

HEBREWS



DRAW NEAR

A study through the book of Hebrews

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GOSPEL CITY CHURCH

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Directional oversight: The elders of Gospel City Church

Writing & development: Mitchel Helmkamp, Erin Harris, Benjamin Hannah

Project management: Benjamin Hannah

Copy editors: Lauren Hannah, Alyssa Anderson

Design & layout: Alyssa Anderson

Table Of Contents



6	Overview + Guide	42	Week Six
11	Introduction	48	Week Seven
12	Week One	54	Week Eight
18	Week Two	60	Week Nine
24	Week Three	66	Week Ten
30	Week Four	72	Appendix A
36	Week Five	74	Appendix B

The goal of this study is to help better equip you to be a life-long studier, lover, and obeyer of the Word of God. For God's Word is to the soul what food is to the body. It is sweeter than honey and more precious than gold. It contains all we need for life and godliness. It is holy, perfect, and all together true. It has the power to raise the dead and sanctify sinners into the image of Christ. Blessed is the person who meditates on it day and night.

Overview



Our focus for this study will be the book of Hebrews, which gives us the metanarrative lens to read our entire Bible. In other words, Hebrews helps us read the Old Testament with the understanding of what Jesus has fulfilled, and the New Testament with hope and anticipation of what is still to come. Our aim is to see and to celebrate the resounding theme of the “already-but-not-yet”. The author of Hebrews is compelling his audience to enter in the rest of the fulfillment of all the law and prophets. Through Christ we have unhindered access to God, and so believers have an invitation to draw near to Him. We will examine how the original readers would have lived their entire lives in accordance with the law given to them by God through Moses—carefully obeying the laws of purification and sacrifice so that they could remain holy before the Lord. Yet throughout the book of Hebrews, the good news of the freedom to no longer live under the law builds upon the person of Jesus Christ and His superiority to any earthly attempt to draw near. Nothing can come close to who Jesus is and what He has done. As we study this book, our prayer is that we will grow in our understanding of the beauty of the gospel and that we will behold Jesus Christ as the only way to complete access to our Holy God. May you rejoice in His finished work and with confidence draw near to God.

Participant User Guide

UNDERSTANDING
HOW TO USE THIS
WORKBOOK

With this goal in mind, we have divided each week's personal study time into five sections: Observe, Interpret, Reflect, Pray, and Apply. Here are some tips for how to approach each aspect of the study:

Observe —

Before we try to observe, we need to pray. Psalm 119:18 should be the posture of our heart every time we open our Bibles. Bible study is so much more than an intellectual exercise. Apart from God's grace we will not have eyes to see or a heart that understands.

With that said, good readers are good question-askers. So as you read, be asking questions of the text. Every word is inspired. Every detail matters.

Allow the observation questions to guide you into more questions. Rest assured that you will never observe everything that there is to observe. The wisdom and glory of the Word of God is a bottomless ocean. Keep looking. There is always more to see.

Interpret —

In your flesh you will be tempted to skim through the passage rather than thoroughly read through it again. Resist that temptation! Reading the Bible is not about accumulating information; it is about spiritual transformation. There is always more to see, more to believe, more to obey. We cannot read a passage too many times. As we enter the interpret phase, we are just getting started.

After reading through the passage for a second time, our goal will be to start to interpret the passage in its proper context. When it comes to Bible interpretation, context is king. Therefore, always be asking, "How does it fit?" How does this sentence fit with the one that comes before it?

How does this paragraph/chapter fit in the surrounding context? How do the doctrines and themes in this passage fit in the metanarrative of Scripture? Asking these interpretive questions is the key to beholding the glory of the divine logic of the Word.

In order to guide you in these interpretive questions each week, we will provide *zoom in* and *zoom out* questions. Zoom in to discern what the passage is about. Then zoom out to see how it fits in the context of the narrative. Just as climbing mountains provides one with epic views, each *zoom out* section will provide "observation decks" that overlook the grand narrative of the epic story of the Bible.



Pray —

We suggest that prayer be done with an open Bible whenever possible. When you come to the prayer section, you will be guided in praying Scripture. What better vocabulary to use when talking to God than the very words He inspired!

Before you spend time in prayer, you may want to glance back at what you've observed and interpreted and consider how you've reflected on the passage. Recall how this passage impacted you and your understanding of God and His Word.

In prayer, find what works best for you. You may want to keep a prayer journal or write out a few specific things you want to remember to pray over. You might want to review what you are praying over and take a walk as you pray.

Some can find prayer time intimidating. Remember, prayer is simply talking to God, and because of Jesus we have direct access to the throne room. We can have confidence to draw near in prayer; it is here we receive mercy and find grace.

Reflect —

Reflecting encourages us to be curious about what this particular scripture means in the context of our own journey. We have seen how the passage fits into the story of Scripture, but now we need to consider how our lives fit in the story we are studying. We ask questions like “What is God telling me about Himself here?” and “What is God telling me about myself here?” Reflecting is a step toward allowing the Word of God to change us. We take the truth and personally interact with it.

A time of reflecting often exposes us. During this step, you may find an area of sin in your life or a new conviction you’ve not felt before. It is tempting to skim through reflection and not sit with the questions. Be intentional with this time; you will find it may be the most transformational step.

An important part of reflecting is meditation. As you reflect on God’s Word, give yourself time to think about what you’ve uncovered in your study so far. Meditating on God’s Word should lead you toward worship. Perhaps give yourself time during reflection to memorize a passage that jumps out to you or to listen to some worship music. Be prepared to respond.

Apply —

Hebrews is jam packed with rich, dense theological concepts and Old Testament background. It proclaims the glory of the God-man, Christ Jesus, from beginning to end. But for the author of Hebrews, the deep doctrine is not an end in itself. Its purpose is to be practical and applicational. The aim is not merely to inform his readers; the aim is to transform them. The letter is a pastoral sermon, not a theology lecture.

Therefore, as we study the letter we will completely miss the point of the author(s) (both human and divine) if we do not respond to and apply what we are learning. According to biblical logic, the one who knows but does not do is a bigger fool than the one who does not know at all. So each week we must consider how we can be doers of the Word and not just hearers.

In order to do this, we will seek to apply each passage through a series of questions that are guided by a few exhortations that can be found in the letter (Hebrews 4:12-16 / 12:1-2).

Through these questions we will seek to identify how God is using each week of this study to expose areas of sin and unbelief in our hearts. We will consider the weights and sins that need to be put off. We will encourage each other to run the race with perseverance, and most of all, we will seek to behold the glory of Jesus, who is the Messianic King and our Great High Priest. For as we behold Him, we will become like Him. And as we become like Him, we will draw near to God through Him and we will turn around and encourage others to do the same.

Every week, following your dedicated personal study of the Word, we will gather together with a shared purpose—to “stir up one another to love and good works” (Heb 10:24-25). Our collective aim during these gatherings is to minister the Word to each other so that we can collectively grow in maturity toward Christ who is our Head.



**HOW TO
PARTICIPATE
IN THE
WEEKLY
GATHERING**

TEACHING / We will begin each week with a time of dedicated teaching, sitting under the authority of the preached Word. Our teaching times will model how to faithfully exposit and apply the Word.

TABLE DISCUSSIONS / One of the best ways to grow in what you are learning is by telling others. There is much we can learn from each other’s walk with Jesus. After each teaching time, we will break into table groups for applicational discussion and prayer.

These will be active spaces to engage each other with what was gleaned in your personal study and to respond to what was taught that day. It will also be a time to encourage obedience and accountability to what the text is teaching and reproving us in. Be open and vulnerable. Anchored in the scriptural text, share what God is doing in your life. Everyone is expected to participate, but be mindful to not dominate the conversation.

We’ll close each time in prayer together. Praise God for who He is, repent to one another, ask the Lord to continue to work in you, and yield the results to Him.

