



October 25 — Anchor

Weekly Reading: Hebrews 4–8
Life Group Passage: Hebrews 6:13–20

Main Point

God's unchanging character and promise give believers a secure hope anchored in the presence of Christ.

Key Verse

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”
Hebrews 6:19

Life Group — The Flow

- 15 minutes — Conversation and relationship-building
- 5 minutes — Looking Back
- 5 minutes — Introduction, Background, and Christ Connection
- 30 minutes — Study and Apply
- 5–7 minutes — Application Exercise
- 10 minutes — Pray Through the Passage and Prayer Requests
- 5 minutes — Conclusion

If Time Is Limited...

Focus on:

- Main Point and Key Verse
- Background and Christ Connection
- Read Hebrews 6:13–15
- Passage 1 questions 1 and 3
- Read Hebrews 6:16–20
- Passage 2 questions 1 and 4
- Application Exercise
- Pray Through the Passage

- Final Takeaway

Looking Back — 5 Minutes

Last week Hebrews warned us not to harden our hearts and called us to encourage one another toward perseverance. This week the writer gives weary believers something solid to hold onto: the unchanging character and promise of God.

Discuss one or more:

- What truth did you need to respond to “today” last week?
- Did you notice a deceptive excuse that needed to be named?
- Were you able to encourage someone toward Christ in a concrete way?

Transition to Introduction

“Perseverance becomes much harder when our confidence is attached to something unstable. Hebrews now asks us to place our hope in what cannot move.”

Introduction — 5 Minutes

Ask

What is something you rely on because you expect it to remain dependable?

Examples could include a trusted person, a routine, a job, a structure, a financial plan, or even a physical landmark.

Follow-Up

What happens emotionally when something you counted on as stable suddenly changes?

Say

Much of life is less stable than we would like. Plans change, people fail, health shifts, money disappears, and circumstances we assumed were permanent can move quickly.

Hebrews does not answer instability by promising that everything around believers will become predictable. It points instead to the God who cannot lie and to Jesus who has already entered God’s presence on our behalf. Christian hope is secure because its object is secure.

Transition to Background

“This image of an anchor comes immediately after one of Hebrews’ strongest warnings, which makes the assurance in verses 13–20 especially important.”

Background

Hebrews 5:11–6:12 calls its readers toward maturity and warns them against drifting away from Christ. The warning is serious, but the writer does not leave faithful believers wondering whether God is unreliable.

In verse 9 he says he is convinced of “better things” concerning his readers—things connected with salvation. He reminds them that God is not unjust and does not forget their work and love. Then he points them to Abraham as an example of patient faith in God’s promise.

The emphasis in verses 13–20 is not Abraham’s greatness but God’s trustworthiness. God made a promise, confirmed it with an oath, and fulfilled what He had said. Believers now have even stronger reason for hope because Jesus has entered the heavenly sanctuary as our forerunner and High Priest.

Transition to Christ Connection

“The anchor of Christian hope is not simply that God once kept a promise to Abraham. The promise reaches its fulfillment and security in Jesus.”

Christ Connection

God’s promises find their fulfillment in Christ. Jesus came according to God’s long-promised plan, lived faithfully, died for sinners, rose from the dead, and entered the Father’s presence as our great High Priest.

Hebrews says Jesus entered “behind the curtain,” language drawn from the Most Holy Place in the tabernacle. Under the old covenant, the high priest entered that sacred place as a representative of the people. Jesus has entered the true heavenly presence of God on behalf of His people once for all.

He is also called a “forerunner.” A forerunner goes ahead where others will follow. Our hope is therefore anchored not merely to a future possibility but to a Person who is already where He promises to bring us.

Believers can endure uncertainty because God’s character does not change, God cannot lie, and Jesus has already secured access to God’s presence.

Transition to Study and Apply

“The writer begins with Abraham, whose story shows that God’s promise can be trusted even when fulfillment requires patient waiting.”

Study and Apply — 30 Minutes

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says and how we can apply it in our lives this week.

Passage 1 — Hebrews 6:13–15

The God Who Keeps His Promise

Read the Passage – Have a volunteer read Hebrews 6:13–15.

The Certainty of God’s Promise

[13] For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself,

[14] saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.”

[15] And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. (ESV)

Commentary

Use the following commentary to prepare ahead of time. As you lead, summarize the key insights rather than reading everything word-for-word.

