

PRAYER TEAM GUIDE

Warning Five: Against Turning Away from God

Grace to Complete the Mission

Hebrews Lesson 6 · Hebrews 12:14 to 29

One Hour of Prayer Covering the Teaching Session

OUR CENTRAL PRAYER

“Lord, help us draw on Your grace to complete the mission You have given us: pursuing holiness, following peace with all men, overcoming the obstacles of the flesh, listening to Your voice, and serving You with reverence and godly fear.”

The lesson presents the Christian’s mission in two parts: **following peace with all men and pursuing holiness**. It teaches that God’s grace gives us the power to fulfill this mission.

Before the Hour Begins: The Leader’s Opening

The leader opens the time with these words:

“Sisters, today we are praying through the final warning in Hebrews. This is a serious warning, but it is also a message of grace.

God has given us a mission, and He has given us abundant grace to fulfill it. Our mission is to pursue holiness and follow peace with all men.

During this hour, let us ask God to help us see the grace He has already provided, to remove the obstacles that keep us from receiving and using that grace, and to help us listen carefully to the God who speaks from heaven.

Let us pray for ourselves first, and then for our families, churches, leaders and the next generation.

We are not depending on our own strength. We are coming to the well of God’s grace.”

1. Receiving God’s Grace for Our Mission

0 TO 5 MINUTES

“Father, we depend on Your grace.”

The lesson describes God’s grace as an unlimited supply for completing the mission He has given us here on earth.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 12:15 (KJV)

“Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God...”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Philippians 2:12, 13 · 2 Corinthians 12:9 · Ephesians 2:8 to 10

FOR THE LEADER

Read Hebrews 12:15 slowly. Then tell the women:

“The mission God has given us cannot be fulfilled through human strength. Let us begin by asking God to help us draw fully on His grace.”

PRAY FOR

- Awareness of God’s grace.
- Dependence on God’s grace.

- Strength to fulfill God's will.
- Grace for personal holiness.
- Grace for our relationships and ministry.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

"Father, thank You for Your abundant grace. We acknowledge that we cannot fulfill Your mission in our own strength. Teach us to draw on Your grace every day. Give us everything we need to live for You and complete the mission You have given us."

LEADER SAYS

"God's grace makes a specific mission possible. Hebrews 12:14 gives us two clear responsibilities. Let us now pray for holiness."

2. Pursuing Holiness

5 TO 10 MINUTES

"Lord, set us apart for Yourself."

The lesson names the pursuit of holiness as one half of the Christian's life mission.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 12:14 (KJV)

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

1 Peter 1:15, 16 · 1 Thessalonians 4:3 to 7 · Romans 12:1, 2

FOR THE LEADER

Say:

"Holiness means being set apart for God and obeying His commandments. Let us ask God to make holiness more than a doctrine. Let it become our daily practice."

PRAY FOR

- Personal holiness.
- Pure thoughts and motives.
- Holy speech and conduct.
- Holiness in marriages and families.
- Holy living in ministry.
- Grace to obey God when obedience is difficult.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

"Lord, make us holy. Set us apart for Yourself. Give us grace to obey Your Word when it is difficult. Let our thoughts, words, relationships, decisions and actions reflect Jesus Christ."

LEADER SAYS

"Holiness concerns our relationship with God. The second part of our mission concerns our relationship with people. Let us pray that God will teach us to follow peace with all men."

3. Following Peace with All Men

10 TO 15 MINUTES

“Father, make us peacemakers.”

The lesson ties following peace to loving others, and names it as the other half of the Christian’s mission.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 12:14 (KJV)

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Matthew 5:9 · Romans 12:18 · Romans 14:19 · 1 Thessalonians 5:13

FOR THE LEADER

Invite the women to bring difficult relationships before the Lord. Say:

“Think of one relationship where peace is difficult. Bring that person before the Lord without anger or accusation.”

PRAY FOR

- Peace in marriages.
- Peace between parents and children.
- Peace among church members.
- Peace among ministry leaders.
- Reconciliation in broken relationships.
- Grace to forgive.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, teach us to follow peace with all men. Give us grace to forgive, patience to listen and humility to pursue reconciliation. Remove anger, pride and needless conflict from our relationships.”