Introduction to Hebrews

Hebrews is a book that piques one's curiosities in more than one way. For starters, its opening line is straight out of a fairytale: "Long ago in a far away land." It proceeds to leave us with questions about angels, a guy named Melchizedek, and a reward so great that generations past were willing to give up everything to not even attain it during their lifetime. It's interesting that, for us, Hebrews creates more questions than answers when its intent was to offer clarity. It was written to a nation that had lived through generation after generation of practicing the law for the purpose of remaining in right standing with holy God. Their tendency was to fall back on the ways they had learned and known to remain pure before their God. The author is trying to help the reader understand that there is a new and better way that has done away with all the rituals they had become accustomed to.

We might know a little bit about doing things the old way. Technology has brought us far in the last few decades. Around every corner we find new streamlined ways to think, communicate, and do life. All of these advances have made the world we live in feel a lot more comfortable and convenient, and yet there are some things we just prefer to do the old way—even if it is the harder, less convenient way. As they say, "Old habits die hard." Even in our personal walk with the Lord, we can often rely on our works and deeds or how often we show up to feel a sense of closeness to Him.

What we find in Hebrews is so much more than a discovery that will make your life easier; it's the blueprint to God's rescue plan for humanity, His solution for sinful man to draw near to Holy God. But it's not just a plan—it's a person. His plan has been intricately designed, and it has culminated through the work of Jesus Christ. Now, through Jesus, we have unhindered, full access and relationship with our God who deeply desires to make a home among His people. There is no need to go back to our old ways, back to our worthless rituals and empty works, because Jesus has rendered them useless. In Hebrews we see what a gift Jesus' life is for us. Because of Him, and only Him, we are not only invited to draw near, but we can do it with confidence!

DRAW NEAR (WEEK ONE)
A STUDY THROUGH HEBREWS

HEBREWS
1:1-14



JESUS IS THE EXACT IMPRINT OF GOD'S NATURE
THEREFORE HE IS GREATER THAN ANGELS

01

Jesus Is The Exact Imprint Of God's Nature — Therefore He Is Greater Than Angels

CONTEXT

Hebrews is a letter written in the form of a sermon, with the intention of exhorting its readers to not forsake the gospel of Jesus Christ by going back to Old Testament Judaism. The author begins in chapter 1 by proclaiming that Jesus is the creator, sustainer, ruler, governor, and sin-conquering King of the universe. He is the Word of God, the radiance of His glory, and the promised Prophet, Priest, and King. Therefore, He is greater than

the greatest being you could think of, even angels. In order to prove what he says in the introduction, the author strings together a series of Old Testament passages to argue that Jesus is the promised Davidic Messiah, the fulfillment of everything the Old Testament promises, Yahweh incarnate, and angels worship Him. Therefore, so should we.

OBSERVE

Day 01

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 1:1-14

(01) What does this passage say about the Son of God? List as many observations as you can find.

E.g., Heb. 1:6 reveals that angels are commanded to worship the Son.

(02) What does this passage say about God? What does it reveal about the relationship between God and the Son of God?

E.g., Heb. 1:2 says that God created the world through the Son; Heb. 1:3 says that the Son shares the same nature as God.

(03) What does this passage say about angels? Who are they and what do they do?

(04) Based on your observations, what is this passage about? Consider the transition words like *for*, *therefore*, and *because*, and summarize the author's argument in your own words.

INTERPRET

Day 02

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 1:1-14

ZOOM OUT / Read Jn. 1:1-3, 14-18 / Col. 1:15-20 / Heb. 1:1-4. What do each of these passages emphasize about Jesus? List the connections that you find.

ZOOM OUT / Read 2 Sam. 7:12-17 / Ps. 2:1-12 / Ps. 110:1-7. Why does the author cite these prophecies and apply them to the Son (see Heb. 1:5, 13)? What do they reveal about the identity of Jesus?

ZOOM OUT / In Heb. 1:6-12 the author cites multiple Old Testament passages about Yahweh and applies them to Jesus. With that shocking reality in mind, what do all of these Old Testament passages strung together (1:5-13) reveal to us about the identity of Jesus?

Bonus: Read the Athanasian Creed in Appendix B in order to help you behold the mystery of what is being revealed about our God.

ZOOM IN / According to the author, why is the Son superior to angels? Summarize the author's argument in your own words.

Consider Col. 2:18 / Rev. 22:8-9 for reference.

REFLECT

Day 03

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 1:1-14

(01) Meditate on Heb. 1:1-4. Which statement made of Jesus is most surprising or impactful to you?

(02) How does acknowledging that Jesus is the Son of God and agent of creation inform your worship of Him?

(03) The original audience had a tendency to elevate the position of angels and the spiritual realm. How might you be tempted today to emphasize or worship spiritual things over Jesus and His Word?

PRAY

Day 04

PRAY / Hebrews 1:1-14

(01) Hebrews 1:1-14 gives us an incredible description of Jesus. Choose a favorite descriptive word or two and use them to meditate on who Christ is. Use these descriptive words as you address God today.

(02) As you read through the passage, take note of any statements that you find you are not believing. Confess those to God and ask Him to show you His glory through His position above all things.

(03) Consider all the ways that God has spoken to His people. Thank God for how He has spoken to you “in these last days”. Tell Him why you are grateful for the Son of God.

APPLY

Day 05

PRAY / Hebrews 4:12-16 / 12:1-2

(01) How has God used this week's passage to expose the thoughts and intentions of your heart? What areas of sin or unbelief have been revealed?

(02) As you have reflected and prayed through this study, what weights or sins do you need to lay aside to more effectively run the race of the Christian life?

(03) How has God used this passage to encourage you to run your race with more perseverance and joy? How has it encouraged you to look to Jesus?

(04) Overall, how has God used this week's study to increase your love for and intimacy with the Lord Jesus? How has it encouraged you to draw near to the throne of grace?

HEBREWS 1:3

He is the
radiance
of the
glory of
God and
the exact
imprint of
his nature.

DRAW NEAR (WEEK TWO)
A STUDY THROUGH HEBREWS

HEBREWS
2:1-18



JESUS BECAME LIKE US SO THAT WE COULD BECOME LIKE HIM
THEREFORE DO NOT NEGLECT HIS GREAT SALVATION

02

Jesus Became Like Us So That We Could Become Like Him—Therefore Do Not Neglect His Great Salvation

CONTEXT

In chapters 1-2 the author of Hebrews is urging his readers to behold God's beloved Son and listen to Him. The message proclaimed by the Lord Jesus, attested by the apostles, and affirmed by the Holy Spirit is the New Covenant. And in order to encourage faithfulness to the New Covenant rather than turning back to the Old Covenant (i.e., Judaism), the author compares

the superiority of Jesus to angels, who were the administrators of the Old Covenant. For Jesus is the Son of God, worthy of worship. And He is the Son of man who through His death defeated death, sin, the devil, made propitiation for sin, accomplished salvation for the spiritual offspring of Abraham, and re-established God's rule over creation as the long-awaited human King.

OBSERVE

Day 01

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 2:1-18

(01) What does this passage say about Jesus?

List as many observations as you can find.

E.g., 2:8 says that all of creation is subject to the authority of King Jesus.

(02) What does this passage say about mankind?

E.g., 2:16 says that Jesus became a man to save men, not angels.

(03) What does this passage say about sin, death, and salvation?

(04) What does this passage say about angels?

(05) Based on your observations, what is this passage about? Consider the transition words like *for*, *therefore*, and *because*, and summarize the author's argument in your own words.

INTERPRET

Day 02

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 2:1-18

ZOOM OUT / Read Num. 15:30-31 / Deut. 17:2-5 / Acts 7:53 / Gal. 3:19 / Mk. 16:20 / Heb. 1:1-2. How do these verses help shed light on the point the author is making in 2:1-4? Summarize his argument in your own words.

ZOOM OUT / Read Gen. 1:26-28 / Ps. 8:1-9 / Dan. 7:13-14. According to these Old Testament passages, God has always planned to rule the world through a human king. According to Heb. 2:5-9, how has Jesus fulfilled God's original design for humanity?

ZOOM IN / Heb. 1 highlights the full divinity of Christ, while Heb. 2 highlights His full humanity. According to Heb. 2, why is it so important that Jesus is fully man?

