

LIFE Group Discussion Questions  
Hebrews 5:11-14 – Immaturity in Action  
Week of Nov. 1-7, 2009

Summary – We enter another warning section of Hebrews. The writer is very concerned about the immaturity of his Jewish readers. We gain some insight here as to why they were so fragile in their faith and considering going back to the old Jewish (comfortable) ways. They were poor listeners to the word of God and poor appliers of the word. There was a case of arrested development. Given the time and the opportunities before them, they should have been teachers by now, but they still needed the ABCs of the word of God. It appears they once were further along, but they had regressed back into babyhood, which is both sad and abnormal. Babyhood is OK for babies, but not for adults. The writer wanted to say more about the high priestly role of Christ, but realized he couldn't... In this short paragraph he rebukes them, then, goes on later in Ch. 6 to exhort them to press on from this immature state. We focus today on this gentle but firm rebuke.

General questions:

1. What grabbed your attention the most?
2. What was the big idea?
3. Any questions hanging out there?

Specifics:

4. Do your children desire to grow up? Or are they more like Peter Pan? What evidence do your kids give that they are eager to grow up and not be kids any more? (not to mention the reality that most of us wish we were kids again)
5. How have your children (or children in general) developed the capacity for discerning right from wrong, good from evil? Describe the process.
6. If you had a friend who was an immature Christian, how would you deal with them? What is Paul's approach here? (hint: gentle, firm, confrontational...? What kind of approach does an immature believer need?)
7. Are we a mature church? Or more like the Hebrew church? Should we be further along in our maturity? What hinders us?
8. What kind of listener are you? What kind of applier (of the word of God) are you?
9. What helps you or enables you to best apply the word of God to your life. How does that work for you? Give an example.
10. How do you understand, how would you describe, the difference between milk and solid food (spiritually speaking)?
11. Which statement is the more accurate:
  - a. Taking in "solid food" enables us to practice what we know.
  - b. Practicing what we know enables us to take in "solid food."
12. Give an example of how you discerned good from evil – a good decision – and what were the contributing factors to that good decision. It can be a big decision, or an everyday small decision, but one that was a clear example that your senses were trained to discern good from evil.

Rabbit trail of the week: If you were asked to teach a class for new believers, what would you include as the ABCs of the faith?

