**YOUTH & Parents – August 3, 2025**

Dear parents,

We are wrapping up the book of Hebrews. It was a really meaningful study, and I am so thankful we had the opportunity to (ENDURE) walk through it together.

This final lesson was one that helped students see a tough truth: God’s discipline is done out of love. Students were challenged to think of times when God has disciplined them, how they reacted, and what they learned from the experiences.

As you go throughout the week, help reinforce this teaching in your child’s life by asking the following questions as you have the opportunity.

* Have you ever thought about why we discipline you?
* What if we never disciplined you? What would that say about us?
* How does this relate to God and his discipline?

Check out the following passages together:

Hebrews 12:1-3, & 5-11

Secondarily: Psalm 39:11, Galatians 6:9, Philippians 4:13, & 1 Peter 2:21

**Adult & Family Discussion – August 3, 2025**

This sermon, part of the "Say What? Jesus Said What?" series, tackles the intimidating concept of the **unforgivable sin** from Mark 3:29. Many fear they might commit this sin, but we discover the true meaning by examining the context.

**Understanding the Unforgivable Sin**

Jesus consistently offered **forgiveness** and healing throughout his ministry, as seen when he forgives a paralyzed man in Mark 2.

The specific "unforgivable sin" arises when scribes accuse Jesus of performing miracles by the power of Beelzebul (Satan). Jesus explains that Satan cannot work against himself. Therefore, to **blaspheme against the Holy Spirit** means to deliberately and persistently attribute the undeniable work of God's Spirit, as seen in Jesus' good deeds, to the devil. It's not a mistake, but a hardened, willful rejection of God's clear intervention.

**Jesus Offers Forgiveness for All Sins**

The sermon offers powerful reassurance:

* **All sins are forgivable:** Mark 3:28 explicitly states that "all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter." The unforgivable sin is a specific warning to those who maliciously reject God's clear work, not a threat to fearful believers.
* **Jesus is the forgiver:** Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, came to forgive. Even on the cross, he prayed, "Father forgive them," demonstrating his commitment to pardoning all sins. His death and resurrection are the ultimate act of forgiveness, removing all accusations against us.

We can be assured not to adopt the mindset of an accuser who dismisses God's good work. Instead, embrace the profound truth that in Jesus, **your sins are forgiven**, no matter what you've done. He has forgotten them and doesn't accuse you.

Questions for discussion or reflection this week:

1. Even very godly people struggled with the idea of the "unforgivable sin." Why do you think this particular verse (Mark 3:29) causes so much anxiety or misunderstanding for people, even those with strong faith?
2. Read Mark 3:22-30. The scribes accused Jesus of being demon possessed. Why would Jesus’ opponents make such an illogical accusation?
3. What kinds of accusations does the devil level at believers today?
4. The sermon emphasized that Jesus' mission is to forgive sins, even blasphemies. What specific examples or phrases from the sermon or the scriptures (like Mark 3:28 or Jesus' words on the cross) stood out to you as reminders of God's incredible grace and willingness to forgive?