Bonus: Read the Athanasian Creed in Appendix B in order to help you behold the mystery of what is being revealed about our God.

REFLECT

Day 03

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 2:1-18

(01) The author is warning us to pay close attention lest we drift. In what ways have you drifted away from the message of the gospel, either in the past or present? What specific practices can help you to pay attention?

(02) Reflect on 2:8. What is in subjection under Christ? What is not? How are you living out this truth? Make a list of anything you are struggling to believe is under the control of Jesus.

(03) Take note of 2:10-18. How many times do you see words regarding family? How does it appear Jesus in His humanity feels about sharing flesh and blood, temptations and suffering, and His inheritance with you?

PRAY

Day 04

PRAY / Hebrews 2:1-18

(01) Confess to God areas of your life that have evidence of drifting away. Ask for His help in paying attention to what you have heard.

(02) Tell God about the areas you have doubted His ultimate sovereignty. Take time to explain to Him your fears and uncertainties, and invite Him to remind you through His Word of His power, love, and wisdom in those areas.

(03) Meditate on Hebrews 1 and 2. In consideration of Jesus' divinity and His humanity, write down some ways you are grateful for the person of Jesus Christ. Express your gratitude through prayer and song.

APPLY

Day 05

PRAY / Hebrews 4:12-16 / 12:1-2

(01) How has God used this week's passage to expose the thoughts and intentions of your heart? What areas of sin or unbelief have been revealed?

(02) As you have reflected and prayed through this study, what weights or sins do you need to lay aside to more effectively run the race of the Christian life?

(03) How has God used this passage to encourage you to run your race with more perseverance and joy? How has it encouraged you to look to Jesus?

(04) Overall, how has God used this week's study to increase your love for and intimacy with the Lord Jesus? How has it encouraged you to draw near to the throne of grace?

HEBREWS 2:9

But we
see him
who for a
little while
was made
lower
than the
angels.

DRAW NEAR (WEEK THREE)
A STUDY THROUGH HEBREWS

HEBREWS
3:1-4:13

A minimalist still life composition on a neutral, light brown background. In the foreground, a large, light-colored wooden circle stands upright. A long, thin wooden rod leans diagonally across the scene, resting its base on a small, thick concrete ring on the right. Another thick concrete ring is positioned in front of the wooden circle, slightly to the left. The lighting is soft and even, creating subtle shadows.

JESUS OFFERS A GREATER REST THAN JOSHUA'S
THEREFORE STRIVE TO ENTER HIS REST

03

Jesus Offers A Greater Rest Than Joshua's — Therefore Strive to Enter His Rest

CONTEXT

Hebrews 1-2 argues that the Son is superior to angels, and likewise the salvation accomplished by the Son and declared through the New Covenant is superior to the Old Covenant declared by angels. Thus the author exhorts his readers to listen to the Son. In chapters 3-4, the author shows that the final and complete heavenly rest that Jesus offers

in the New Creation is even greater than the rest made available by Moses and Joshua in the Promised Land. The author urges his readers to consider what happened to the Israelites because of their unbelief and therefore strive to enter the rest offered to them through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

OBSERVE

Day 01

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 3:1-4:13

(01) What does this passage say about Jesus? What does it say about Moses? Compare and contrast.

Hint: In this passage, *house* is a metaphor for the people of God. So Moses did not build or create Israel; he merely served Israel as an Israelite. But Jesus as the Son of God and author of salvation is the builder of the Church.

(02) What does this passage say about God?

(03) What does this passage say about rest?

E.g., 4:11 says that entering God's rest is still a possibility for those who do not disobey through unbelief.

(04) What are the warnings and exhortations in this passage?

(05) What does this passage say about the Israelites? What reasons does the author give for the Israelites failing to enter God's rest?

(06) What are the warnings and exhortations in this passage?

(07) Based on your observations, what is this passage about? Consider the transition words like *for*, *therefore*, and *because*, and summarize the author's argument in your own words.

INTERPRET

Day 02

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 3:1-4:13

ZOOM OUT / Read Ex. 17:1-7 / Num. 20:2-13 / 14:21-35 / Ps. 95:7-11. With these Old Testament passages in mind, what is the author's point in Heb. 3:7-19? What should readers learn from the Israelites?

ZOOM OUT / Read Deut. 3:18-20 / 12:8-11 / Josh. 1:13-15 / 11:23. According to these passages, God fulfilled His promise to give the Israelites rest in the Promised Land. So why does David (writing hundreds of years later to Israelites already in the land) warn about the potential of not entering God's rest today (see Ps. 95:7)? And why does Hebrews reiterate this warning to its readers (see 4:1-11)?

ZOOM IN / With all of this background in mind, what are the specific and practical warnings that the author is giving his readers in 4:1-11? How do these apply to us today?

BONUS (FOR DEEPER STUDY) /

With the previous *zoom out* in mind, read Gen. 2:1-3 / Jn. 19:28-30 / Heb. 11:10-16 / 12:22 / 13:14 / Rev. 14:13 / 21:1-8. These passages help illuminate the argument in Heb. 3:7-4:11. The rest that God gave the Israelites in the Promised Land was meant to partially restore the creation rest that was lost at the Fall (i.e., The Promised Land was a step back towards Eden). It was meant to point forward to the full and final rest that would be accomplished by the work of Christ on the cross and consummated in the New Creation (i.e., Heaven will be the new and better Eden/Promised Land).

REFLECT

Day 03

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 3:1-4:13

(01) How might Jesus being greater than Moses be good news for the original audience? What distinction about Jesus is made in Hebrews 3:1-6 that could evoke a deeper worship of Him?

(02) In this week's passage we read of two major issues the Israelites had: unbelief and hard, rebellious hearts. Upon reflecting on your own faith and heart, do you suffer from the same ailments? Take a moment to search your heart for unbelief and hardness of heart. How can Jesus help with this (4:12-13)?

(03) How could *today* be both a warning and a mercy? Reflect on God's invitation to rest today and the future rest He promises in the New Heaven. What is your response?

PRAY

Day 04

PRAY / Hebrews 3:1-4:13

(01) Using Hebrews 3:1-6, thank God for the blessings you have received through Jesus. Worship Him with what you've noted from this section. Consider writing a prayer of thanksgiving for the authority of Christ in all things.

(02) Bring your unbelief and rebellion to God. In full transparency with your heavenly Father, invite Him into the places of your heart that are in desperate need of faith and softening.

(03) Find a quiet place and time in your day and enjoy *resting* in the goodness of God.

APPLY

Day 05

PRAY / Hebrews 4:12-16 / 12:1-2

(01) How has God used this week's passage to expose the thoughts and intentions of your heart? What areas of sin or unbelief have been revealed?

(02) As you have reflected and prayed through this study, what weights or sins do you need to lay aside to more effectively run the race of the Christian life?

(03) How has God used this passage to encourage you to run your race with more perseverance and joy? How has it encouraged you to look to Jesus?

(04) Overall, how has God used this week's study to increase your love for and intimacy with the Lord Jesus? How has it encouraged you to draw near to the throne of grace?

HEBREWS 4:11

Let us
therefore
strive to
enter that
rest.



DRAW NEAR (WEEK FOUR)
A STUDY THROUGH HEBREWS

HEBREWS
4:14-6:20



JESUS IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST
THEREFORE DRAW NEAR TO THE THRONE OF GRACE

04

Jesus is Our Great High Priest—Therefore Draw Near to the Throne of Grace

CONTEXT

Hebrews is a letter written in the form of a sermon, with the intention of exhorting its readers to not forsake the gospel of Jesus Christ by going back to Old Testament Judaism. In order to do this, the author considers how every aspect of the Old Covenant is fulfilled in Jesus Christ and is thus made obsolete by the superior New Covenant.

In part one he demonstrates that the New Covenant is better than the Old Covenant because Jesus, the administrator of the New Covenant, is far superior to angels, the administrators of the Old Covenant. Likewise, in part two the New Covenant is far superior to the Old Covenant because the eternal and final

rest offered through the gospel of Jesus is superior to the temporary and incomplete rest offered by Joshua.

