Hebrews 13

*“The Never-Changing Jesus!”*

**Scripture:** Hebrews 13:1-19

**Memory Verse:** *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”*  Hebrews 13:8

**Lesson Focus:** As we live our life we can trust that Jesus will never change and take specific action steps to follow Him.

**Activities and Craft:** Coloring Page; Work Sheet

Craft for 1st and 2nd graders: Mother’s Day Craft: Doily mother’s Day Poem; Give each of the kids a copy of the poem. Have them color their poem and cut it out. Have them paste the poem to a doily. Have them glue their doily to construction paper.

**Introduction:** Tell the kids to finish your sentence about what things change into.

1. A caterpillar changes into a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? (Butterfly)
2. A baby changes into a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? (child)
3. A child changes into a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? (adult)
4. A seed changes into a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? (plant)
5. Today changes into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? (tomorrow)
6. 2015 changes into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? (2016)

There is so much that changes around us every day. Many things we do not have control over. Our parents may get divorced. Someone may get sick. Our friend might move away. But while everything changes there is one thing that you can count on that will never change. That is what we are going to talk about today.

**Bible Study:**

 **Hebrews 13:1-8:** *“The lifestyle of a follower of Jesus.”*

 The end of Hebrews 12:28 reminds us that as a follower of Jesus we have a

Kingdom that cannot be shaken, we belong to heaven right now. So because we belong to the Kingdom of God we are to serve God “acceptably with reverence and godly fear.” We do this through the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God. What we think about God has everything to do with our relationship with each other and the world.

So when we come to Hebrews 13 we are going to be given a list of important ways we are to live our life for Jesus. This is the lifestyle of a follower of Jesus.

1. Love your brothers: Simple statement, but it’s not easy to do? Jesus said that people will know that we are Christians by our love for one another. Do Christians always show love to each other? Why or why not? Do you think this is something that you need to work on?
2. Be hospitable: What does it mean to “entertain” or to be “hospitable”? It does not mean to be the funniest kid in town and entertain all of your friends by being silly. It means to have people into your home. To have fellowship and to feed others. Right here it reminds us to entertain strangers. People that we do not know well. What is the surprise mentioned in this verse? That if you entertain a stranger you may be entertaining angels and not be aware. We could miss out on a fabulous blessing of God by not being hospitable. This is important to the heart of God.
3. Remember the prisoners: What does this verse tell us to do? We are to remember people that are in prison or are mistreated as if it was ourselves. We need to pray for them and visit them and maybe meet some of their needs. Do you know that there are people right now that are being mistreated in the world because they believe in Jesus? They need our prayers!
4. Marriage is honorable: God established marriage and we need to remember that there are guidelines set forth in the Bible. The world is trying to change the meaning of what marriage is and God says very clearly that it is between and man and a woman. God says that they become one flesh and are together for their lifetime. In the middle of this list of ways we are to follow Jesus, the writer of Hebrews reminds us that marriage is a very important way to show the world that you are a Jesus follower.
5. Be content: Are you happy with what you have? Are you happy with where you live? Are you happy with what you wear? Are you happy with how you look? Are you happy with the money your family has? Being content is very important to the heart of God. He tells us here that our “conduct should be without covetousness.” Covetousness means to want more than what we have…specifically money. We are to be thankful for what we have.

Here is the thing….to be content is to trust Jesus! The writer of Hebrews then quotes from Joshua 1:5, when God tells Joshua that He will never leave him nor forsake him. In other words, all that we have is from the hand of God. We have all that we need. God will never leave us. God is always with us. 1 Timothy 6:6-8 tells us “*But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that*.”

1. Remember God is my helper: Who helps you with life? (parents, teachers, coaches, grandparents…etc.) Do you realize that God is your helper? Here the writer of Hebrews is quoting from Psalm 27 – “*God is our helper who should we fear. What can man do to me?*” One of the most important parts of faith is to believe that God is in charge. He will help us through any situation. He may not take the situation away, but He will help us deal with it. We have the Holy Spirit inside of us to help us navigate through life.
2. Follow those who follow Jesus; he reminds us that there are people in our life that teach us God’s word and who live for Jesus. These are people that we should observe and follow the way they live.
3. Jesus never changes; Remember when we started our lesson and we talked about things that change around us. Here is the one thing that will never change. Everybody hold up one finger. What one thing never changes? (Jesus.) The author of Hebrews says that Jesus will never change, yesterday, today and forever. What part of time did he leave out? NONE! Jesus NEVER Changes. There are changes in our lives that are good. We need to grow and change every day. But when things change around us that are not good, Jesus is always the same.
4. There is a bully at school – does Jesus change?
5. There is a tornado – does Jesus change?
6. Our parents fight – does Jesus change?
7. Someone gets sick – does Jesus change?
8. Our friend does not want to be our friend any more – does Jesus change?

 Do you guys get the message? We serve a God that never changes!

 **Hebrews 13:9-15:**

 Hebrews 13:9; Watch what you believe: Don’t be “carried” away by strange doctrines. Doctrine is what we believe. What we believe comes from the Bible. You guys need to make sure that when someone says it comes from the Bible that it actually does come from the Bible. The entire Bible is God’s word. You cannot take one verse and make it say something that the Bible does not say.

Hebrews 13:9b-16; The “Right Sacrifice.”

1. The old system of sacrifices of animals does not cover sin forever
2. Jesus offered His own life as a sacrifice for sin
3. When we know Jesus we are citizen of Heaven and are looking for our forever home.
4. The sacrifice that God wants is the sacrifice of our lips. What does that mean?

**Worship:**

1. God wants our praise
2. God wants our words to praise Him
3. God want the fruit of our lips
4. God wants our thanks
5. God wants our worship

**Work:**

1. Do good
2. Share

True worship always involves us giving of ourselves to others.

**Conclusion:** What one thing does not change? Jesus! Because Jesus does not change and is the same throughout eternity, I can trust that my life is in His hands. And if I trust and believe that then I am going to follow Jesus and become more like Jesus.

 I will love others like Jesus.

 I will care for others like Jesus

 I will remember that God set up marriage.

 I will be content with what I have.

 I will be careful about what I believe.

 I will worship Jesus.

 I will offer the sacrifice of my lips.

 I will offer the sacrifice of doing good to others.

The ONE thing that does not change is Jesus.

The ONE thing that I can change is living my life for Jesus.