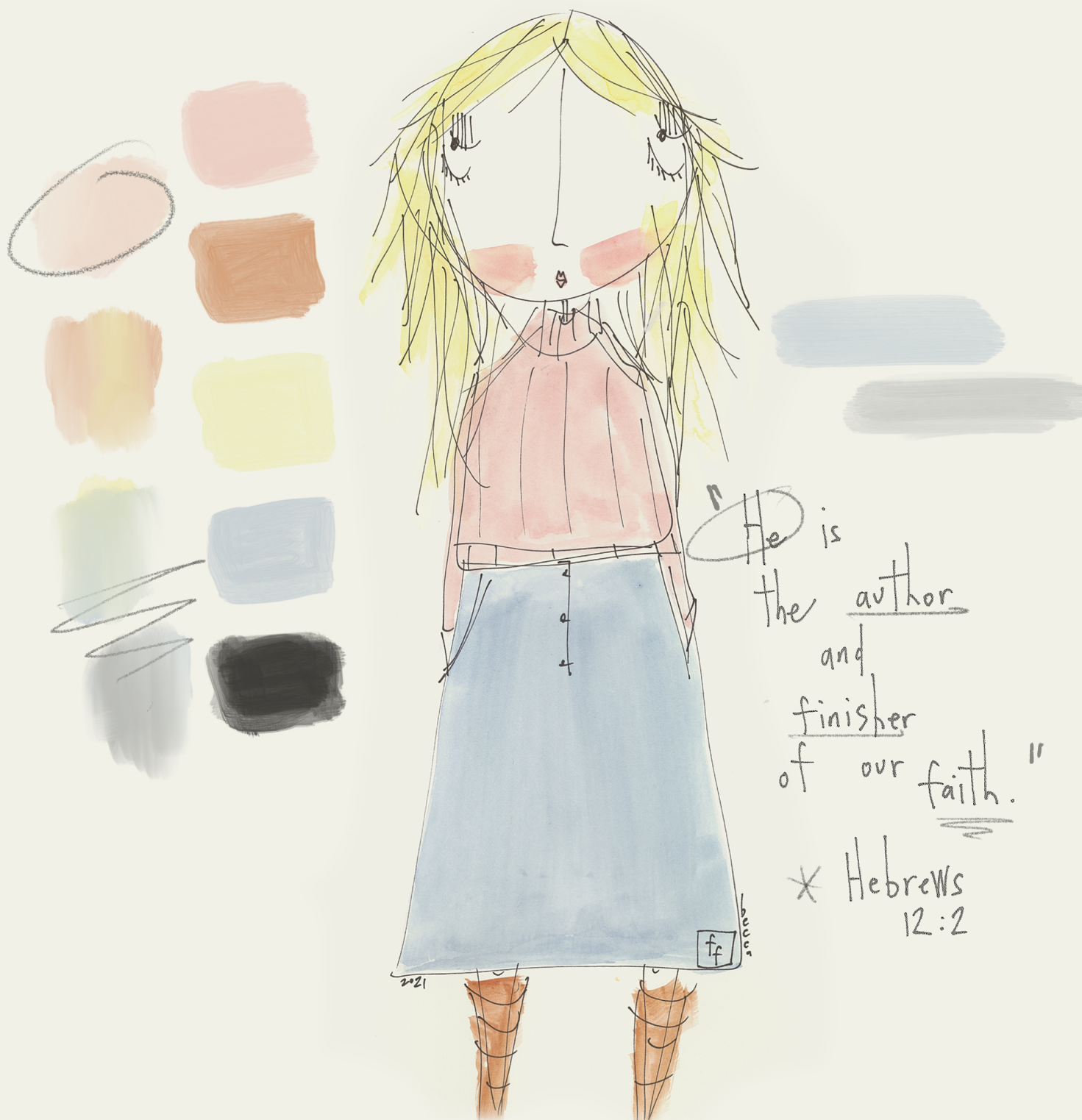


FRESH FAITH

Designed by God



HEBREWS

Fresh Faith Hebrews

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Getting Started

Learning how to study the Bible for ourselves is one of the most important skills we can acquire as Christians. This proficiency assists us in developing as true discipleship of Christ, equipping us for life. Knowing and understanding God's Word and intentionally putting it into action gives us the ability to walk daily in Fresh Faith according to His will.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.
John 14:26

What you will need:

Prayer: Pray before each lesson. Ask God to reveal His truth through His Word and ask for His understanding and applying it to your life.