In this third part of the letter (4:14-10:18) the author argues that the priesthood of the New Covenant is far superior to the priesthood of the Old Covenant because it has a better priest who made a better sacrifice and is therefore able to secure a better salvation, bringing believers into a better tabernacle. (Note that the author begins his discussion on priesthood in 5:1-11, adds a parenthetical statement in the form of a warning in 5:11-6:13, then continues his discussion on the priesthood.)

OBSERVE

Day 01

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 4:14-6:20

(01) What does this passage say about Jesus?
List as many observations as you can find.

(02) What does this passage say about high priests? Who are they and what is their role?

(03) According to this passage, how do believers benefit from Jesus' status as our great High Priest?

(04) What does this passage say about God?

(05) In your own words, describe the warnings, exhortations, and encouragements that can be found in this passage.

(06) Based on your observations, what is this passage about? Consider the transition words like *for*, *therefore*, and *because*, and summarize the author's argument in your own words.

Note that in 5:11 the author pauses discussion about the priesthood and inserts some warnings and exhortations.

INTERPRET

Day 02

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 4:14-6:20

ZOOM OUT / Read Gen. 3:23-24 / Is. 59:1-2 / Heb. 1:3 / 4:14-16 / 6:19-20 / 8:1-2 / 9:24 / 10:19-22. Ever since the Fall, man's biggest problem has been sin that separates us from the presence of God. According to Hebrews, how does Jesus' work as our High Priest solve this problem?

ZOOM OUT / Read Heb. 2:1-4 / 3:12-14 / 4:1-2 / 6:4-8 / 10:26-31 / 12:25-29. According to these passages, what is the purpose of the letter to the Hebrews? How does the author want his readers to respond to the dense Old Testament background and rich Christology that the letter teaches?

ZOOM IN / Read Heb. 5:11-14. According to this passage, what is the relationship between personal righteousness and the ability to understand deep doctrine?

BONUS ZOOM IN (GOING DEEPER) /

Read Heb. 6:1-12. Many scholars agree that this is one of the most difficult passages in the entire New Testament. Scholars suggest that the passage could be a genuine warning to believers, a hypothetical warning to believers, or a real warning to unbelievers. How do you interpret the warnings?

REFLECT

Day 03

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 4:14-6:20

(01) Reflect on how Jesus as your High Priest is described in this week's passage. What are some ways you feel weak or overlooked? Considering that Jesus is able and willing to stand beside you and hold you up, how does that change your perspective on your circumstances?

(02) Take inventory of your spiritual maturity—How do you think the author of Hebrews would categorize your walk? What areas in your personal holiness might be causing you to choke on “solid food”?

(03) What have you learned of God as a Promise Keeper from 6:13-20? How does this passage help you trust in His character in your own life?

PRAY

Day 04

PRAY / Hebrews 4:14-6:20

(01) Draw near to the throne of grace with confidence today. Thank Jesus for His empathy and understanding of your weakness. Pray through 5:7-9, thanking Him for the sacrifice and suffering He walked through perfectly so that you might be spared from having to.

(02) Invite the Spirit into the reflection of your spiritual maturity. Seek where you might need to grow or where you are being called to share what you have learned in your walk with Him.

(03) Choose an unchanging characteristic of God and worship Him for this attribute specifically! How have you seen the faithfulness of this characteristic in your life?

APPLY

Day 05

PRAY / Hebrews 4:12-16 / 12:1-2

(01) How has God used this week's passage to expose the thoughts and intentions of your heart? What areas of sin or unbelief have been revealed?

(02) As you have reflected and prayed through this study, what weights or sins do you need to lay aside to more effectively run the race of the Christian life?

(03) How has God used this passage to encourage you to run your race with more perseverance and joy? How has it encouraged you to look to Jesus?

(04) Overall, how has God used this week's study to increase your love for and intimacy with the Lord Jesus? How has it encouraged you to draw near to the throne of grace?

HEBREWS 4:16

Let us
then with
confidence
draw near
to the
throne
of grace.

DRAW NEAR / WEEK FIVE
A STUDY THROUGH HEBREWS

HEBREWS
7:1-28



JESUS IS OUR ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST
THEREFORE DRAW NEAR TO GOD THROUGH HIM

05

Jesus is Our Eternal High Priest—Therefore Draw Near to God Through Him

CONTEXT

Hebrews was written at a time when Judaism was legal in the Roman empire, while Christianity was illegal and persecuted. This letter was written to Christians who were tempted to go back to the security, comfort, and cultural ease of Judaism in order to exhort them to cling to Christ no matter the cost. In order to do this, the author goes to great lengths to show how the New Covenant fulfilled in Jesus is far greater than the Old Covenant. Therefore, it would be nonsensical and

spiritually fatal to go back to what is now obsolete. After demonstrating how Jesus is a far greater mediator than angels and how He offers a far greater rest than Joshua, the author transitions to demonstrate how He is a far greater priest than the Levites. But this begs the question: how can King Jesus, from the line of Judah, be a priest? Every student of the Old Testament knows that priests have to be Levites. That is where the mysterious but ever so important Melchizedek comes in.

OBSERVE

Day 01

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 7:1-28

(01) What does this passage say about Melchizedek? Who is he and why is he significant?

E.g., He was a king whose name means "king of righteousness."

(02) What does this passage say about Aaron and his sons (the Levitical priests)?

(03) What other Old Testament characters are mentioned, and how do they fit into the discussion?

I.e., Why is it important that Jesus descended from the tribe of Judah rather than the tribe of Levi?

(04) What does this passage say about Jesus? What are the parallels between Him and Melchizedek?

(05) Why is Jesus' priesthood after the order of Melchizedek so much greater than the Levitical priesthood?

(06) Based on your observations, what is this passage about? Consider the transition words like *for*, *therefore*, and *because*, and summarize the author's argument in your own words.

INTERPRET

Day 02

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 7:1-28

ZOOM OUT / Read Ex. 28:1-4 / 29:9 / 40:13-15. According to these passages, the priests under the Old Covenant must be sons of Aaron from the tribe of Levi. Read Gen. 49:9-10 / 2 Sam. 7:12-17. According to these passages, the Messianic King must be a son of David from the tribe of Judah. Lastly, read Gen. 14:17-24 / Ps. 110:1-7. According to these passages, Melchizedek was a king who was also a priest. Likewise, the future Messiah will also be a king and a priest. With this background in mind, why does the author of Hebrews compare Jesus to Melchizedek?

ZOOM OUT / Read Gen. 1:26-28 / 2:15 / Num. 3:5-8 / 18:5-7. These passages (along with many others) reveal that God created Adam as a king-priest. For just as the Levitical priests were to work/serve and guard/keep the tabernacle where God dwelt, Adam was to keep and to guard the Garden of Eden where God dwelt. With this background in mind, read Ps. 110:1-7 / Heb. 1:3, 13 / 7:17, 21 / 8:1 / 10:12 / 12:2. Why does Hebrews make such a big deal about Jesus fulfilling Psalm 110? Why is it so important that Jesus, like Adam, is both a king and a priest?

ZOOM IN / Read Heb. 7:20-28. Why does the author emphasize the fact that Jesus' priesthood continues *forever*? What is the connection (or *consequence*, to use the author's word) between His eternal priesthood and our salvation?

REFLECT

Day 03

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 7:1-28

(01) How is Jesus' role as both King and Priest a benefit to you today?

(02) If the law was useless and ineffective in making anyone perfect, why was it necessary? How is Jesus better than the law? Are you living in light of this better hope?

(03) Reflect on the continual invitation and process of drawing near to God. (Read Hebrews 4:14-16 / 7:19, 25 and take note of the word *through*.) What does it look like to draw near to God? How have you neglected or taken hold of this incredible access to Him?

PRAY

Day 04

PRAY / Hebrews 7:1-28

(01) Worship Christ as King as you pray today. Thank Him for being the ultimate and eternal King of righteousness and of peace. Be specific in how you are thankful for these characteristics.

