

PRAYER TEAM GUIDE

Warning Three: Falling Away Through Spiritual Immaturity

Hebrews Lesson 4 · Hebrews 5:11 to 6:3

One Hour of Prayer Covering the Teaching Session

OUR CENTRAL PRAYER

“Lord, take us from spiritual immaturity into spiritual maturity. Remove our dullness of hearing, give us hunger for the meat of Your Word, teach us to use Your Word in our lives, and help us move forward into a deeper knowledge of Christ.”

This lesson speaks about Christians who stay spiritually immature and so are poorly prepared for the pressures and challenges of life. It calls us to move from the **milk of the Word** to the **meat of the Word**, and to keep growing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

1. Growing into Spiritual Maturity

0 TO 5 MINUTES

“Father, mature Your people.”

The lesson warns that when believers do not press on beyond the basics, they can become stunted and spiritually immature, and poorly prepared for the storms of life.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 5:12 (KJV)

“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 4:13 to 15 · Colossians 1:28 · 2 Peter 3:18

PRAY FOR

- Christians who have stayed spiritually immature for many years.
- Believers to grow beyond the basic truths of salvation.
- Spiritual maturity that prepares God’s people for the pressures of life.
- Churches that deliberately build mature disciples.
- Leaders who model spiritual maturity.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, we ask You to mature Your people. Do not allow us to remain spiritually immature. Take us deeper into the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Give us spiritual strength to face the pressures and storms of life. Make us mature disciples who can help others grow.”

2. Freedom from Dullness of Hearing

5 TO 10 MINUTES

“Lord, give us ears to hear.”

The Hebrew believers had become dull of hearing. They had not shown the diligence needed to go deeper into God’s Word.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 5:11 (KJV)

“Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Matthew 11:15 · Mark 4:23, 24 · James 1:22

PRAY FOR

- Spiritual ears that hear God’s Word.
- Freedom from spiritual dullness.
- A fresh sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.
- Willingness to receive deeper and more difficult truths.
- Hearts that respond and do not only listen.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Lord, remove every kind of spiritual dullness from us. Give us ears to hear Your Word. Do not allow us to become tired, careless or indifferent toward Scripture. Make our hearts sensitive to Your Spirit and ready to receive everything You want to teach us.”

3. A Deep Hunger for God’s Word

10 TO 15 MINUTES

“Father, make us hungry for Your Word.”

The lesson names a lack of diligence in taking in and digesting God’s Word as one of the main reasons believers stay immature.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 2:2 (KJV)

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Psalms 119:97 · Psalm 119:103 · Jeremiah 15:16 · Matthew 4:4

PRAY FOR

- A hunger for steady, careful Bible study.
- A desire to understand Scripture deeply.
- Churches that teach the whole counsel of God.
- Women and families who love God’s Word.
- A renewed appetite for spiritual truth.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, create in us a deep hunger for Your Word. Let Scripture never become boring or ordinary to us. Give us a desire to study, understand, meditate upon and obey Your Word. May Your Word become our daily spiritual food.”

4. Moving from Milk to Meat

15 TO 20 MINUTES

“Lord, take us from milk to meat.”

The lesson describes the Hebrews as staying with the milk of the Word instead of moving on to the meat of the Word.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 5:13, 14 (KJV)

“For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

1 Corinthians 3:1, 2 · Ephesians 4:14, 15

PRAY FOR

- Believers to move beyond the first lessons of the faith.
- A deeper understanding of Bible doctrine.
- A hunger for mature teaching.
- Christians who can receive difficult biblical truths.
- Spiritual nourishment in place of spiritual hunger.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Lord, take us from milk to meat. Help us not to stay at the beginning level of our faith. Give us a desire to understand the deeper truths of Your Word. Make us spiritually nourished, strong and prepared for every challenge.”

5. Understanding Christ as Our High Priest

20 TO 25 MINUTES

“Lord Jesus, open our eyes to Your ministry for us.”