The Bible:

- New King James Version (NKJV)

Alternatives:

- New Living Translation (NLT)
- New American Standard Bible (NASB)
- English Standard Version (ESV)

Available Resources:

- Blueletterbible.org
- Preceptaustin.org
- Unger's Bible Dictionary
- Strong's Concordance
- Nave's Topical Bible
- The Gospel According to Grace – Chuck Smith

Teachings:

- www.youtube.com/reliancechurch "Fresh Faith - Hebrews"

What you can expect:

The questions in this study are designed to aid you in learning how to study the Bible on your own. The questions are generally centered around observing, interpreting, and applying the scriptures. However, questions will not cover every theme, truth, or subject in each chapter. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth and take you where He chooses. Our hope is that this study creates a hunger and thirst for God's Word that will inspire you to dig deeper.

NOTE: All scripture references are in the NKJV unless otherwise indicated.

Introduction to the Book of Hebrews

This wonderful Book of Hebrews was written to strengthen and encourage Jewish believers who were suffering persecution and the loss of all their possessions. Hebrews 10:32-33 tells us, “you endured a *great struggle with sufferings*”: *partly while you were made a spectacle both by tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated.*” Because of their discouragement they were in danger of turning back to Judaism. They were being threatened with death by the cruel Emperor Nero who made the Christians scapegoats for his own crimes. If they would renounce Christ, they would be safe.

This book is unique because it does not begin with a greeting like most of the New Testament letters and because the author does not introduce himself. Scholars have debated over who actually wrote it. Some believe Paul was the author because certain passages are similar to his writings, but others think it may have been Barnabas, Apollos, or even Priscilla.

Though we don't know for sure just who the author may be, we do know it was inspired by the Holy Spirit and is included in the Word of God for our better understanding of the superiority of Jesus Christ and His all sufficiency. Henrietta Mears has said: “*We as Christians have that which is better...better in every way. The key word to the Book of Hebrews is ‘better’ and occurs 13 times*”.

R.C. Sproul said “*if he were cast into prison and only allowed one book, it would be the Bible. If he were allowed only one book of the Bible, it would be the epistle to the Hebrews...because it contains the most comprehensive discussion of the redemption wrought for us in the sacrifice of Jesus*”.

**In the beginning was the
Word, and the Word
was with God, and the
Word was God.**

John 1:1

Chapter 1

God, who ^[a]at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the ^[b]worlds; ³ who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had ^[c]by Himself ^[d]purged ^[e]our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.⁵ For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You”? And again: “I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son”? ⁶ But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.” ⁷ And of the angels He says: “Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire.” ⁸ But to the Son *He* says: “Your throne, O God, *is* forever and ever; A ^[f]scepter of righteousness *is* the scepter of Your kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.” ¹⁰ And: “You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; ¹² Like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail.” ¹³ But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? ¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Day One Overview

Prayerfully and carefully read Hebrews 1:1-14.

1. Record any words, phrases, or verses in this chapter that stand out to you and explain why.

2. What insights does this chapter show us about the following?

- Christ
- Angels
- God
- Prophets

3. Why is it important to know and understand these facts?

4. Challenge (Optional): Find other scriptures that speak about angels. What do you see? How do these speak to you and explain why?

Day Two

Read Hebrews 1:1-4

1. Verse 1 tells us that God has spoken to us in times past through the prophets, referring to the Old Testament. Why is it important for us to study the Old as well as the New Testament?

2. How has God spoken to us in these *last days*? (v.2)

3. Verses 3- 4 tell us 7 important facts about God's Son. List them here:

4. How do these facts impact your life?

5. Using your resources (pg. 2) define the word *purge*. How do the following verses further explain the *purging* of our sins?

- Hebrews 7:26-27
- Isaiah 53:1-12
- Ephesians 1:7

6. Why should these facts be a reason for our rejoicing and thanksgiving?

Day Three

Read Hebrews 1:1-4

1. These verses are so packed with the glory of our Savior that we want to continue to glean as much as we can from them. List any key words you may find and using your resources (pg. 2) define them. What do you see?

2. What are we told about the Son in verse 2? How is this confirmed in the following verses:

- John 1:1-3
- Colossians 1:15-18
- Ephesians 3:9

3. Using your resources (pg. 2) explain the meaning of the phrase *express image*. (v.3)
As believers in Christ, we are called to be a reflection of His image.

