

PRAYER TEAM GUIDE

Warning One: Do Not Drift

Hebrews Lesson 2 · Hebrews 2:1 to 4
One Hour of Prayer Covering the Teaching Session

OUR CENTRAL PRAYER

“Lord, help us give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, so that we do not drift away from Christ and the great salvation He has given us.”

1. Give the More Earnest Heed

0 TO 5 MINUTES

“Lord, help us listen closely to Your Word.”

Hebrews begins its warnings with a call to pay careful attention to what we have already heard.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 2:1 (KJV)

“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Proverbs 4:20 to 23 · Psalm 119:10, 11 · James 1:22 · Luke 8:18

PRAY FOR

- Attentive hearts.
- A serious respect for God’s Word.
- People to listen carefully to the teaching.
- God’s truth never to be treated casually.
- The Holy Spirit to bring conviction.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, help us give the more earnest heed to Your Word. Do not allow us to hear Your truth casually and then walk away unchanged. Give every listener spiritual ears. Help us treasure what we hear and obey what You reveal.”

2. Do Not Drift from Christ

5 TO 10 MINUTES

“Lord, keep us close to You.”

The lesson describes drifting as slowly “slip sliding away” from what we know to be true about Christ and His great salvation. It rarely happens all at once.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 2:3 (KJV)

“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Hebrews 2:1 · Hebrews 3:12 · Hebrews 10:23 · 1 Corinthians 10:12 · Proverbs 14:14

PRAY FOR

- Protection from slow spiritual decline.
- Protection from quiet, subtle compromise.
- Strength to stay close to Christ.
- Eyes to notice the early signs of drifting.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Lord Jesus, keep us close to You. Protect us from slowly drifting away. Show us the areas where we have become careless. Give us discernment to recognize spiritual decline before it becomes spiritual disaster. Hold us firmly to Your truth.”

3. Guard Our First Love and Zeal

10 TO 15 MINUTES

“Lord, make our hearts warm again.”

Drifting often begins quietly, when we lose our zeal and devotion for God’s Word.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Revelation 2:4, 5 (KJV)

“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Romans 12:11 · Psalm 63:1 · Psalm 42:1, 2 · Matthew 22:37

PRAY FOR

- Our first love to be restored.
- A renewed hunger for Christ.
- Prayer lives that come alive again.
- A fresh love for Scripture.
- New spiritual passion.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Lord, restore our first love. Where our hearts have become cold, make them warm again. Where prayer has become routine, give us genuine hunger. Where Bible reading has become a duty, make Your Word precious again. Restore our zeal for Jesus.”

4. Freedom from Complacency

15 TO 20 MINUTES

“Lord, keep us awake and watchful.”

The warnings in Hebrews are there to wake us up to the danger of becoming complacent in our walk with the Lord.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 10:12 (KJV)

“Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Romans 12:3 · Proverbs 16:18 · Matthew 26:41 · 1 Peter 5:8, 9

PRAY FOR

- Humility.
- Spiritual alertness.
- Protection from taking salvation for granted.
- Protection from careless Christian living.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, deliver us from spiritual complacency. Do not allow us to assume that we are strong when we are becoming weak. Keep us watchful. Keep us humble. Help us see how much we depend on You every single day.”

5. Hunger for God’s Word

20 TO 25 MINUTES

“Lord, make Your Word our road map.”

The lesson calls the Word our road map and compass for godly living. Without it, we soon become drifters.

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

Psalms 119:97 · Psalm 119:105 · Matthew 4:4 · 1 Peter 2:2 · Colossians 3:16

PRAY FOR

- A real hunger for Scripture.
- Faithful daily Bible reading.
- Homes built on the Bible.
- Churches built on the Bible.
- Pastors who faithfully teach God’s Word.
- People who obey what they learn.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Lord, give us hunger for Your Word. Let the Bible become our road map and compass. Give parents grace to teach Your Word to their children. Give pastors faithfulness to teach the whole counsel of God. Let Your Word dwell richly in us.”