(02) As you approach the throne room in prayer, what ways have you tried to attain perfection in your own strength? Consider the freedom available to you through Christ, the ultimate and eternal priest who is able to save you completely. Give thanks for His perfect work.

(03) 7:26 gives us insight on the gravity of our need. It was fitting that we would have a permanent, holy, innocent, unstained, sinless, exalted high priest because we are that in need and hopeless on our own. What weaknesses do you need to bring to this High Priest? What is He able to do with these weaknesses?

APPLY

Day 05

PRAY / Hebrews 4:12-16 / 12:1-2

(01) How has God used this week's passage to expose the thoughts and intentions of your heart? What areas of sin or unbelief have been revealed?

(02) As you have reflected and prayed through this study, what weights or sins do you need to lay aside to more effectively run the race of the Christian life?

(03) How has God used this passage to encourage you to run your race with more perseverance and joy? How has it encouraged you to look to Jesus?

(04) Overall, how has God used this week's study to increase your love for and intimacy with the Lord Jesus? How has it encouraged you to draw near to the throne of grace?

HEBREWS 7:25

He is able
to save
to the
uttermost
those who
draw near
to God
through
him.

DRAW NEAR (WEEK SIX)
A STUDY THROUGH HEBREWS

HEBREWS
8:1-9:28



JESUS ENTERED THE HEAVENLY HOLY OF HOLIES TO MAKE
ATONEMENT—THEREFORE EAGERLY WAIT FOR HIS SALVATION

06

Jesus Entered the Heavenly Holy of Holies to Make Atonement—Therefore Eagerly Wait for His Salvation

CONTEXT

The Levitical priesthood, the law, the tabernacle, and the sacrifices are all related facets under the umbrella of the Old Covenant. For the Old Covenant was meant to create a way for Holy God to be in relationship with sinful man. And because holiness and sin do not mix, the relationship required mediators (the priests), instructions and guidelines (the law), a space that enabled restricted access (the tabernacle), and a means to make atonement when the covenant relationship was broken due to sin (the sacrifices).

In this section of the letter (4:14-10:18) the author is demonstrating how every correlating facet of the New Covenant is fulfilled in Jesus and

therefore superior. After unpacking how Jesus' Melchizedekian priesthood is far superior to the Levitical priesthood in chapters 5-7, the author transitions in chapters 8-10 to prove how Jesus makes a better sacrifice (one that can actually forgive sins). He is therefore able to bring believers into a better tabernacle (heaven) and is thus the administrator of a better covenant. And all of this deep Old Testament background is for the practical purpose of exhorting readers to cling to Christ no matter the cost.

OBSERVE

Day 01

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 8:1-9:28

(01) What does this passage say about the tabernacle (the word translated *tent* in 8:2 / 9:2, etc. refers to the tabernacle)? What was its purpose under the Old Covenant? What did it point to?

(02) What does this passage say about sacrifices? What was their purpose under the Old Covenant? What did they point to?

(03) What does this passage say about the Old Covenant? What does it say about the New Covenant? According to the author, why is the New Covenant better?

(04) What does this passage say about Jesus? What has He accomplished as our High Priest? What has He accomplished through His sacrifice?

(05) According to this passage, how do believers benefit from Jesus' work as High Priest and personal sacrifice?

(06) Based on your observations, what is this passage about? Consider the transition words like *for*, *therefore*, and *because*, and summarize the author's argument in your own words.

INTERPRET

Day 02

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 8:1-9:28

ZOOM OUT / Read Ex. 24:9-11 (compare Rev. 4:6) / 25:40 / 40:34-35. These passages reveal that God instructed Moses to construct the tabernacle as a replica of His throne room in heaven. Read Heb. 8:5 / 9:11-12, 23-25. According to Hebrews, how does the fact that the tabernacle was a replica of the heavenly throne room help us understand what Christ accomplished for believers?

ZOOM OUT / Read Ex. 30:10 / Lev. 16:1-34 / Heb. 9:1-7. These passages reveal that the Day of Atonement was the one day per year where (only) the high priest could enter into the inner tent/Most Holy Place/Holy of Holies/God's presence to make atonement for himself and the people. According to 9:8-10, what are these numerous restrictions meant to communicate?

ZOOM IN / The first *zoom out* helped us see that the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle was a miniature replica of the heavenly throne room. The second *zoom out* helped us see that the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies once a year to make atonement. According to 9:11-28, how does this Old Testament background help us better understand what Christ accomplished for believers through the gospel?

REFLECT

Day 03

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 8:1-9:28

(01) Considering Jesus as our High Priest for a better covenant, how does this New Covenant help you see God's intent and desire to be our personal, intimately known God? Refer to Hebrews 8:10-12 for guidance.

(02) What does Hebrews say about our conscience? Why do you think the shedding of Christ's blood was necessary and the only true way to atone for your sins and purify our conscience?

(03) How is Jesus appearing in the presence of God on your behalf today? What is your response as you reflect on His mediation of your sin and dead works?

PRAY

Day 04

PRAY / Hebrews 8:1-9:28

(01) Thank God for His promise and plan for the New Covenant through Jesus! Through Christ, God will put His ways in your mind and in your heart. He has chosen you as His, and makes Himself known to you. He has been merciful towards your iniquities, and no longer remembers your sins.

(02) Confess any ways you have been living under the Old Covenant, striving to earn your way into favor with God. Bring to Him your conscience, and allow Him to reveal any ways that you have been striving in dead works.

(03) Meditate on the fact that Jesus has entered the true Holy of Holies *on your behalf* to put away your sin and is planning His return to save you. Tell Him how you eagerly await His return.

APPLY

Day 05

PRAY / Hebrews 4:12-16 / 12:1-2

(01) How has God used this week's passage to expose the thoughts and intentions of your heart? What areas of sin or unbelief have been revealed?

(02) As you have reflected and prayed through this study, what weights or sins do you need to lay aside to more effectively run the race of the Christian life?

(03) How has God used this passage to encourage you to run your race with more perseverance and joy? How has it encouraged you to look to Jesus?

(04) Overall, how has God used this week's study to increase your love for and intimacy with the Lord Jesus? How has it encouraged you to draw near to the throne of grace?

HEBREWS 9:22

Without
the
shedding
of blood
there is no
forgiveness
of sins.

DRAW NEAR (WEEK SEVEN)
A STUDY THROUGH HEBREWS

HEBREWS
10:1-31

JESUS' SINGLE SACRIFICE BRINGS YOU ETERNAL PERFECTION
THEREFORE DRAW NEAR TO GOD WITH CONFIDENCE

07



Jesus' Single Sacrifice Brings You Eternal Perfection — Therefore Draw Near to God With Confidence

CONTEXT

Under the Old Covenant the nation of Israel enjoyed privileged access to God unlike any other nation. The tabernacle enabled God to dwell among Israel without incinerating them. The priests acted as mediators between God and Israel. The law instructed Israel about how to live in relationship with God, and the sacrifices made atonement for sins so that relationship could be restored and maintained. Yet despite Israel's unprecedented access to God, it was still very restricted and incomplete. For the tabernacle, as special as it was, was just a replica of God's actual dwelling place in heaven. And even though the tabernacle was just a replica, only the high priest could enter it merely once a year. And even though the sacrifices were instituted by God, they did not actually have the power to take away sin, perfect the worshiper, and enable him or her to enter the presence of God; they simply served as a reminder that the wages of sin is death.

Therefore, the author of Hebrews is exhorting his readers to not go back to the Old Covenant by encouraging them to marvel at the access to God that Jesus gives them through the New Covenant. For Jesus, as our Great High Priest, entered the actual throne room of heaven and offered God a sacrifice (Himself) that actually has the power to atone for sin and perfect the worshiper. As a result, under the New Covenant every believer (not just the high priest) can enter the true tabernacle (not just the replica) at all times (not just once a year) with confidence (not fear or guilt) because the sacrifice of Christ has the power to perfect for all time those who are being saved! What has not been true since the Fall has been made possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is the Way, and no one comes to the Father except through Him. Attempting to get to God by any other means (including the Old Covenant) will be eternally fatal!

