

PRAYER TEAM GUIDE

Warning Four: Against Willful Sinning

Hebrews Lesson 5 · Hebrews 10:26 to 39

One Hour of Prayer Covering the Teaching Session

OUR CENTRAL PRAYER

“Lord, search our hearts, turn us away from willful sin, restore those who have backslidden, and help us live by faith, holding fast to Christ.”

This is the fourth warning in Hebrews. The earlier warnings spoke about drifting from the Word, doubting the Word and growing dull toward the Word. This warning speaks about **despising the Word through willful sin**.

Before the Hour Begins: The Leader’s Opening

The leader opens the time with these words:

“Sisters, during this hour we are going to pray through Hebrews 10:26 to 39. This is a serious warning, but it is also a call to examine ourselves, repent, return to the Lord, hold fast to our faith and live confidently in Christ.

We are not here to condemn anyone. We are here to let the Word of God search our own hearts first.

Please do not spend this hour thinking about someone else who needs to repent. Ask the Holy Spirit, ‘Lord, what are You saying to me?’

As we pray, let the Holy Spirit bring conviction, repentance, restoration, holiness, faith and endurance.

Let us begin by drawing near to God.”

1. Drawing Near to God

0 TO 5 MINUTES

“Father, draw us near to You.”

Before we pray about sin, repentance or correction, we come close to God. Christ has already opened the way for us.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 10:22 (KJV)

“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 10:19 to 23 · James 4:8 · Psalm 73:28

FOR THE LEADER

Read Hebrews 10:22 slowly and let the women become quiet before the Lord. Then say:

“Before we pray about sin, repentance or correction, let us first draw near to God. Christ has opened the way for us.”

Allow about one minute for silent personal prayer, then begin praying aloud.

PRAY FOR

- A renewed relationship with God.
- Believers to enjoy fellowship with Christ.
- Hearts that respond to the salvation Christ has provided.

- A deeper closeness with God.
- A church that does not only know doctrine but lives it.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, thank You for the new and living way opened for us through Jesus Christ. Draw us near to You. Do not allow us merely to know what Christ has done; help us live in fellowship with You and enjoy the fruit of our salvation.”

LEADER SAYS

“Now that we have drawn near to God, let us allow His light to shine into our own hearts. We are not examining someone else. We are asking God to examine us.”

2. Search Our Hearts

5 TO 10 MINUTES

“Lord, show me what is not pleasing to You.”

The lesson calls believers to examine themselves and to test whether they are truly walking in the faith.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 13:5 (KJV)

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Psalms 139:23, 24 · Lamentations 3:40 · 1 Corinthians 11:28

FOR THE LEADER

Ask everyone to pray silently for a moment:

“Lord, show me anything in my life that is not pleasing to You.”

Do not rush this section. Allow time for quiet reflection before moving into praying together.

PRAY FOR

- An honest look at our own hearts.
- Hearts willing to receive correction.
- Eyes to see where we have compromised.
- Freedom from deceiving ourselves.
- Real evidence of faith in daily life.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Lord, search our hearts. Show us anything that is displeasing to You. Keep us from deceiving ourselves. Help us honestly examine our walk with You and respond to Your correction.”

LEADER SAYS

“When God reveals something, He does not reveal it so that we can hide it. He reveals it so that we can surrender it. Let us now pray specifically for victory over willful sin.”

3. Protection from Willful Sin

10 TO 15 MINUTES

“Father, keep us from knowingly choosing sin.”

The lesson describes willful sin as knowing the truth and deliberately choosing to keep on rebelling against it.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 10:26 (KJV)

“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Psalms 19:12, 13 · Romans 6:12 to 14 · 1 Peter 2:11

FOR THE LEADER

Explain clearly:

“The lesson separates willful sin from ignorance, a moment of weakness or a single failure. We are praying against the attitude that knowingly hears God’s Word and says, ‘I understand, but I will disobey anyway.’”

