

## Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16

### Confidence to care

The final chapter of Hebrews gives encouragement to keep on in faithful worship and loving concern for others, including strangers and those in prison. Christians are to live lives consistent with their calling, free of the love of money and rooted in the love of Christ.

Read this week's passage:



Create a small gift of love to pass on to someone else, perhaps from the church family or further away. This could be as simple as icing some biscuits or arranging a small bunch of flowers.

## LISTEN

Listen to or watch the song 'I have confidence in me' from *The Sound of Music*. Given Maria's faith, did she just have confidence in herself or in God too? How can you have more complete trust in Jesus?

## Read

Read the Hebrews passage and write some 'pithy proverbs' or wise sayings of your own.

Find more free Roots resources  
to reflect on this week's theme:



## Living Scripture

*'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.'* Hebrews 13:6

What makes you feel confident? Is it money in your pocket/account, an award or diploma on a wall, being picked for the team or invited out by friends? Jesus taught his followers not to depend on honour associated with social standing, but to share his humility and confidently to care for people living with poverty and need. Our confidence can come from knowing that we are loved, cared for, and chosen by God, and that God wants us to generously care for others.

The word 'love' features several times in this week's Hebrews passage – mutual love, love of strangers. This love is as practical as it is emotional. Hospitality to strangers sits alongside support for those in prison, and both require a generous lifestyle and the confidence to care instead of prioritising ourselves and our bank balance.

How can you show this outward-facing, practical love for friends and strangers? What makes you feel stingy? What stirs up your generosity? If my confidence is in myself or my social standing, I will not be consistently generous. Talk to God about where you feel fearful or anxious. What inner resources does God want you experience so you can show care and generosity?

## First impressions

- Is there a situation or task you are being called to that requires confidence?
- Could your church be bolder in reaching out to marginalised groups?
- What courageous actions could you take to support prisoners or victims of torture?



## Pray

God of all, your generous heart draws us in to be cared for, supported and inspired. We praise you that you call us to care for, support and inspire others. Thank you for the confidence to be bold, to take risks and to trust that you will bless us with the gifts we need. Thank you for your beautiful, inclusive and strong love, which is the same yesterday, today and for ever. Amen.



## ACT



Prison's Week is coming up. Pray for those in need and find out about ways to support them.