The writer is preparing to take his readers deeper into the ministry of Jesus as our Great High Priest. This truth gives us confidence to hold fast to our faith.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 4:14 to 16 (KJV)

“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 5:5 to 10 · Hebrews 7:24 to 27 · Hebrews 10:19 to 22

PRAY FOR

- A deeper understanding of Jesus as our Great High Priest.
- Understanding of what Christ is doing for us now.
- Confidence to hold fast to the faith.
- Believers to know that Christ gives power for daily Christian living.
- Greater comfort and confidence in Jesus.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Lord Jesus, open our understanding of Your ministry as our Great High Priest. Help us understand not only that You died for our sins, but that You are living and ministering for us now. Give us confidence to hold fast to our faith because of who You are.”

6. The Word Working in Us

25 TO 30 MINUTES

“Father, let Your Word change us.”

The lesson sets spiritual immaturity beside believers who receive the Word for what it truly is, the Word of God that works powerfully in those who believe.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (KJV)

“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 4:12 · Isaiah 55:11 · James 1:22

PRAY FOR

- The Word to work powerfully in every believer.
- Hearts that receive Scripture as God’s own Word.
- Obedience to what is taught.
- God’s Word to shape our thoughts, decisions and actions.
- Freedom from treating the Bible as information only.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, let Your Word work powerfully in us. Do not let us simply hear sermons or study lessons without being changed. Let Your Word transform our thinking, our decisions, our character and our daily lives.”

7. Ready to Share Our Faith

30 TO 35 MINUTES

“Lord, make us ready to speak about Jesus.”

Sharing God’s Word is not only for those with a special gift for preaching or teaching. Every believer should be ready to share the hope that is within them.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 3:15 (KJV)

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

2 Timothy 4:2 to 5 · Matthew 28:19, 20 · Acts 1:8

PRAY FOR

- Every believer to be ready to share the Gospel.
- Courage to speak about Christ.
- Wisdom to answer questions.
- Women to become confident witnesses.
- Mature believers who can help others in times of crisis.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Lord, make us ready to speak about Jesus. Give every believer courage, wisdom and meekness to share the hope that is within us. When people are hurting and searching, help us bring them the truth and comfort of Your Word.”

8. The Word as Our Guide

35 TO 40 MINUTES

“Father, teach us to live by Your Word.”

The lesson says immature Christians are unskilled in the word of righteousness. Because of this, they struggle to let God’s Word guide, direct and govern their lives.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 3:16, 17 (KJV)

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Psalm 119:105 · James 1:22 to 25 · Romans 12:2

PRAY FOR

- Believers to use Scripture as their guide.
- God’s Word to direct our decisions.
- Christians to let Scripture correct them.
- God’s people to be equipped for every good work.
- Practical, everyday obedience to the truth of Scripture.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, teach us to use Your Word as our guide. Correct us when we are wrong. Direct our decisions. Shape our character. Let Scripture govern our homes, marriages, parenting, work, ministry and every part of our lives.”

9. Discernment Between Good and Evil

40 TO 45 MINUTES

“Lord, give Your people discernment.”

The lesson names another sign of immaturity: not being skilled in using the Word to tell good from evil. That is why knowing the whole counsel of God matters so much.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 5:14 (KJV)

“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Romans 12:2 · Philippians 1:9, 10 · 1 Timothy 4:7, 8

PRAY FOR

- Spiritual discernment.
- The ability to tell truth from error.
- Protection from deception.
- Understanding of Scripture in its context.
- Wisdom to know right from wrong according to God’s Word.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Lord, give Your people discernment. Help us know what is right and what is wrong according to Your Word. Protect us from deception and from taking Scripture out of context. Give us wisdom to understand Your whole counsel.”

10. The Next Generation

45 TO 50 MINUTES

“Father, let our children know You.”

Christian parents and churches have an important part to play in raising up people who truly know and understand their faith.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Psalm 78:5 to 7 (KJV)

“For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 6:6, 7 · 2 Timothy 1:5 · 2 Timothy 3:14, 15

PRAY FOR

- Christian parents to teach God’s Word faithfully.
- Children and young people to know Scripture.
- Churches to disciple the next generation.
- Young believers to grow toward maturity.
- Families that build biblical understanding at home.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, we pray for the next generation. Give parents wisdom to teach Your Word. Give churches a burden to disciple children, teenagers and young adults. Let them not grow up with only a shallow knowledge of Christianity, but with a deep knowledge of Christ and His Word.”