LEADER SAYS

“The lesson now names the obstacles that can keep us from receiving God’s grace. One of the first and most destructive is bitterness. Let us pray for freedom from every root of bitterness.”

4. Removing Every Root of Bitterness

15 TO 20 MINUTES

“Lord, uproot every bitter root.”

The lesson describes bitterness as holding on to anger, hurt and resentment. It warns that bitterness can grow until it affects many people.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 12:15 (KJV)

“Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 4:31, 32 · Colossians 3:12, 13 · Proverbs 15:1

FOR THE LEADER

Say:

“Bitterness can begin with hurt, anger or resentment and grow until it affects many people. Let us ask God to uproot it before it defiles us and others.”

PRAY FOR

- Healing from past hurts.
- Freedom from resentment.
- Grace to forgive.
- Freedom from the desire for revenge.
- Healing in families and churches.
- Protection from letting bitterness grow.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

"Lord, search our hearts for every root of bitterness. Heal the places where we have been hurt. Help us release people into Your hands. Remove anger, resentment and revenge. Give us grace to forgive as You have forgiven us."

LEADER SAYS

"The lesson next warns against sexual sin. Let us pray for purity, protection and holiness in a world where sexual temptation is everywhere."

5. Purity and Freedom from Sexual Sin

20 TO 25 MINUTES

"Father, give us pure hearts."

The lesson names fornication and sexual sin as an obstacle that keeps believers from living out God's purposes.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 12:16 (KJV)

"Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright."

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

1 Corinthians 6:18 to 20 · 1 Thessalonians 4:3 to 5 · 2 Timothy 2:22

FOR THE LEADER

Keep this section dignified and prayerful. Say:

"Let us pray without shame or condemnation. We are asking God for purity, protection and strength to honor Him with our bodies."

PRAY FOR

- Purity among married couples.
- Protection of marriages.
- Protection of young people.
- Freedom from sexual temptation.
- Wisdom about media and relationships.
- Restoration for those who have fallen.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

"Father, protect Your people from sexual sin. Give us pure hearts and disciplined minds. Protect marriages, young people and families. Give those who are struggling the grace to flee temptation and walk in holiness."

LEADER SAYS

"The next warning is pictured in Esau, who chose what he wanted in the moment instead of valuing the blessing to come. Let us pray that we will value eternal things more than passing desires."

6. Choosing the Spirit over the Flesh

25 TO 30 MINUTES

“Lord, help us value what is eternal.”

Esau traded his birthright for a single meal. The lesson uses him as a picture of choosing the flesh over the Spirit, letting what we want right now crowd out the blessing God has promised.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 12:16, 17 (KJV)

“Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Genesis 25:29 to 34 · Galatians 5:16, 17 · Romans 8:5 to 8

FOR THE LEADER

Explain:

“The lesson uses Esau as an example of choosing what satisfies right now over the blessing to come. Let us ask God to help us value spiritual things above passing desires.”

PRAY FOR

- Discipline over our own desires.
- An eternal perspective.
- Victory over the desires of the flesh.
- Wisdom in our decisions.
- Grace to wait for God’s timing.
- Hearts that treasure spiritual blessings.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Lord, help us choose the Spirit over the flesh. Do not allow passing pleasures to control our decisions. Give us an eternal perspective. Help us value what You have promised more than what satisfies for a moment.”

LEADER SAYS

“We have prayed about the obstacles. Now let us remember where we stand. We do not approach God through Mount Sinai. Through Christ, we come to Mount Zion.”

7. Drawing Near to Mount Zion

30 TO 35 MINUTES

“Father, thank You that we may come near.”

The lesson sets Mount Sinai beside Mount Zion. Under the New Covenant, believers come to Mount Zion, where the way to God has been opened through the blood of Jesus.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 12:22 to 24 (KJV)

“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 10:19 to 22 · Ephesians 2:13 to 18 · Hebrews 4:16

FOR THE LEADER

Read Hebrews 12:22 to 24. Then say:

"The lesson contrasts Mount Sinai with Mount Zion. Through Jesus Christ and His blood, we have access to God."

