May 31, 2026

Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church

Grand Prairie, Texas

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Class Leader:
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Many products promise to meet deep needs, to give us a sense of happiness, wholeness, and purpose. But only one message, the message of reconciliation entrusted to us as believers in Jesus, is truly good news.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK:
Dear Jesus, thank You for inviting me to be an ambassador for You.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

(2 Corinthians 5:20 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", August 17, 2023)

Summer Series: The Testimony of Faithful Witnesses

NEXT WEEK

UNIT 1: Faithful Witnesses Model God's Fidelity

Deborah, the Dutiful Judge

Judges 4:4-10,14, 21-22

Living in Christian Community

Matthew 28-18-20; Hebrews 10:22-25

Lesson Background and Introduction

Today's lesson comes from two New Testament texts. The first is Matthew 28, which describes events following Jesus' resurrection. Mary discovers the empty tomb, brings the news to the disciples, and Jesus appears to them (Matthew 28:1-10). Religious officials pay off Roman soldiers to tell a different story (28:11-15). These events take place in and around Jerusalem. When we pick up with our text, however, the disciples are on a mountaintop in Galilee (28:16). Jesus gives them instructions for continuing ministry (28:18-20).

The second text comes from the book of Hebrews. Its unnamed author draws significantly from the Old Testament, quoting or referencing it nearly 30 times. The book's use of Old Testament passages strengthens its claims regarding Jesus and the new covenant. In particular, the author emphasizes Jesus' superiority (Hebrews 1:5-2:18), priestly status (4:14-5:10), and eternal sacrifice (9:1-10:18).

The verses just prior to today's lesson establish that believers have access to the presence of God because of the work of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:19-20). Jesus serves as the "great priest over the house of God" (10:21). Through Jesus, believers may approach the very throne of God (see 4:16). Hebrews describes God's house in new, spiritual terms (3:6). Jesus is not the priest of a physical building, such as the temple in Jerusalem. Instead, he is the priest over the very people of God (Ephesians 2:21-22). As members of God's family, "living stones" that make up his house (1 Peter 2:5), we host God's Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16). God calls believers to live faithfully in community, to respond to him, and to serve each other.

Key Verse: Heb 10:23

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

(*Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary*)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Living in Response to the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20)

A Commission from and with authority (18)

Authority to disciple others (Matt 4:19)
Authority with power over demons and diseases (Luke 9:1)
Authority and stewardship of God's Word (Col 1:25)
Authority that is commissioned by the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:1-4)

A Commission that involves baptism (19)

A baptism that signified repentance (Acts 19:1-7)
A baptism that symbolized being buried with Jesus (Col 2:11-12)
A baptism that symbolized a good conscience toward God (1 Peter 3:18-22)
A baptism with water (Acts 1:5)

A Commission that involves teaching (20)

Teaching with wisdom (Col 3:16)
Teaching with ability from God (1 Tim 3:2)
Teaching sound doctrine (Titus 2:1)
Teaching that is anointed (1 John 2:27)

Living with Faith that is Unwavering (Heb 10:23-25)

Unwavering because of being near to God (22)

Near God through the blood of Jesus (Eph 2:13-14)
Near God though His works (Ps 64:9)
Near God through the fear of God (Rev 15:4)
Near God though the creation (Acts 17:26-27)
Near God though restoration (Acts 15:14-17)

Unwavering because God keeps His promises (23)

Promises that are always "YES" in Jesus (2 Cor 1:20)
Promises made with the Divine power (2 Peter 1:3-4)
Promises that are only being completely satisfied in the present age (Heb 11:13-16)
Promises of an eternal life (1 John 2:24-25)

Unwavering because God loves us (24)

God loves us because He is love (1 John 4:8)
God loves us because He is rich in it (Eph 2:4)
God loves us because nothing can separate us from His love (Rom 8:39)
God loves us because He sacrificed His Son (John 3:16)
God loves us because of His grace (2 Thess 2:16)

Unwavering in our assembling (25)

Assembling to learn about the Scriptures (Acts 17:1-4)
Assembling in the presence of God (Matt 18:20)
Assembling for fellowship (Acts 2:42-47)
Assembling for prayer (Acts 1:14)