PRAY FOR

- Protection from deliberate rebellion.
- Grace to say no to sin we know is sin.
- Victory over repeated patterns of disobedience.
- Reverence for God’s Word.
- Hearts that submit to Christ as Lord.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, keep us from willful rebellion. When Your Word tells us what is right, give us grace to obey. Do not allow us to knowingly choose sin while claiming to follow Christ. Give us holy fear and a heart of submission.”

LEADER SAYS

“The next part of the lesson asks us to consider whether our profession of faith is genuine. Let us pray that every person who identifies with Christ will truly surrender to Christ.”

4. A Faith That Is Real

15 TO 20 MINUTES

“Lord, let our faith be genuine.”

The lesson warns about those who profess faith but do not truly possess it. Saying the right words is not the same as a surrendered heart.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:21 to 23 (KJV)

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

James 2:17 · 1 John 2:19 · Titus 1:16

FOR THE LEADER

Tell the women:

“Let us pray for ourselves first. Ask God to make our profession of faith genuine and our lives consistent with what we profess.”

Then pray for those who may be connected to the church outwardly but have never truly surrendered to Christ.

PRAY FOR

- Genuine saving faith.
- True surrender to Jesus Christ.
- Lives that show our faith is real.
- Protection from simply fitting into Christian culture.
- People who profess Christ but have never truly surrendered to Him.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Lord, give us genuine faith. Do not allow us to be satisfied with a profession of faith while our hearts remain unsundered. Let our lives show the reality of our relationship with Jesus Christ.”

LEADER SAYS

“But there are also genuine believers who have wandered. The lesson separates the backslidden believer from the one whose faith was never real. Let us now pray for those who have wandered from fellowship with the Lord.”

5. Repentance for the Backslidden

20 TO 25 MINUTES

“Lord, keep me close to You.”

The lesson describes a true believer who has backslidden as someone grieved by sin, who longs for restoration and turns back to the Lord.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Psalm 51:10 to 12 (KJV)

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

1 John 1:9 · Proverbs 28:13 · Revelation 2:4, 5

FOR THE LEADER

Invite the women to think of people they know who have wandered, but remind them that the first prayer should be:

“Lord, keep me close to You.”

Then pray for backslidden believers to return.

PRAY FOR

- Backslidden believers to see where they are.
- Genuine repentance.
- Broken and contrite hearts.
- Restored fellowship with God.
- A return to obedience.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, bring back those who have wandered. Give them a broken and contrite heart. Remove the desire to justify or excuse sin. Restore the joy of salvation and bring them back into fellowship with You.”

LEADER SAYS

“Our repentance is possible because Christ has provided the perfect sacrifice. Let us now turn our hearts toward the precious blood of Jesus.”

6. Reverence for the Blood of Christ

25 TO 30 MINUTES

“Lord Jesus, thank You for Your precious blood.”

The lesson shows how serious it is to knowingly choose sin when Christ has already given His one perfect sacrifice for us.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 10:29 (KJV)

“Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

1 Peter 1:18, 19 · Hebrews 9:12 to 14 · Hebrews 10:19

FOR THE LEADER

Read Hebrews 10:29 or refer to it. Pause and allow the women to thank Jesus personally for His sacrifice. Then lead in thanksgiving and surrender.

PRAY FOR

- Deep gratitude for Christ’s sacrifice.
- Reverence for the blood of Jesus.
- A true understanding of how serious sin is.
- Hearts that treasure the grace of God.
- Believers who never treat Christ’s sacrifice as something common.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Lord Jesus, thank You for Your precious blood. Give us a deeper appreciation for the sacrifice You made for us. Let us never treat Your grace casually. May the cross produce holiness, gratitude and obedience in us.”

LEADER SAYS

“If we truly understand the sacrifice of Christ, that understanding should affect how we live. Let us now pray for holiness in every area of our daily lives.”

7. Holiness in Our Daily Walk

30 TO 35 MINUTES

“Father, make us holy.”

Genuine faith is seen in the way a believer lives each day.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 1:15, 16 (KJV)

“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Romans 12:1, 2 · 1 Thessalonians 4:3 to 7 · Hebrews 12:14

FOR THE LEADER

Ask the women to pray silently over three areas of their lives:

1. Personal life
2. Family and relationships
3. Ministry and public life

Then lead everyone in praying together.

