide you as you preach the gospel.

JESUS >

Better Possession

WEEK 10

WARM-UP

- What is something you own that you worked hard for or saved up for? Was all the effort worth it?
- Share a goal that you aim to accomplish this year. What are the things you need to do to accomplish them?
- When you feel like you've reached a hopeless situation, what do you do to make yourself feel better?

WORD

*³²But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. **HEBREWS 10:32-34***

(Read also **HEBREWS 10:35-38**.)

Suffering is a reality in the life of every believer. In fact, it was the reality the believers were facing, which is why the book of Hebrews was written. In the passage above, the author of Hebrews is encouraging his readers and provides clear directions on how they can endure suffering. They are to remember that in their hardships and sufferings, they ought not to throw away their confidence in Christ for they have a *better possession* in Him. What lessons can we glean from this?



1 We can endure when we know we have a better and abiding possession.

³²But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, ³³sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. ³⁴For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. **HEBREWS 10:32-34**

The believers had endured all kinds of hardships—insults, persecution, suffering alongside those imprisoned, their property being taken, and even facing death—for the sake of the gospel. The author of Hebrews was commending them for their faith and reminding them of the greater reality they look forward to—a *better, abiding possession* in Christ. This possession is part of every Christian's spiritual bank account: forgiveness of sins, a righteous standing with God, eternal life, and so much more. Therefore, our faith in God and our suffering is not in vain. How do you keep a heavenward perspective even in the midst of trials?

2 We can endure when we know that we have a great reward.

³⁵Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. ³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. **HEBREWS 10:35-36**

At a time when discouragement was at its highest, when the believers were on the brink of giving up on their faith

and trying to go back to their old ways, the author urges them to not throw away their confidence, for there is a great reward. We can endure when we know that a *great reward* in Christ awaits us. We can have hope, endure in faith, and live with confidence, knowing that God is faithful and will not overlook the endurance, diligence, and perseverance of His people. Is it worth it to keep our faith and not “throw away” our confidence in Jesus? How have you experienced this in your life?

3 We can endure when we know that Jesus is coming back soon.

³⁷For, “Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; ³⁸but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” **HEBREWS 10:37-38**

The author of Hebrews puts things in perspective: we can endure not because life is easy but because we look forward to eternity. Trials have a way of clouding our vision, but the *righteous shall live by faith*. Just as marathoners endure a long race anticipating that every stride brings them closer to the finish line, we who put our faith in Christ endure and live by faith with full certainty that He will come back soon and that we will spend eternity with God. How does this truth help us not shrink back or turn away from Christ?
