



SERMON GUIDE

## ENTERING GOD'S REST

Hebrews 4:1-13 | Pastor Tim Prince

April 23, 2023

Faith Community Church | fcchudson.com

### Conversation Questions

The Conversation Guide is a great tool for individuals, families, discipleship groups and Missional Communities to take a deeper, more personal dive into the content of the current sermon series. The Conversation Guide will be posted by every Monday on the 'live' page of our website and in our weekly newsletter. We encourage you to use it this week on your own, around your dinner tables, over coffee with your friends or in your faith groups!

The Conversation Guide is built on the SOAP model, which is a tool you can use when reading the Bible. SOAP helps you be intentional about paying attention to:

- Scripture that stands out to you while you read
- Observations you are making about a passage
- Applications that connect the verses to your real life and relationships
- Prayer that invites God to participate in all that you do

**Getting to Know Me:** Do you or your family practice a sabbath in any way? Do you remember your parents, grandparents, or great-grand parents practicing one? What did it look like?

**Note About the Passage:** In today's reading it would be good to know that "rest" refers to both a place (heaven and the new creation) and to communion and relationship with God. The "the seventh day" and "Sabbath" it is talking about the seventh day of creation (Genesis 2:2). It's a reminder that the opportunity to have rest (a relationship with God) has always been there since the very beginning.

**Read** Hebrews 4:1-13

**S:** What verses, phrases, words, or feelings stand out to you as you read this text? Is anything "illuminated," surprising, or jumping off the page and affecting your spirit?

**O:** In the Old Testament, there was an entire generation of Israel that failed to reach the Promised Land because as they travelled there, they displayed continual disobedience through lack of faith in the Lord who had brought them out of their slavery. The writer of Hebrews points to that generation as a warning to the church: Don't be like that generation that failed to enter God's rest.

What is the author of Hebrews teaching about how we enter a relationship with him? What does he say about why some fail to do so?

**O:** How do we "rest" from trying to save ourselves (v.10) and "strive to enter [God's] rest" (v.11) at the same time? How do you think this works?

**O:** What is the warning of verses 11-12? What do you think the warning means?

**A:** If God had written this passage just for you, what words, phrases or ideas would he have underlined specifically for you? What did you need to hear most? Why?

**A:** Is there any way that you suspect that your heart has been growing hard? How can you tell? What does it look like in your life?

**A:** Is there any way in which you feel warned by God by this passage? What would it look like in your life for you to heed to warning?

**P:** Talk to God about your application responses above. Ask him to speak to you, help you, forgive you, and provide direction that you need.