PRAY FOR

- Gratitude for our access to God.
- Confidence in the blood of Christ.
- A stronger prayer life.
- Deeper fellowship with God.
- Believers to make full use of God's grace.
- Churches that live from their position in Christ.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

"Father, thank You that through Jesus Christ we can come into Your presence. Thank You for the blood of Jesus that speaks mercy. Help us make full use of the grace You have provided. Teach us to come boldly before You for help in time of need."

LEADER SAYS

"Because God has opened the way for us to come to Him, we must also listen when He speaks. Let us pray for ears to hear the voice of God."

8. Hearing God Who Speaks from Heaven

35 TO 40 MINUTES

"Lord, make us listeners."

The lesson reminds us that the Lord is speaking from heaven, and urges us not to refuse Him.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 12:25 (KJV)

"See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven."

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 3:7, 8 · John 10:27 · Revelation 2:7

FOR THE LEADER

Ask everyone to become quiet. Say:

"For the next few moments, let us not rush to speak. Let us ask God to make us listeners."

PRAY FOR

- Spiritual ears to hear God's Word.
- Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.
- Obedience when God speaks.
- Protection from ignoring conviction.
- Churches that stay responsive to Scripture.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

"Lord, speak to us through Your Word. Give us ears to hear. Do not allow us to ignore Your voice. When You correct us, help us respond. When You command us, help us obey. Make us attentive to You."

LEADER SAYS

"The lesson reminds us that everything built on God's Word will remain unshaken. Let us now pray that our lives, families and ministries will be built on what cannot be shaken."

9. Building on What Cannot Be Shaken

40 TO 45 MINUTES

“Father, build our lives on Your Word.”

What is built on God’s Word will stand. What rests on the flesh and on the world will not last.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 12:27, 28 (KJV)

“And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Matthew 7:24, 25 · Psalm 119:89 · Isaiah 40:8

FOR THE LEADER

Ask the women:

“What are you depending on right now that can be shaken?”

Give them a moment to pray personally.

PRAY FOR

- Families built on God’s Word.
- Churches built on Scripture.
- Ministries built on Christ.
- Leaders with biblical foundations.
- Young people established in the truth.
- Freedom from leaning on worldly foundations.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, build our lives upon Your Word. Establish our families, churches and ministries on what cannot be shaken. Remove every foundation that rests on the flesh, the world or human strength.”

LEADER SAYS

“If only what is built on God’s Word will remain, then we need grace to serve God faithfully. Let us now pray for grace to serve Him acceptably.”

10. Grace to Serve God Acceptably

45 TO 50 MINUTES

“Father, let our service please You.”

The lesson reminds us that God gives abundant grace, not only to pursue holiness and peace, but also to serve Him in a way that pleases Him.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 12:28 (KJV)

“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Romans 12:1 · Colossians 3:23, 24 · Philippians 2:13

FOR THE LEADER

Read this phrase from Hebrews 12:28 aloud:

“Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”

Then invite the women to pray specifically for the ways they serve.

PRAY FOR

- Grace to serve faithfully.
- Grace for pastors and ministry leaders.
- Grace for teachers and prayer teams.
- Grace for mothers and wives.
- Grace to serve without seeking recognition.
- Service that pleases God.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, give us grace to serve You acceptably. Give strength to every pastor, leader, teacher, mother, wife and servant. Help us serve without pride and without seeking recognition. Let everything we do be pleasing in Your sight.”

LEADER SAYS

“Grace does not make us careless. Grace teaches us to serve with reverence and godly fear. Let us now pray for a holy reverence for God.”

11. Reverence and Godly Fear

50 TO 55 MINUTES

“Holy God, teach us to reverence You.”

The lesson closes by holding two truths together: God gives abundant grace, and our God is a consuming fire.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 12:28, 29 (KJV)

“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Proverbs 9:10 · Ecclesiastes 12:13 · 1 Peter 1:15 to 17

FOR THE LEADER

Slow down the pace. Say:

“Our God is gracious, but He is also holy. Let us recover a biblical reverence for God.”

PRAY FOR

- A holy fear of God.
- Reverence in worship.
- Reverence for God’s Word.
- Reverence in ministry.
- Freedom from a casual, careless faith.
- Hearts that take God’s holiness seriously.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Holy God, give us godly fear. Teach us to reverence Your name, Your Word and Your presence. Keep us from a casual faith and careless living. Let Your holiness shape every part of our lives.”