PRAY FOR

- Holiness in our personal lives.
- Purity in thoughts and actions.
- Holiness in marriages and families.
- Integrity in ministry.
- A clear difference between God's people and the world.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

"Father, make us holy. Let our private lives honor You. Let our thoughts, words, relationships and decisions reflect Christ. May our lives show that we belong to Jesus."

LEADER SAYS

"When God's children wander, our Father does not simply ignore it. He lovingly corrects His children. Let us pray that we will respond rightly when God disciplines us."

8. God's Loving Correction and Restoration

35 TO 40 MINUTES

"Father, help us receive Your correction."

The lesson describes God's chastening as painful for a time, but in the end it produces the peaceable fruit of righteousness.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 12:11 (KJV)

"Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby."

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Proverbs 3:11, 12 · Revelation 3:19 · Psalm 94:12

FOR THE LEADER

Emphasize:

"God's correction is not rejection. Let us ask for humility to receive His correction and allow Him to produce righteousness in us."

PRAY FOR

- Believers to respond rightly to God's correction.
- Humility under God's discipline.
- Repentance rather than resistance.
- Restoration after failure.
- The fruit of righteousness.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

"Father, when You correct us, give us humility to receive Your discipline. Do not let us resist Your correction. Train us through it so that our lives produce the peaceable fruit of righteousness."

LEADER SAYS

"After warning comes encouragement. Hebrews does not leave us in fear. It calls us to confidence in the faithfulness of God. Let us now pray that we will hold fast."

9. Holding Fast to Our Confession

40 TO 45 MINUTES

“He is faithful.”

We hold fast, not because we are strong, but because the One we believe in is faithful.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 10:23 (KJV)

“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 4:14 · Hebrews 12:2 · 1 Corinthians 15:58

FOR THE LEADER

Ask everyone to say together, twice:

“He is faithful.”

Then pray for believers who are struggling, discouraged or tempted to give up.

PRAY FOR

- Faithfulness to Christ.
- Strength in difficult seasons.
- Confidence in God’s promises.
- Believers not to abandon their profession of faith.
- Churches that stay faithful to the truth of Scripture.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Lord Jesus, help us hold fast. When circumstances become difficult, keep us faithful. When we are discouraged, remind us that You are faithful. Do not allow us to abandon our hope in You.”

LEADER SAYS

“Holding fast matters most when faith becomes costly. The Hebrews endured affliction because they had confidence in their heavenly reward. Let us pray for endurance.”

10. Endurance Through Affliction

45 TO 50 MINUTES

“Father, strengthen those who are suffering.”

The Hebrew believers had endured affliction, stood with others who were suffering and stayed confident in their heavenly reward.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 10:35, 36 (KJV)

“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

James 1:2 to 4 · Romans 5:3 to 5 · Galatians 6:9

FOR THE LEADER

Invite the women to pray for these groups by name:

- Pastors and ministry leaders
- Families under pressure
- Believers facing financial difficulties
- Those facing rejection or persecution

- Those who are tired and discouraged

PRAY FOR

- Pastors and leaders under pressure.
- Families going through hardship.
- Believers enduring persecution or rejection.
- Strength in financial and relationship struggles.
- Patience to keep doing God's will.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

"Father, strengthen those who are suffering. Give endurance to pastors, leaders, families and believers who are under pressure. Help us not to grow weary in doing Your will. Give us grace to remain faithful."

LEADER SAYS

"The opposite of turning back is continuing by faith. Let us now pray that faith will become the way we live every day."

11. Living by Faith

50 TO 55 MINUTES

"Lord, teach us to live by faith."

The lesson concludes that the clear sign of someone who truly belongs to the Lord is that they live by faith.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 10:38 (KJV)

"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Habakkuk 2:4 · Romans 1:17 · 2 Corinthians 5:7

FOR THE LEADER

Say:

"Let us not pray only for faith to receive blessings. Let us pray for faith that remains faithful when circumstances are difficult."