OBSERVE

Day 01

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 10:1-31

(01) What does this passage say about sacrifices? What was their purpose under the Old Covenant?

(02) What does this passage say about Jesus? What does it say specifically about His sacrifice?

(03) According to the author, why is Jesus' sacrifice better than the sacrifices of bulls and goats? What is His sacrifice able to do that Old Testament sacrifices were not able to do?

Also consider: If Old Testament sacrifices were insufficient, then what was the point of them?

(04) According to 10:19-25, how should believers respond to what Jesus has accomplished through the New Covenant?

(05) According to 10:26-31, what will happen to anyone who rejects the gospel of Jesus Christ?

(06) Based on your observations, what is this passage about? Consider the transition words like *for*, *therefore*, and *because*, and summarize the author's argument in your own words.

INTERPRET

Day 02

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 10:1-31

ZOOM IN / Read Heb. 7:11, 18-19 / 9:8-10 / 10:1-4, 11-14. According to these verses, what does it mean to be made *perfect*? Why could the Old Covenant not make people *perfect*? How does the New Covenant make people *perfect*?

ZOOM OUT / Read Gen. 3:23-24 / Ex. 26:33 / 40:34 / Lev. 16:2. These passages reveal that ever since the Fall, sin has made a separation between God and man. Read Matt. 27:50-51 / Heb. 4:14-16 / 6:19-20 / 10:19-22. How do these passages help us understand what Christ has accomplished for us on the cross? And how should believers respond?

ZOOM OUT / Read Jer. 31:31-34 / Heb. 8:8-13 / 10:15-18. The author is making the point from multiple different angles that the New Covenant is better than the Old Covenant. Consider what you have learned after studying Hebrews 7-10. Why is the New Covenant so much better than the old? And what significance does this have for us as Christians?

REFLECT

Day 03

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 10:1-31

(01) Why do you think God takes no pleasure in sacrifices of burnt offerings and sin offerings? Read 10:1-4 to help shape your answer.

(02) Read 10:12-14, 18. Reflect on the insufficiency of our attempts at holiness through an earthly high priest's sacrifice versus the finality of Christ granting us holiness through the sacrifice of His life. Does your life reflect the forgiveness, holiness and access you've been granted? Explain.

(03) Consider the author's question in Hebrews 10:29. What is your reaction to this description of one who deliberately continues in a pattern of sin? Are you in danger of fitting this description?

PRAY

Day 04

PRAY / Hebrews 10:1-31

(01) Consider where Christ sits now (10:12-13). Because of your access to the holy places through His blood, draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith. As you enter in prayer, consider turning to Revelation 4 to help you comprehend what Jesus gives us access to.

(02) Jesus came as a willing and all-sufficient sacrifice to pay for your sins. Are you striving to offer sacrifices or offerings that cannot please God? Invite Him to reveal to you why you might be trying to add to an already fully paid debt, and ask for His help in releasing this striving. What might He be wanting from you instead?

(03) Is there any deliberate sinning in your life? Pray through 10:26-31. With this passage in mind, soberly confess any ways that you have been choosing your sinful ways.

APPLY

Day 05

PRAY / Hebrews 4:12-16 / 12:1-2

(01) How has God used this week's passage to expose the thoughts and intentions of your heart? What areas of sin or unbelief have been revealed?

(02) As you have reflected and prayed through this study, what weights or sins do you need to lay aside to more effectively run the race of the Christian life?

(03) How has God used this passage to encourage you to run your race with more perseverance and joy? How has it encouraged you to look to Jesus?

(04) Overall, how has God used this week's study to increase your love for and intimacy with the Lord Jesus? How has it encouraged you to draw near to the throne of grace?



HEBREWS 10:14

For by
a single
offering
he has
perfected
for all time
those who
are being
sanctified.

DRAW NEAR (WEEK EIGHT)
A STUDY THROUGH HEBREWS

HEBREWS
10:32-12:2

JESUS IS THE WAY
THEREFORE LOOK TO HIM AND PERSEVERE BY FAITH

08



Jesus is the Way — Therefore Look to Him and Persevere By Faith

CONTEXT

The author of Hebrews spends the first ten chapters proving that the New Covenant fulfilled in Jesus is better than every facet of the Old Covenant, because the gospel of Jesus Christ actually has the ability to reconcile sinners to God and bring them into His presence. As the author is unpacking his argument, he consistently inserts warnings and encouragement. For Jesus has not just provided *a* way to God; He is the *only* way. Therefore, the author consistently warns the readers that if they forsake Christ and pursue salvation by any other means (even the Old Covenant) then they will be eternally judged (2:1-4 / 5:11-6:12 / 10:26-31).

On the flipside, the author consistently encourages his readers to marvel that our Messianic King and Great High Priest has actually made a way for us to be reconciled to God! Therefore, we must “pay much

closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it” (2:1). We must hold fast to the hope that we have (3:6). We must exhort each other every day lest we be deceived and hardened by sin and fall away from the living God (3:12-13). We must hold firm our confidence until the end (3:14). We must strive to enter His rest (4:11). We must draw near to the throne of grace (4:16). Therefore, the purpose of all the Old Testament background and deep doctrine is to encourage believers to (a) persevere by faith in Christ, and (b) not apostatize (the opposite of persevering by faith) because Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and no one comes to the Father except through Him. Chapters 10-13 transition to help the readers know how to do this. And thus the purpose of Hebrews 11 is to provide a myriad of examples of saints who have gone before us and persevered by faith.

OBSERVE

Day 01

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 10:32-12:2

(01) Consider 10:32-39. Why do the readers need to be encouraged with Old Testament examples of people who persevered by faith?

(02) Consider 11:1-7. What does this section say about the nature and fruits of faith? What does it say about God and how He responds to genuine faith?

(03) Consider 11:8-22. What does this section say about the nature and fruits of faith? What does it say about God and the nature of His promises?

(04) Consider 11:23-40. What does this section say about the nature and fruits of faith? According to these examples, why were these people able to persevere in faith despite the suffering, danger, and opposition from the world?

(05) Consider 12:1-2. How should readers respond to the numerous examples of those who have persevered by faith?

(06) Based on your observations, what is this passage about? Consider the transition words like *for*, *therefore*, and *because*, and summarize the author's argument in your own words.

INTERPRET

Day 02

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 10:32-12:2

ZOOM OUT / Read Rom. 4:13-25. This passage reveals that Abraham's faith was not merely a generic faith in the existence of God, but rather a specific faith that God has the power to raise the dead (e.g., 4:17, 19, 24, 25). According to 11:8-19, how did Abraham's faith that God has the power to raise the dead enable him to live by faith in this world?

ZOOM OUT / Read Heb. 9:15 / 11:10, 13-16, 26, 38-40 / 12:22 / 13:14. What do these passages reveal about the nature of the reward that God has prepared for those who persevere by faith in this life? Describe what these verses reveal.

ZOOM IN / If we combine the two *zoom out* points above, Hebrews 11 is teaching that in order to forsake the pleasures of this world and endure suffering and opposition in this life, you have to live by faith that God has the power to raise you from the dead and will reward your faith by bringing you into His eternal, unshakable, heavenly kingdom. Read Heb. 10:32-39 / 12:1-2. Based on what Heb. 11 teaches, how should readers respond?

REFLECT

Day 03

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 10:32-12:2

(01) Why do you think perseverance and faith in the promises of God go hand in hand? Does faith sound easy? What encouragement do you draw from this week's text?

(02) Each of the names read in Hebrews 11 were found faithful. Consider some of the stories you know of this cloud of witnesses. Though they were each imperfect and had their series of failures, what is it that gives them credit to be in this chapter? Based on what you know about God's grace and promises, why is it so vital to live by faith (11:6)?

(03) Do you see the promised inheritance and reward worth endurance? How do you struggle to lay aside the things of the world? How does looking to Jesus help?