Verse 13 recalls God’s promise to Abraham. Because there was no one greater by whom God could swear, He swore by Himself. In the ancient world, an oath appealed to a greater authority as confirmation. God has no higher authority above Him.

Verse 14 echoes God’s promise to bless Abraham and multiply his descendants. The fulfillment did not arrive instantly. Abraham’s life included waiting, uncertainty, mistakes, and long stretches in which the promise seemed humanly impossible.

Verse 15 says that after waiting patiently, Abraham obtained the promise. The point is not that Abraham displayed flawless patience. Genesis records moments when he tried to secure the promise through his own plans. Yet God remained faithful.

The passage therefore directs our confidence away from the strength of human faith and toward the reliability of the One who promises. Patient faith is possible because God's character remains steady while circumstances change.

For Christians, waiting is not passive resignation. It is continuing to trust and obey while the full outcome remains unseen.

Guide Discussion

You do not need to cover every question. Use those that best help your group engage with the passage.

1. **Good for Students.** What does Abraham's story show about the relationship between God's promise and patient waiting?
2. **Discuss.** Why is waiting especially difficult when you believe God is trustworthy but cannot see what He is doing?
3. **Deeper Dive.** How does focusing on God's faithfulness rather than the strength of our own faith change the way we endure uncertainty?
4. **Reflective — Index Card.** Where are you most tempted to force an outcome instead of trusting God while you wait?

Teaching Insight

Say

"Biblical patience is not confidence that our preferred outcome will happen on our schedule. It is confidence that the God who promised is trustworthy even while we wait."

Transition to Passage 2

"The writer now moves from an example of God's faithfulness to the deepest reason believers can have strong encouragement: God Himself cannot lie."

Passage 2 — Hebrews 6:16–20

A Sure and Steadfast Anchor

Read the Passage – Have a volunteer read Hebrews 6:16–20.

[16] For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation.

[17] So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath,

[18] so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.

[19] We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,

[20] where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek. (ESV)

Commentary

Verses 16–17 explain the purpose of an oath: it confirms what has been promised and puts an end to dispute. God graciously condescended to human weakness by confirming His promise so that the heirs of the promise could see the unchangeable nature of His purpose.

Verse 18 speaks of “two unchangeable things” in which it is impossible for God to lie—His promise and His oath. God’s truthfulness is not merely a habit He usually keeps. Lying is contrary to His holy character.

The result is “strong encouragement” for those who have fled for refuge to seize the hope set before them. The language pictures people running to safety and taking hold of what God provides.

Verse 19 gives the memorable image: hope is “an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” An anchor does not stop the sea from moving; it keeps the vessel from being carried wherever the sea wants to take it.

But this anchor is unusual. It reaches “behind the curtain,” into the very presence of God. Our security is not tied to circumstances below but to the heavenly reality where Christ has gone.

Verse 20 identifies Jesus as the forerunner who entered on our behalf and became High Priest forever in the order of Melchizedek. The anchor is secure because Jesus is secure. He has already entered the place toward which Christian hope points.

Consider This — An Anchor Beyond Sight

When a boat drops anchor, the sailor usually cannot see the anchor once it sinks below the water. What matters is not whether the anchor remains visible but whether it has taken hold of something solid.

The surface may continue moving. Wind can push, waves can rise, and the boat may swing within a range. Yet the unseen anchor keeps the vessel from drifting away.

Christian hope is not secure because life stops moving; it is secure because our hope is fastened to Christ in the unchanging presence of God.

Guide Discussion

- 1. Good for Students.** What reasons for confidence does the writer pile up in verses 16–20?
- 2. Discuss.** How is biblical hope different from optimism that circumstances will work out the way we want?
- 3. Deeper Dive.** What does it mean for our hope to reach “behind the curtain” where Jesus has gone before us?
- 4. Reflective — Index Card.** What current uncertainty would look different if you treated God’s character—not your circumstances—as the fixed point?

Teaching Insight

Say

“The anchor of the soul is not a feeling of confidence. It is the unchanging God, His truthful promise, and the risen Jesus who has already entered God’s presence for us.”

Transition to Application Exercise

“An anchor only helps when it is attached. Let’s identify the promise, the instability, and the act of waiting we need to connect to Christ.”