11. Enlarge Our Understanding

50 TO 55 MINUTES

“Father, open the eyes of our understanding.”

The lesson calls us to pray sincerely that God would enlarge our understanding through His Word and His Spirit.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1:17, 18 (KJV)

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Colossians 1:9, 10 · Philippians 1:9 to 11 · James 1:5

PRAY FOR

- Spiritual wisdom.
- Understanding through the Word and the Spirit.
- A deeper knowledge of God.
- A greater understanding of Jesus Christ.
- Leaders who can teach deep biblical truth faithfully.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, enlarge our understanding. Give us wisdom through Your Word and Your Spirit. Take us deeper into the knowledge of You, Your Word and Your Son Jesus Christ. Give our pastors, teachers and leaders wisdom to teach the deep truths of Scripture faithfully.”

12. Help Us Move Forward

55 TO 60 MINUTES

“Lord, help us move forward.”

The writer’s answer is clear. As the lesson puts it, the best way to move forward is simply to move forward! Instead of going over the same basic teachings again and again, we build on them and grow in our understanding of God, His Word and His Son Jesus.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 6:1 to 3 (KJV)

“Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Philippians 3:12 to 14 · 2 Peter 3:18 · Hebrews 12:1, 2

PRAY FOR

- Grace to move forward spiritually.
- No going back to spiritual immaturity.
- Steady growth in understanding Christ.
- Growth in faith and obedience.
- Churches that move forward and do not stay at the basics.
- God’s people to become mature and fruitful.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Lord, help us move forward. Do not allow us to remain where we were yesterday. Build on everything we have learned. Take us deeper into Your Word and deeper into the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Give us grace to grow, to mature, to understand and to obey. Let us become strong believers who can stand when the storms of life come.”

Closing Five Minutes: Praying Together

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

Thank You for Your Word. Thank You for giving us Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest.

Lord, forgive us for every area where we have stayed spiritually immature. Forgive us when we have become dull of hearing. Forgive us when we have been content with the milk of the Word and have not longed for the meat of Your Word.

Give us a fresh hunger for Scripture and diligence to study it. Help us understand the deep things of God. Teach us more about Jesus Christ and His ministry as our Great High Priest.

Let Your Word work powerfully in us. Make us ready to share our faith. Teach us to use Your Word to guide our lives. Give us discernment between good and evil, and protect us from deception and false teaching.

Give wisdom to our pastors, teachers and ministry leaders. Give wisdom to Christian parents as they raise the next generation. Let our children and young people know Your Word and know Jesus Christ personally.

Lord, enlarge our understanding through Your Word and Your Spirit. And above everything else, help us move forward.

Move us from milk to meat.

Move us from immaturity to maturity.

Move us from knowing only the basics to understanding the deeper things of Christ.

Move us from hearing to obeying.

Move us from receiving truth to sharing truth.

Make us mature, discerning, faithful and fruitful servants of Jesus Christ. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus.

Amen.

Final Call and Response

The leader speaks the first line and the women respond.

Leader: "Lord, remove our dullness of hearing."

Women: "Give us ears to hear Your Word."

Leader: "Lord, take us from milk to meat."

Women: "Make us spiritually mature."

Leader: "Lord, teach us to use Your Word."

Women: "Let Your Word guide our lives."

Leader: "Lord, give us discernment."

Women: "Help us know good from evil."

Leader: "Lord, enlarge our understanding."

Women: "Take us deeper into Christ."

Leader: "Lord, help us move forward."

Women: "We will move forward in Christ."

Three Phrases for the Prayer Team to Keep Praying

1. "From milk to meat."

2. "From immaturity to maturity."

3. "Move forward into Christ."

HOW THIS HOUR UNFOLDS

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

From dull hearing, to a hunger for the Word, to deeper understanding, to readiness to share, to skill in the word of righteousness, to discernment, to spiritual maturity, and onward. **Move forward!**