- In what ways are you seeking to reflect Him to others?

- If this was the daily practice of all believers, what difference might we see in the world around us?

4. Verse 3 tells us that Christ is seated at the right hand of the “*Majesty on High...*”. How does this exalted position of Jesus compare to the position of angels and why is He *better than* the angels? (v.4)

Day Four

Read Hebrews 1:5-9

“There was in the early church the dangerous tendency developing to worship angels, and Hebrews shows us that Jesus is high above any angel. In this sense, the purpose of Hebrews is like the Transfiguration of Jesus mentioned in the Gospels. They each cry out and say, ‘This is My Beloved Son, hear Him’”. David Guzik (BlueLetter Bible)

1. What title has the Father given to Jesus? (v.5)

2. Verse 6 tells us that all the angels worship the Son. How is this affirmed in Revelation 5:11?

3. Consider the little word *His*, in verse 7. What is the implication of the use of this word?

4. If angelic beings are meant to worship and praise the Son, how should **our** worship and praise of Him be affected? What do you see about this in the following verses?

- Psalm 63:1-5
- Psalm 66:4
- Psalm 150:1-6
- Hebrews 13:15-16

5. Pause right now and give Him the worship and praise due His name, singing your favorite praise song. In light of these verses what are some other acts of worship that we can practice daily in our lives?

Day Five

Read Hebrews 1:10-14

1. Verse 10 is referring to Jesus as Creator, once more affirming that He is eternal. How does Colossians 1:16-17 prove this?

2. What do these verses tell us will eventually take place in the heavens that He has created? (vv.11-12) What do the following verses have to say about this?

- Isaiah 65:17-19
- Isaiah 66:22
- 2 Peter 3:10-13
- Revelation 21:1-4

3. What is your response to this and how should this have an impact on your eternal perspective?

4. Verse 14 again emphasizes the fact that Christ is superior to the angels who are created beings. What does this verse tell us about their responsibilities and who they are sent to serve?

5. Challenge:(Optional) Does verse 14 mean we all have a *guardian angel*? Give specific verses to prove your answer.

**Therefore, we must
give the more earnest heed
to the things we have
heard, lest we drift away.
Hebrews 2:1**

Chapter 2

Therefore we must give ^[a]the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. ² For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just ^[b]reward, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*, ⁴ God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts^[c] of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? ⁵ For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. ⁶ But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? ⁷ You have made him ^[d]a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, ^[e]And set him over the works of Your hands. ⁸ You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing *that is* not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. ⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made ^[f]a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For both He who ^[g]sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ¹² saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You." ¹³ And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me." ¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. ¹⁶ For indeed He does not ^[h]give aid to angels, but He does ^[i]give aid to the seed of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For in that He Himself has suffered, being ^[j]tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Day One Overview

Prayerfully and carefully read Hebrews 2:1-18.

1. Record any words, verses, or phrases that speak to you and explain why.

2. What do you see concerning each of the following?

- angels
- children
- Satan
- temptation
- suffering

3. Why is it important for us to understand these facts in God's word?

4. We are given precious promises in this chapter that should give us hope and encouragement. Find and share the one that most inspires you and explain why.

Day Two

Read Hebrews 2:1-4

1. What warning do you see and how are we to avoid its danger? (v.1)

2. In verse 1 we are given the image of a boat that easily drifts away from its moorings (*the things we have heard*).

- Using your resources (pg. 2) define the word *drift*.

- How does Revelation 2:1-4 relate to the peril of *drifting*?

- What disciplines are you applying to your life in order to avoid this danger?

3. Using your resources (pg. 2) define what it means to “*neglect so great a salvation*”. (v.3)

4. Challenge:(Optional) Can a believer lose their salvation by neglecting it? Why or why not?

5. How was the word of salvation confirmed to us? (vv. 3-4)

Day Three

Read Hebrews 2:5-9

In the first chapter the writer has been emphasizing the divinity of Christ and now begins to affirm the humanity of Christ. The believers who received this letter were in danger of returning to Judaism because of persecution and they needed reminding that Christ was superior in every way and was sufficient for all they needed.

1. What do you see concerning the angels in verse 5?

2. Verse 6 tells us that God is “*mindful*” of man. How do the following verses speak to you about this and what is your response?