PRAY

Day 04

PRAY / Hebrews 10:32-12:2

(01) What ways are you tempted to lose heart, joy, or confidence for this great reward? Bring those temptations and fears to God and ask for Him to remind you of the *new and better* things to come.

(02) Hebrews 11 is full of people who considered the Promise Maker faithful to be the Promise Keeper. Do you consider Him faithful? Express to God the ways you have witnessed His faithfulness and thank Him for how He has revealed His character to you.

(03) Is your faith weak? Are you struggling to feel the assurance of things hoped for or the conviction of things unseen? Turn to 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 and ask God to help your faith to find footing in the things unseen.

APPLY

Day 05

PRAY / Hebrews 4:12-16 / 12:1-2

(01) How has God used this week's passage to expose the thoughts and intentions of your heart? What areas of sin or unbelief have been revealed?

(02) As you have reflected and prayed through this study, what weights or sins do you need to lay aside to more effectively run the race of the Christian life?

(03) How has God used this passage to encourage you to run your race with more perseverance and joy? How has it encouraged you to look to Jesus?

(04) Overall, how has God used this week's study to increase your love for and intimacy with the Lord Jesus? How has it encouraged you to draw near to the throne of grace?

HEBREWS 11:6

Without
faith it is
impossible
to please
him.

DRAW NEAR (WEEK NINE)
A STUDY THROUGH HEBREWS

HEBREWS
12:3-29



JESUS HAS SAVED US FOR A KINGDOM THAT CANNOT BE SHAKEN
THEREFORE LOOK TO HIM AND PERSEVERE BY FAITH

09

Jesus Has Saved Us For a Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken—Therefore Look to Him and Persevere By Faith

CONTEXT

It is the assumption of the author of Hebrews that how we live flows from what we believe. Whether we realize it or not, what we think, say, do, desire, and aspire to are the fruits of our theology. This is why the author spends the majority of the letter helping his readers consider the glory of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The author assumes that a deeper, richer, more biblical understanding of the person and work of Christ will have tangible effects in the lives of his readers. And the primary effect the author is aiming for is perseverance. The author writes with the goal of exhorting his readers to persevere,

to cling to Christ, and to not neglect such a great salvation. Therefore, 12:1-2 could be considered a summary of the entire letter. “Run the race with perseverance by looking to Jesus!” The author has helped his readers better understand the Jesus that we are to look to in the first 10 chapters. He has given a series of examples of those who have persevered by faith. Now in chapters 12-13 he turns to specific exhortations, warnings, commands, and instructions that will help motivate and inform readers regarding how to persevere in faithfulness to the end and therefore live a life that is pleasing to the Lord.

OBSERVE

Day 01

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 12:3-29

(01) What does this passage say about discipline? What are the connections between the author's comments on discipline and his encouragement to the readers to run the race with perseverance?

(02) What does this passage say about personal holiness? What are the connections between the author's comments on personal holiness and his encouragement to run the race with perseverance?

(03) What does this passage say about the nature of what believers are being saved for? What are the connections between the author's comments on heaven and his encouragement to run the race with perseverance?

(04) What does this passage say about God? What are the connections between the author's comments on God and his encouragement to run the race with perseverance?

(05) Based on your observations, what is this passage about? Consider the transition words like *for*, *therefore*, and *because*, and summarize the author's argument in your own words.

INTERPRET

Day 02

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 12:3-29

ZOOM OUT / Read Is. 35:1-10.

In this passage, Isaiah is writing to those in exile to encourage them to endure because of the hope that they have to return to Jerusalem. Read Gen. 25:29-34. In this passage, Esau traded his birthright (something of great value) for stew (something of very little value). According to Hebrews, what should believers learn from these passages as they seek to run the race of the Christian life (see 12:12-17)?

ZOOM OUT / Read Ex. 19:9-25 / Deut. 4:11 / Ps. 2:6 / 48:1-2 / 76:1-2 / Rev. 21:2, 10 and compare these passages with Heb. 12:18-29. According to Hebrews, what are the differences between what the Israelites experienced when they were brought to Mt. Sinai vs. what believers will experience when they are brought to Mt. Zion/the New Jerusalem/Heaven? How are these differences meant to encourage the believer to run the race with perseverance?

ZOOM IN / Heb. 12 is an exhortation to run the race with perseverance. According to this passage, what are the dangers that might hinder us from persevering through to the end?

REFLECT

Day 03

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 12:3-29

(01) How does considering Christ's own suffering and endurance encourage you? How can reflecting on Jesus' humanity bring you comfort and strength?

(02) What do you think about discipline at the hand of the Heavenly Father? How has the discipline of your Heavenly Father produced holiness in you? What fruit of righteousness has it yielded? Has it been worth it?

(03) If the "yet once more" (12:25-29) were to happen today, what are the things you are focused on that would no longer be standing? How should you heed this warning?

PRAY

Day 04

PRAY / Hebrews 12:3-29

(01) Talk to God about the ways He has disciplined you toward holiness or the ways you have resisted His discipline. It is ok to admit that some discipline has felt painful. In reflecting on the work it has done and is doing in you, be honest with Him about His faithfulness to refine you.

Refer to 12:6 and Philippians 1:6 to shape your prayer.

(02) We are to be active participants in the work God is doing in us. Use 12:12-17 as you specifically ask for endurance, strength, peace, holiness, grace, sexual integrity, or anything else that stands out to you.

(03) Reflecting on the fruit of the discipline God has brought into your life, how has it made your worship more acceptable? Express your gratitude with reverence and awe for the gift of an unshakable kingdom! How does this incredible access and future hope ignite your desire for personal holiness?

APPLY

Day 05

PRAY / Hebrews 4:12-16 / 12:1-2

(01) How has God used this week's passage to expose the thoughts and intentions of your heart? What areas of sin or unbelief have been revealed?

(02) As you have reflected and prayed through this study, what weights or sins do you need to lay aside to more effectively run the race of the Christian life?

(03) How has God used this passage to encourage you to run your race with more perseverance and joy? How has it encouraged you to look to Jesus?

(04) Overall, how has God used this week's study to increase your love for and intimacy with the Lord Jesus? How has it encouraged you to draw near to the throne of grace?

HEBREWS 12:28

Therefore
let us be
grateful for
receiving a
kingdom
that
cannot
be shaken.

DRAW NEAR (WEEK TEN)
A STUDY THROUGH HEBREWS

HEBREWS
13:1-25



JESUS HAS SAVED US FOR GOD'S GLORY
THEREFORE OFFER YOUR LIFE AS A PLEASING SACRIFICE TO HIM

Jesus Has Saved Us for God's Glory—Therefore Offer Your Life as a Pleasing Sacrifice to Him

CONTEXT

Hebrews 13 is the conclusion to the epic, Holy Spirit inspired, Christ exalting (written) sermon that is the book of Hebrews. As is typical for most sermons, it closes with applications and exhortations. Up to this point the author of Hebrews has been helping his readers see that the gospel of Jesus Christ is far superior to the Old Covenant because the New Covenant is actually able to perfect sinners and bring them into the presence of God. What the Old Covenant merely pointed to, Jesus has fulfilled and accomplished through His death and resurrection. The reason the author goes to great lengths showing the superiority of the

New Covenant is to help his readers persevere, to cling to Christ, to not neglect such a great salvation, and to endure by faith. This is the context in which the closing exhortations come. Jesus has made a way for us to dwell with God in the unshakable, heavenly city forever and ever. Therefore we need to lay off every sin and weight that clings so closely so that we can persevere by faith until the end. Chapter 13 gets specific in helping readers do just that so we can live a life that is pleasing to God as we sojourn to our eternal dwelling place with Him.

OBSERVE

Day 01

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 13:1-25

(01) Write down every command in this passage.

E.g., Let the marriage bed be undefiled.

(02) Write down the theological statements in this passage.

E.g., God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

(03) Identify connecting words (like *for* or *because*) that ground a command in a theological statement. Which command(s) go with which theological statements?

E.g., Let marriage be held in honor (first command) and let the marriage bed be undefiled (second command) for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous (connecting theological statement).