6. Resisting Sin and Worldliness

25 TO 30 MINUTES

“Lord, give us strength to say no.”

When we drift from God’s Word, we grow soft on sin. We lose strength to resist temptation and slowly become comfortable with things that once troubled us.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

James 4:7 (KJV)

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Romans 12:2 · 1 John 2:15, 16 · Psalm 119:11 · 1 Corinthians 10:13 · Ephesians 6:10, 11

PRAY FOR

- Victory over temptation.
- Protection from worldliness.
- Courage to say no to sin.
- Holy living.
- Wisdom about what we watch, who we walk with and what shapes us.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, help us submit ourselves to You and resist the devil. Do not allow us to become soft toward sin. Give us discernment to recognize compromise. Give us strength to say no to temptation and yes to holiness.”

7. Obeying Because We Are Saved

30 TO 35 MINUTES

“Lord, let our love for You show in our obedience.”

One of the main truths of this lesson is simple and freeing: we obey God’s commands, not in order to be saved, but because we are saved.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

John 14:15 (KJV)

“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Colossians 1:10 · Ephesians 2:8 to 10 · Titus 2:11 to 14 · James 2:17 · John 15:10

PRAY FOR

- Obedient hearts.
- Grace to live what we believe.
- A clear Christian testimony.
- Christ to be our Lord and not only our Savior.
- Families that practice obedience to God’s Word.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Lord Jesus, thank You for saving us by Your grace. Teach us to obey You because we belong to You. Let our faith produce obedience. Let our homes, marriages, churches and ministries show that Jesus is Lord and King.”

8. Staying Connected to Christ

35 TO 40 MINUTES

“Lord, teach us to abide in You.”

The lesson uses the picture of a branch joined to the vine. As we stay connected to Christ, we receive the strength and supply we need to live the Christian life.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

John 15:5 (KJV)

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

John 15:1 to 4 · Galatians 2:20 · Philippians 4:13 · Psalm 16:8 · Colossians 2:6, 7

PRAY FOR

- Grace to abide in Christ.
- Full dependence on Him.
- Lives that bear fruit.
- Strength in times of trial.
- Spiritual power that comes from walking with Christ.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Lord Jesus, teach us to abide in You. Do not let us try to live the Christian life in our own strength. Keep us connected to You through Your Word, prayer and obedience. Produce Your fruit in our lives. When trials come, let us draw closer rather than drift away.”

9. The Witness and Power of the Holy Spirit

40 TO 45 MINUTES

“Holy Spirit, work deeply in us.”

Every believer has the Holy Spirit living within, and He bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:16 (KJV)

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 1:13, 14 · Galatians 5:16 · Galatians 5:22 to 25 · John 14:16, 17 · Acts 1:8

PRAY FOR

- Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.
- Spiritual power.
- The fruit of the Spirit in our lives.
- Spiritual gifts used for God’s glory.
- Believers who walk in the Spirit.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Holy Spirit, work deeply in us. Bear witness to our hearts that we belong to Christ. Give us power to resist sin and courage to obey God’s Word. Produce Your fruit in our lives. Make us sensitive to Your leading and useful in the body of Christ.”

10. Covering Families, Churches and Leaders

45 TO 50 MINUTES

“Lord, keep our homes and churches faithful.”

Drifting does not only happen to individuals. Homes, churches and those who lead them need our prayer covering too.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Joshua 24:15 (KJV)

“As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Deuteronomy 6:6, 7 · Psalm 78:5 to 7 · Acts 20:28 · 1 Timothy 4:16 · Hebrews 13:17

PRAY FOR

- Pastors and church leaders.
- The marriages of our pastors.
- The faith of our children.
- Protection from spiritual compromise.
- Churches that stay faithful to Scripture.
- Leaders who do not grow weary or complacent.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, protect our pastors, leaders and their families. Keep them close to Christ. Protect their marriages, children and ministries. Do not allow the pressures of ministry to cause them to drift. Give them strength to remain faithful to Your Word and to lead others toward Christ.”

11. Bringing Back Those Who Have Drifted

50 TO 55 MINUTES

“Lord, bring them home.”