Application Exercise — 5–7 Minutes

Promise • Anchor • Wait

Supplies: Index cards and pens

Use the exercise for one current area of uncertainty rather than trying to solve every concern at once.

1. Promise

What truth from this passage about God or Christ can you state with certainty?

- God cannot lie
- God’s purpose is unchangeable
- Hope in Christ is firm and secure
- Jesus has entered God’s presence for us

2. Anchor

What unstable circumstance, fear, or unanswered question are you tempted to use as the measure of whether God is faithful?

3. Wait

What faithful action can you continue doing while the outcome remains unresolved?

- Pray
- Obey
- Serve
- Seek wise counsel
- Refuse to manipulate the outcome
- Keep showing up faithfully

Say

“Waiting becomes faith when we keep obeying because God’s character is more certain to us than the outcome we cannot yet see.”

Transition to Pray Through the Passage

“Our hope is strong because God is trustworthy. Let’s pray from that security rather than merely asking Him to remove every uncertain circumstance.”

Pray Through the Passage — 10 Minutes

Led by the Prayer Champion

Read each verse and prayer prompt aloud. Allow a few moments between prompts for personal reflection and prayer.

If time is limited, use one or two prompts rather than all four. The goal is meaningful prayer through the passage, not completing every prompt.

Prompt 1 — Adoration (Who God Is)

God is truthful and unchanging.

Hebrews 6:18 — “It is impossible for God to lie.”

Praise God because His character is perfectly truthful and His purpose does not shift with circumstances.

Prompt 2 — Confession (Where We Need Him)

We become impatient and try to control outcomes.

Hebrews 6:15 — “And so, after waiting patiently, Abraham obtained the promise.”

Confess where impatience, fear, or control has replaced patient trust.

Prompt 3 — Gratitude (What He Has Done)

God has given a secure hope.

Hebrews 6:19 — “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”

Thank God that your hope in Christ is anchored somewhere deeper than changing circumstances.

Prompt 4 — Response / Obedience (How We Will Obey)

Jesus has gone before us.

Hebrews 6:20 — “Jesus has entered there on our behalf as a forerunner.”

Ask God for courage to keep following Jesus in the one unresolved area you identified.

Prayer Requests, Praises, and Follow-Up

- Ask the group for updates from the previous week's prayer requests and celebrate answered prayers.
- Invite members to share honestly at whatever level they are comfortable so the group can support one another through prayer and practical care.
- Pray for people who are waiting on an answer, grieving an uncertain outcome, or struggling to trust God when circumstances feel unstable.
- Record requests and praises, share them with the group during the week, and follow up at the next gathering.

Transition to Conclusion

"The sea may still move after an anchor drops. Hebrews does not promise a motionless life. It promises a hope that will not let us drift away from Christ."

Conclusion — 5 Minutes

Final Takeaway

God cannot lie, His purpose does not change, and Jesus has already gone before us. Therefore our hope can remain firm even when life around us is uncertain.

This Week's Challenge

Respond — *What Will I Do?*

Keep your Promise • Anchor • Wait card where the unresolved situation tends to occupy your attention.

- Repeat the promise before rehearsing the fear.
- Name the circumstance without treating it as evidence that God has changed.
- Continue the faithful action you identified while you wait.

Reflect — *What Is God Showing Me?*

Consider:

- What do I usually use as evidence that God is being faithful?
- Where am I trying to force an outcome?
- How does Jesus as our forerunner change the way I think about the future?
- What would patient faithfulness look like this week?

Review — *How Will I Keep God's Word Before Me?*

Review Hebrews 6:19 throughout the week:

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.”

When life feels unstable, picture the anchor reaching beyond what you can see into the presence of God where Jesus has already gone.

Read — *How Will I Prepare for Next Week?*

Continue with the church's Year of Prayer New Testament Reading Plan.

Next Week's Reading: Hebrews 9–13

As you read, notice how Christ's finished sacrifice gives believers confidence to draw near, persevere in faith, and strengthen one another.

Closing Prayer

“Faithful God, You cannot lie and Your purpose does not change. Thank You for giving us strong encouragement in Christ and for anchoring our hope in Your presence. Forgive us for measuring Your faithfulness by changing circumstances or trying to force outcomes we cannot control. Teach us to wait with obedience and confidence. Keep our souls anchored to Jesus, our forerunner and eternal High Priest. Amen.”