INTERPRET

Day 02

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 13:1-25

ZOOM IN / Pick three or four of the commands listed in this passage and identify the theological statement that is connected to it. What is the relationship between the command and the doctrine? How does the connecting truth help motivate or encourage obedience?

ZOOM OUT / Read Heb. 2:1 / 3:12-14 / 4:11 / 10:23-26 / 12:1-2. How does Heb. 13 help motivate, encourage, and instruct you to run the race with perseverance and joy?

ZOOM OUT / Read Heb. 13:20-21. As a conclusion to the letter, the author of Hebrews prays that God would “work in us that which is pleasing in his sight.” According to Heb. 13 (and the letter as a whole), what does it look like to live a life that is pleasing to God?

REFLECT

Day 03

PRAY / Psalm 119:18

READ / Hebrews 13:1-25

(01) The last chapter of Hebrews reads like a fire hose of commands. How do you think this section of the message would have been received had it come at the beginning of the book? What is your response to it as it comes at the close of the book?

(02) What grounds does the author stand on to give such commands? Reflect on the book of Hebrews as a whole, and write down a few big ideas that make these commands a joy to obey.

(03) How has God used the book of Hebrews to help you see everything good He has equipped you with so that you may do His will? How has God's Word through the study of Hebrews changed or grown your thinking?

PRAY

Day 04

PRAY / Hebrews 13:1-25

(01) With the joy and confidence you have knowing Jesus will never leave you nor forsake you, thank Him for His help and preservation in suffering and obedience.

(02) Christ has sanctified us so that we can bear the reproach, offer continuous praise, and do good with generosity. Ask the Lord for the help you need to be obedient to these commands. Be specific and honest on the areas that stand out to you from Hebrews 13.

(03) Rejoice with the Lord in what He has taught you through this study. Give thanks for all we have access to through the work of Jesus Christ and draw near to the Good Shepherd!

APPLY

Day 05

PRAY / Hebrews 4:12-16 / 12:1-2

(01) How has God used this week's passage to expose the thoughts and intentions of your heart? What areas of sin or unbelief have been revealed?

(02) As you have reflected and prayed through this study, what weights or sins do you need to lay aside to more effectively run the race of the Christian life?

(03) How has God used this passage to encourage you to run your race with more perseverance and joy? How has it encouraged you to look to Jesus?

(04) Overall, how has God used this week's study to increase your love for and intimacy with the Lord Jesus? How has it encouraged you to draw near to the throne of grace?

HEBREWS 13:8

Jesus
is the
same
yesterday
and
today and
forever.

Appendix A

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR BIBLE STUDY

The goal of this study is to guide you and aid you in your study of God's Word. We don't merely want to know more about Hebrews 1-13. We want to become life-long studiers, lovers, and obeyers of the Word of God. Our prayer is that you will be able to take tools and habits that you gain from this study and apply them every time you open your Bible.

With that goal in mind, here are some tips for Bible study that are applicable whether you are being guided by a study workbook or not.

(01) GET ONE PHYSICAL COPY OF THE BIBLE THAT IS YOUR BIBLE

It is a blessing to have multiple copies in multiple translations on multiple digital devices. But don't allow that blessing to hinder you from having a Bible that is *your* Bible.

(02) BE MINDFUL OF WHICH TRANSLATION YOU ARE READING

There are lots of great translations that range from dynamic to more literal. But there are also some really bad translations. If your Bible is not ESV, CSB, or NIV, ask a pastor or elder for advice.

(03) MARK YOUR BIBLE UP

Always read your Bible with a pen in hand. Underline, circle, star and highlight. This will help *your* Bible become your Bible. It will also help you remember and reference what you have read.

(04) GET A BIBLE READING PLAN

The more structure and accountability you have, the more consistent you will be. So find a plan that works for you and stick to it!

(05) READ LARGE PORTIONS OF THE BIBLE IN ONE SITTING

It is great to study the book of Romans verse by verse. But it is also great to sit down and read all sixteen chapters in one sitting!

(06) MEDITATE ON SMALL PORTIONS OF SCRIPTURE

Don't be like the person who looks in the mirror and then walks away and forgets what he looks like! If you want to be a doer and not just a hearer, you will need to slow down and meditate every time you open your Bible.

(07) LEARN FROM TEACHERS, BUT DON'T LEAN ON THEM TOO MUCH

Having a study Bible (i.e., ESV Study Bible) or a devotional commentary (i.e., Matthew Henry) can be a great resource to aid in Bible reading. But make sure to guard your time in the Bible from becoming a time where you read more of man's words than God's!

(08) PRAY BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER YOU READ

We pray before because we acknowledge our dependence on the Lord to have eyes to see. We pray while we read because God speaks when we read His Word, and prayer is our way to respond. And we pray after for grace to obey and not just know.

Appendix B

ATHANSIAN CREED

Whoever desires to be saved should above all hold to the catholic faith.

Anyone who does not keep it whole and unbroken will doubtless perish eternally.

Now this is the catholic faith:

That we worship one God in trinity and the trinity in unity,
neither blending their persons
nor dividing their essence.

For the person of the Father is a distinct person,
the person of the Son is another,
and that of the Holy Spirit still another.
But the divinity of the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit is one,
their glory equal, their majesty coeternal.

What quality the Father has, the Son has,
and the Holy Spirit has.

The Father is uncreated,
the Son is uncreated,
the Holy Spirit is uncreated.

The Father is immeasurable,
the Son is immeasurable,
the Holy Spirit is immeasurable.

The Father is eternal,
the Son is eternal,
the Holy Spirit is eternal.

And yet there are not three eternal beings;
there is but one eternal being.

So too there are not three uncreated or immeasurable beings;
there is but one uncreated and immeasurable being.

Similarly, the Father is almighty,
the Son is almighty,
the Holy Spirit is almighty.

Yet there are not three almighty beings;
there is but one almighty being.

Thus the Father is God,
the Son is God,
the Holy Spirit is God.
Yet there are not three gods;
there is but one God.

Thus the Father is Lord,
the Son is Lord,
the Holy Spirit is Lord.
Yet there are not three lords;
there is but one Lord.

Just as Christian truth compels us
to confess each person individually
as both God and Lord,
so catholic religion forbids us
to say that there are three gods or lords.

The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten from anyone.
The Son was neither made nor created;
he was begotten from the Father alone.
The Holy Spirit was neither made nor created nor begotten;
he proceeds from the Father and the Son.

Accordingly there is one Father,
not three fathers;
there is one Son, not three sons;
there is one Holy Spirit, not three holy spirits.

Nothing in this trinity is before or after,
nothing is greater or smaller;
in their entirety the three persons
are coeternal and coequal with each other.

So in everything, as was said earlier,
we must worship their trinity in their unity
and their unity in their trinity.

Anyone then who desires to be saved
should think thus about the trinity.

But it is necessary for eternal salvation
that one also believe in the incarnation
of our Lord Jesus Christ faithfully.

Now this is the true faith:

That we believe and confess
that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son,
is both God and human, equally.

He is God from the essence of the Father,
begotten before time;
and he is human from the essence of his mother,
born in time;
completely God, completely human,
with a rational soul and human flesh;
equal to the Father as regards divinity,
less than the Father as regards humanity.

Although he is God and human,
yet Christ is not two, but one.
He is one, however,
not by his divinity being turned into flesh,
but by God's taking humanity to himself.
He is one,
certainly not by the blending of his essence,
but by the unity of his person.
For just as one human is both rational soul
and flesh,
so too the one Christ is both God and human.

He suffered for our salvation;
he descended to hell;
he arose from the dead;
he ascended to heaven;
he is seated at the Father's right hand;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.
At his coming all people will arise bodily
and give an accounting of their own deeds.
Those who have done good will
enter eternal life,
and those who have done evil will
enter eternal fire.

This is the catholic faith:
one cannot be saved without believing it firmly
and faithfully.



*“The New Testament is in the
Old Testament concealed; the Old Testament
is in the New Testament revealed.”
(Augustine)*