Many of us can think of someone who once walked closely with the Lord and has slowly wandered. We bring them before God now.

MAIN SCRIPTURE

James 5:19, 20 (KJV)

“Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURES

Galatians 6:1 · Psalm 51:10 to 12 · Revelation 2:4, 5 · Luke 15:17 to 24 · Jeremiah 3:22

PRAY FOR

- People who have stopped coming to church.
- Believers who have grown spiritually cold.
- Those trapped in sin.
- Those who have lost their hunger for Scripture.
- Those who have become discouraged.
- Every one of them to be restored to fellowship with Christ.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Father, remember those who have drifted. Bring them back gently and powerfully. Awaken their hearts. Remind them of the great salvation they have received. Give them courage to repent and return. Place godly people around them who will encourage them rather than condemn them.”

12. Hold Fast and Finish Well

55 TO 60 MINUTES

“Lord, keep us faithful to the end.”

The answer to drifting is to hold on tightly to Christ and keep running the race with our eyes on Him.

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 12:1, 2 · 1 Corinthians 15:58 · Philippians 3:13, 14 · 2 Timothy 4:7 · Revelation 2:10

PRAY FOR

- Perseverance.
- Faithfulness under pressure.
- Strength in times of persecution.
- Faithfulness all the way to the end.
- Leaders who finish their ministry well.
- Churches that remain faithful to Christ.

WORDS TO USE IN PRAYER

“Lord Jesus, help us hold fast without wavering. When we are tired, strengthen us. When we are discouraged, encourage us. When we are tempted to compromise, remind us of who You are and what You have done. Keep us faithful to the end. Let us finish the race with our eyes upon Jesus.”

The Last Five Minutes: Praying Together

After the twelve prayer focuses, invite all the women to pray together. The leader speaks the first line and the women respond.

Leader: “Lord, keep us from drifting.”

Women: “Keep us close to Christ.”

Leader: “Keep us from spiritual complacency.”

Women: “Give us a hunger for Your Word.”

Leader: “Keep us from becoming soft toward sin.”

Women: “Give us strength to resist temptation.”

Leader: “Keep us from neglecting our great salvation.”

Women: “Help us give the more earnest heed.”

Leader: “Keep our families and churches faithful.”

Women: “Let our homes and churches honor Christ.”

Leader: “Keep us connected to the Vine.”

Women: “Without You we can do nothing.”

Leader: “Help us hold fast.”

Women: “We will look unto Jesus.”

Closing Prayer

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

Thank You for the great salvation You have provided through Your Son.

We confess that we are easily distracted. We can become comfortable, complacent and spiritually careless. So, Lord, we ask You to awaken us.

Help us give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard. Keep us from drifting. Keep us from losing our zeal for Your Word. Keep us from becoming soft toward sin. Keep us from following the current of this world.

Give us a renewed hunger for Scripture. Let Your Word become our road map and compass.

Holy Spirit, work within us. Give us power to resist temptation and grace to obey. Teach us to obey, not in order to be saved, but because we have been saved.

Keep our pastors, leaders, families and churches faithful. Remember those who have already begun to drift, and bring them back to fellowship with Christ.

Lord Jesus, keep us connected to You. Produce fruit in our lives. And when the pressures of life come, do not let us slip away. Help us hold fast.

Let us not drift.

Let us not neglect.

Let us not become complacent.

Let us give the more earnest heed.

Let us remain faithful to Jesus Christ.

We ask this in the precious and powerful name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Three Phrases for the Prayer Team to Keep Praying

1. “Give the more earnest heed.”

Pray for careful attention to God’s Word.

2. “Do not drift.”

Pray for protection from spiritual complacency and slow compromise.

3. “Hold fast.”

Pray for perseverance, obedience and faithfulness to Christ.

Keep in mind how this lesson unfolds. The danger is not mainly a sudden turning away from Christ. It is a slow “**slip sliding away**” that can begin with losing our zeal for God’s Word, growing complacent and becoming soft toward sin.