Give the women a short moment of silence to bring one difficult situation before the Lord.

PRAY FOR

- Faith when circumstances are uncertain.
- Confidence in God's promises.
- Faith that leads to obedience.
- Faith that keeps going when answers are delayed.
- A generation of believers who walk by faith.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

"Lord, teach us to live by faith. When we cannot see the answer, help us trust You. When circumstances are difficult, help us believe Your promises. Let our faith be seen in our obedience and perseverance."

LEADER SAYS

"We have prayed about repentance, holiness, endurance and faith. Now let us finish this hour by placing our confidence completely in the faithfulness of God."

12. Confidence in Christ to the End

55 TO 60 MINUTES

“We are not of them who draw back.”

The lesson closes with confidence in God’s faithfulness and a call to keep living by faith.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 10:39 (KJV)

“But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Philippians 1:6 · John 10:27 to 29 · Romans 8:38, 39

FOR THE LEADER

Ask everyone to stand, if appropriate, and lead the women in declaring together:

“We are not of them who draw back.”

Then pray the closing prayer together.

PRAY FOR

- Assurance in Christ.
- Perseverance in faith.
- Confidence in God’s faithfulness.
- God to complete His work in His people.
- Grace to finish faithfully.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, thank You that our confidence is in You. Keep Your people faithful. Complete the work You have begun in us. Help us continue in faith, obedience and hope until the day we see Jesus.”

Closing Prayer Together

Father, we come before You in the precious name of Jesus Christ.

Thank You for the salvation You have provided through Your Son. Thank You for the new and living way opened for us through the blood of Jesus.

Lord, search our hearts. Show us every area of compromise, rebellion and disobedience. Keep us from willful sin. Do not allow us to hear Your Word and knowingly choose to disobey.

Give us genuine faith. Keep us from deceiving ourselves. Let our lives show the reality of our faith in Christ.

Father, we pray for every backslidden believer. Bring them home. Give them a broken and contrite heart. Restore their fellowship with You, and restore the joy of their salvation.

Teach us to honor the precious blood of Jesus. Make us holy in our personal lives, our marriages, our families and our ministries.

When You correct us, give us humility to receive Your discipline. Produce in us the peaceable fruit of righteousness.

Help us hold fast to our confession. Give strength to those who are suffering. Give endurance to pastors, leaders and families.

Teach us to live by faith. When we cannot see, help us trust. When we cannot understand, help us believe. When we are weary, help us continue.

Lord, You are faithful. Complete the work You have begun in us. Keep us faithful to Jesus Christ until the end.

**We choose faith over rebellion.
We choose obedience over willful sin.
We choose repentance over deceiving ourselves.
We choose holiness over compromise.
We choose to hold fast to Christ.**

In the precious and powerful name of Jesus Christ,

Amen.

Final Call and Response

The leader speaks the first line and the women respond.

Leader: "Lord, search our hearts."

Women: "Make us true and faithful before You."

Leader: "Lord, keep us from willful sin."

Women: "Give us grace to obey Your Word."

Leader: "Lord, restore the backslidden."

Women: "Bring them back into fellowship with You."

Leader: "Lord, make us holy."

Women: "Let our lives show our faith."

Leader: "Lord, help us hold fast."

Women: "We will trust in Your faithfulness."

Leader: "Lord, teach us to live by faith."

Women: "We will walk by faith and not by sight."

Three Phrases for the Prayer Team to Keep Praying

- 1. "Search our hearts."**
- 2. "Keep us from willful sin."**
- 3. "Help us live by faith."**

HOW THIS HOUR UNFOLDS

The prayer time follows the flow of the lesson, step by step:

1. Draw near to God.
2. Examine ourselves.
3. Turn from willful sin.
4. Hold a faith that is real.
5. Repent and return.
6. Walk in holiness.
7. Receive God's correction and restoration.
8. Hold fast.
9. Endure.
10. Live by faith.
11. Finish faithfully.