

What is a Healthy Church Member? Study Guide – Mark 9

Questions on Hebrews 13:7-9

1. The writer of Hebrews is clearly referring to Christian behavior among relationships. Read Hebrews 13:1-9 to gather a better idea of the context of this verse.
 - a. The author gives many instructions, among them is the charge to “remember.” How does remembering people please God?

 - b. Christians are called to consider the result of the leaders’ lives. How is this an encouragement to us? What can we notice about the lives of faithful leaders (not just at Lighthouse, but other Christian leaders as well)?

 - c. We are then called to “imitate their faith.” What does this look like?

2. Verse 8 says that Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever. If we’re imitating leaders who imitated their leaders throughout history, how does our faith point to Christ?

3. Verse 9 calls us to have discernment when it comes to teaching. What is the balance between humbly following our teachers and being discerning (even with great leaders)?

Questions on *What is a Healthy Church Member?*

Mark 9: A Healthy Church Member is a Humble Follower

1. What has been your attitude toward the leadership at Lighthouse? How have you sought to honor the elders or show love to the leaders?

2. At Lighthouse we are blessed with faithful leaders who strive to minister well to the church. In light of this, Pastor Thabiti gives us many examples of specific actions toward leadership that can encourage them and be effective in how we follow. Evaluate each of these and determine how the church – or people individually – are doing in these areas:
 - a. “Patiently participating in the selection of leaders” – do you take an active yet humble interest in the leadership of the church?

 - b. “Obeyes and submits to leaders” – Do you try to make the work of our pastors a joy, and do you eagerly submit to them?

- c. "Follows the leader's example" – pastors are called to be models of Christ, so do you wisely follow their pattern of holiness?

- d. "Prays for leaders" – are you faithful in habitual prayer for the pastors?

- e. "Supports outside ministry and interaction of leaders" – do you contribute to the leader's ongoing health and vigor by encouraging participation in outside events and fellowship with other church leaders?

Applications to the Truths Learned

1. Take some time to write a letter to a pastor. Specifically how the Lord has affected you through their ministry.

2. Ministry leaders often point to James 3:1 when talking about their responsibility in the local church and before God. As humble followers, it is also important for us to understand the charge that Scripture has for leaders. Read James 3:1 and Hebrews 13:17. In what ways can you partner with them in fulfilling their responsibilities?

3. Consider praying for the leadership and staff of the church (Col. 4:2-4). Pray for 15 minutes each night for the leaders, their families, and their ministries.

What Is a Healthy Church Member? Study Guide – Mark 10- Prayer Warrior

Questions on Luke 10:38-42.

Read Luke 10:38-42.

1. In a couple of sentences describe what is going on and what the passage is talking about.
2. Luke draws up a strong contrast between Martha and her sister Mary. List out the differences between how the two are described.
3. What is the “good portion” that Mary chose? What did Martha choose instead? What have you chosen?
4. Jesus tells Martha that she was “anxious and troubled about many things.” Do you identify with Martha at all? What does Jesus want us to understand about Mary and Martha’s different actions?
5. Verse 38 says that Martha welcomed Jesus into her house. But she was distracted with *servicing*. It was Mary who chose the best portion. What do these verses teach us about prayer?

Questions on *What Is a Healthy Church Member?*

1. How are you doing in your prayer life? Be specific—list weaknesses, strengths, questions you might have. Where would you ideally like your prayer life to be? What would it look like?

2. “The how and when of prayer boil down to two biblical teachings: pray constantly and pray in the Spirit” (pg. 109). Praying constantly is self-explanatory. Praying in the Spirit is praying according to God’s will as revealed in the Word. How are you doing in each area?

3. Pastor Thabiti offers a helpful list of whom to pray for. List out specific people you can pray for who fall under each category.
 - a. Laborers and shepherds:

 - b. All the saints:

 - c. Those in authority:

 - d. Those who abuse and persecute you:

Applying the Truths Learned

1. Make a commitment to pray a set number of minutes each day this week. It doesn’t have to be hours, it could be just a few minutes—but stick to it. Carve out time to cultivate your relationship with Jesus.

2. Find a prayer partner to pray for/with this week (or regularly). Meet up for dinner or coffee and share prayer requests and pray.

3. Participate in Lighthouse's weekly prayer meetings either on Friday afternoons or on Sunday mornings. Commit to coming out a certain number of times a month to help make Lighthouse a "house of prayer."
4. Revisit Lighthouse's study through *A Praying Life*. Look at your old notes if you still have them. Read or reread the book with your spouse, children, or a brother or sister at the church. Discuss a chapter a week. Encourage one another in prayer!
5. Make a prayer list and put it where you will see it every day—on the bathroom mirror, taped near the kitchen sink, on your computer monitor. Pray for one of the items on the list whenever you see it.