



Group Leader Guide

“It Is Finished” – Famous Last Words

March 28-29, 2020

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Message Summary

Jim Burgen continues our series **Famous Last Words**. Right before He died, Jesus said, “It is finished” (**John 19:30**). The “it” that was finished was God’s promise that in this new reality of being covered by the blood of Jesus, nothing would be able to separate you from God’s love (**Romans 8:39**). Even though we will have hard times in this life (**John 16:33**), God offers peace and hope through our faith in Jesus.

// Biblical Background

Hebrews 11: Jim mentions **Hebrews 11**, which is sometimes referred to as the “faith chapter,” which details certain people in the Old Testament who had faith in hard times. I encourage you to read this chapter. I will provide a brief synopsis of each person mentioned and where their full stories can be found.

11:4: Abel: Abel was one of Adam and Eve’s sons who was killed by his brother, Cain, for presenting a better sacrifice to God. He is sometimes considered the first martyr. His story can be found in **Genesis 4**.

11:5: Enoch: We don’t know much about Enoch, but he apparently walked with the Lord so closely that God took him to heaven before he ever died. **Genesis 5:21-24**.

11:7: Noah: Noah is the famous character who built the ark on God’s command before the flood that wiped out all things on earth. He had faith that God would save him and his

family if he followed the commands of God. **Genesis 6-9**.

11:8-12, 17-19: Abraham and Sarah: Abraham is considered the father of the Jewish nation. The stories touched on in **Hebrews 11** include when he left his hometown at God’s command without knowing where he was going (**Genesis 12**), when he and his wife, Sarah, conceived a baby in their old age (**Genesis 17, 18, 21**), and when Abraham obeyed God when he was told to sacrifice that son, Isaac, having faith that God would be able to raise him from the dead (spoiler alert: God doesn’t allow him to go through with the sacrifice!) (**Genesis 22**).

11:20: Isaac: Isaac was the son of Abraham and Sarah, who was promised to be through whom Abraham would father a great nation. He had two sons, Jacob and Esau, whom he blessed. **Genesis 27**.

11:21: Jacob: The son of Isaac, who blessed his grandsons in Egypt. **Genesis 48** (His name had been changed to Israel).

11:22: Joseph: One of the sons of Jacob. He rose to power in Egypt after being sold off into slavery by his brothers. God used him to provide food for many nations during a time of severe famine. The story mentioned in **Hebrews 11** can be found in **Genesis 50**.

11:23-28: Moses: Moses was the man whom God used to deliver the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt 400 years after the time of Joseph. His story can be found in the book of **Exodus**.

11:29: People crossing the Red Sea: This was a part of the deliverance from Egyptian slavery, headed by Moses. **Exodus 14.**

11:30: The Walls of Jericho Falling: This is when the Israelites, led by Joshua, followed God's command of how to defeat the Canaanite city of Jericho during the Conquest of Canaan (aka The Promised Land). **Joshua 6.**

11:31: Rahab: Rahab was a prostitute living in Jericho who helped the Israelites in their conquest. She (along with her family) alone was spared and reserved her space in the lineage of Jesus (**Matthew 1:5**). **Joshua 2.**

11:32-33: Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the Prophets: Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah were judges, or leaders of Israel before they had a king. Their stories can be found in the book of **Judges**. Samuel was a prophet who oversaw the coronations of the first kings of Israel. David was the second king of Israel. Their stories can be found in the books of **1 and 2 Samuel**. There were many prophets, but some that are alluded to in **Hebrews 11** are Daniel, who was not killed in the lion's den (**Daniel 6**), Radshach, Meshach, and Abednego, who were not burned to death in the fiery furnace (**Daniel 3**), and Elijah and Elisha, who raised people from the dead (**1 Kings 17 21-24** and **2 Kings 4:35-37**).

// In Preparation

You are probably finding yourselves doing group online this week due to the stay-at-home order in place in Colorado and throughout the nation. If this is true, take some time to just be grateful for the technology that we have available to us that helps in the current state of isolation we are in! Pray that God will use this technology to help facilitate meaningful discussion and community in the midst of uncertainty and seclusion. If you need help setting up an online forum to host group, please reach out to your coach or group director, and they will be happy to help you set something up! Thanks for continuing to be a group leader despite the circumstances. You are truly being the light of Jesus in these dark times.

// References

Keener, Craig S Ph.d. *IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. InterVarsity Press, 2014.



Group Discussion Questions

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// Bible References

Hebrews 12:1-3; John 19:28-30; John 16:33; Romans 8:28, 31-39

// Community Questions

1. Jim mentioned watching Doomsday Preppers recently. What shows have you been watching while stuck at home?
2. What restaurants do you miss the most?
3. What was your takeaway from the reading in the challenge last week?

// Core Questions

1. What has been your definition of “faith”?
2. What have you hoped that your faith would provide for you?
3. How did the sermon challenge your definition of faith?
4. What has been your response to the current coronavirus crisis? Have you panicked in fear, blown it off as everybody overreacting, or something else?
5. Read **Hebrews 12:1-2**. How are we supposed to respond when things get scary, uncertain, or hard?
6. What does “fixing your eyes on Jesus” mean to you?
7. Read **Romans 8:31-39** together. What hope do those verses bring you during whatever circumstances you are facing now?

// Challenge

This week’s challenge is just an echo of Jim’s challenge in his sermon. What if everyone who heard his talk would put up some of their Christmas lights from now through Easter as a representation of Jesus being the light in this dark world? There are many reasons these days to be sad, anxious, and worried. But Jesus promises to go through it all with us. Psalm 23 says that He is with us even as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. So, as the body of Christ, let’s literally show that light to our neighbors. And if they ask what the heck we are doing, let’s use that as an opportunity to tell them about the hope and peace that we have in Jesus. Come back next week with any story related to this, ready to share. Maybe it is your kids asking why you are doing it, or a neighbor, or just a reflection of your own experience. Let’s be the light of Christ in this dark world!