LEADER SAYS

“We have prayed for grace, holiness, peace, freedom from obstacles, access to God, listening to His voice and reverence. Let us finish by praying for grace to complete the mission.”

12. Grace to Complete the Mission

55 TO 60 MINUTES

“Lord, give us grace to finish well.”

Our mission is to pursue holiness and follow peace, and God has given us all the grace we need to complete it.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 12:14, 28 (KJV)

12:14 *“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”*

12:28 *“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.”*

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Philippians 1:6 · Philippians 2:13 · Hebrews 12:1, 2 · 1 Corinthians 15:58

FOR THE LEADER

Ask everyone to stand, if appropriate, and lead them to repeat each line slowly:

“Lord, give me grace to complete my mission.”

“Help me pursue holiness.”

“Help me follow peace.”

“Help me listen to Your voice.”

“Help me remain unshaken.”

Then move into the closing prayer.

PRAY FOR

- Grace to complete God’s mission.
- Faithfulness to the end.
- Holiness.
- Peace with others.
- Families that remain faithful.
- Churches that remain unshaken.
- Leaders who finish well.
- The next generation to carry the mission forward.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, give us grace to complete the mission You have given us. Help us pursue holiness and follow peace with all men. Help us overcome bitterness, sexual temptation, the desires of the flesh and every obstacle that keeps us from Your grace. Help us hear Your voice, build upon Your Word and serve You with reverence and godly fear.”

Closing Five Minutes: Praying Together

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

Thank You for Your abundant grace. Thank You that You have not left us to accomplish Your mission in our own strength. Thank You for the grace that saves us, sustains us and enables us to live for You.

Lord, help us pursue holiness. Help us follow peace with all men. Give us grace to love You with all our heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Search our hearts for every root of bitterness. Heal every wound that has produced anger, resentment or unforgiveness. Give us grace to forgive.

Protect Your people from sexual sin. Protect marriages. Protect our children and young people. Give us purity of heart and mind.

Help us choose the Spirit over the flesh. Give us an eternal perspective. Do not allow passing desires to rob us of the blessings You have prepared for us.

Thank You that through Jesus Christ we come to Mount Zion. Thank You for the blood of Jesus that speaks mercy. Thank You that we have access to Your presence.

Lord, help us hear You when You speak from heaven. Do not allow us to ignore Your Word. Make us responsive and obedient.

Build our lives on what cannot be shaken. Establish our families, our churches and our ministries on Your Word. Establish the next generation in Your truth.

Give us grace to serve You acceptably. Give us reverence and godly fear. Let us never become casual about Your holiness.

Father, give us grace to complete the mission You have given us. Help us pursue holiness. Help us follow peace. Help us remain faithful. Help us finish well.

May everything built in our lives be built on Jesus Christ and Your unchanging Word. We surrender our lives, our families, our churches and our ministries to You.

Give us grace to complete the mission.

In the precious name of Jesus Christ,

Amen.

Final Call and Response

The leader speaks the first line and the women respond.

Leader: "Lord, give us grace."

Women: "*Grace to complete the mission.*"

Leader: "Lord, help us pursue holiness."

Women: "*We will pursue holiness.*"

Leader: "Lord, help us follow peace."

Women: "*We will follow peace with all men.*"

Leader: "Lord, remove every root of bitterness."

Women: "*Give us grace to forgive.*"

Leader: "Lord, help us choose the Spirit over the flesh."

Women: "*We will value what is eternal.*"

Leader: "Lord, help us hear Your voice."

Women: "*We will listen and obey.*"

Leader: "Lord, make us unshaken."

Women: "*We will build on Your Word.*"

Leader: "Lord, help us serve You."

Women: "*With reverence and godly fear.*"

Leader: "Lord, give us grace to complete the mission."

Women: "*By Your grace, we will finish faithfully.*"

Three Phrases for the Prayer Team to Keep Praying

1. "Grace to complete the mission."

2. “Holiness and peace.”

3. “Build on what cannot be shaken.”

HOW THIS HOUR UNFOLDS

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

Grace for the mission, holiness, peace, freedom from bitterness, purity, the Spirit over the flesh, coming to Mount Zion, hearing God, building on His Word, serving with reverence, and finally, **completing the mission.**