- Psalm 115:12
- Psalm 139:16-17
- Jeremiah 29:11
- Matthew 10:29-31

3. Verses 7-8 tell us four things God has already done for man. List them here:

4. Why was Jesus made a little lower than the angels (in His humanity)? (v. 9)

5. Verse 9 tells us it was by God's grace that Christ tasted death for everyone. How would you explain this to someone who had never heard the gospel? In what way would John 3:16 reinforce this wonderful yet mysterious truth?

Day Four

Read Hebrews 2:10-13

1. What did the Captain of our salvation accomplish for us? (v.10)

2. How was Jesus made perfect on our behalf (v.9)? How does Isaiah 53:1-12 and Matthew 27:27-50 describe this?

3. Why is Jesus not ashamed to call us His "*brethren*"? (v.11)

4. Christ suffered the agony of the Cross, looking forward to the day He would worship and praise the Father with the redeemed. (v.12) Are you looking forward to that day also? How does this encourage you?

5. In light of the fact that we will one day be with Him, how does this spur you on to live for Him now?

Day Five

Read Hebrews 2:14-18

1. What did Jesus accomplish by dying on the Cross? (vv.14-15) How does this bring freedom for each of us?

2. Challenge: (Optional) Christ is described as our High Priest in verse 17. Using your resources (pg. 2) explain the duties of a High Priest in the Old Testament.

3. The Greek word *merciful* speaks of one who has sympathy with another and acts to relieve their misery. Because we are being conformed to His image, we are to imitate Him in mercy. In what ways can you show mercy to those who are suffering?

4. The word *faithful* means one who is trustworthy. Record ways you can be faithful in the following:

- Marriage
- Family

- Friendships
- Employment

5. Are there areas in your life where you are being tempted? In what way are you encouraged by the fact that Jesus is able to *aid those who are tempted?* (v.18)

“Moreover, do not make it any cause of complaint that you are tempted. If your Lord was tempted, shall the disciple be above his Master, or the servant above His Lord? If the Perfect One must endure temptation, why not you? Accept it, therefore, at the Lord’s hands, and do not think it to be a disgrace or a dishonor. It did not disgrace or dishonor your Lord, and temptation will not disgrace or dishonor you. The Lord, who sends it, sends also with it a way of escape, and it will be to your honor and profit to escape by that way.” (Spurgeon)

As we study this book, we must remember it was written to Jewish believers that were seriously thinking of leaving Christianity and returning to Judaism. The writer’s intention was to show them why Christ was better than the ways of the Old Testament and why was it necessary for them to remain faithful. The first two chapters dealt with the superiority of Jesus over the angels and now we see that He is also better than Moses who was held in great esteem and reverence by the Jews. Moses was faithful as a servant, but Jesus is faithful as a Son.

**For we have become
partakers of Christ if we
hold the beginning of our
confidence steadfast to the
end**

Hebrews 3:14

Chapter 3

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, ² who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house. ³ For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. ⁴ For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God. ⁵ And Moses indeed *was faithful* in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*, ⁶ but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope ^[a]firm to the end. ⁷ Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you will hear His voice, ⁸ Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, ⁹ Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. ¹⁰ Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, ‘They always go astray in *their* heart, And they have not known My ways.’ ¹¹ So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’” ¹² Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; ¹³ but ^[b]exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴ For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, ¹⁵ while it is said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.” ¹⁶ For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, *was it* not all who came out of Egypt, *led* by Moses? ¹⁷ Now with whom was He angry forty years? *Was it* not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? ¹⁹ So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Day One Overview

Prayerfully and carefully read Hebrew 3:1-19.

1. Record any words, phrases, or verses that speak to you and explain why.

2. What warning is given to us in this chapter? (v.12)

3. List the things you see about the following:

- Moses
- Sin
- Israel (those who came out of Egypt)
- Unbelief
- Faith

4. What do the following verses reveal about Israel's high esteem for Moses?

- Matthew 23:1-2
- John 5:45-46
- John 9:28-29

Day Two

Read Hebrews 3:1-6

1. How is Jesus described in verses 1-2? Why are we told to "*consider*" Him?

2. The word *consider* means "*to observe carefully, to behold, to fix one's eyes or mind on*". With the busyness and chaos of our daily lives, how can we accomplish this when:

- our preschooler has a temper tantrum while we are shopping?
- we are notified of a lay off from our job?
- our loved one is diagnosed with a serious illness?
- we are unfairly accused?
- we experience the break-up of a relationship?

3. What circumstances are you going through today that are causing you to take your eyes off of Jesus?

4. Verses 2-5 compare the faithfulness of Moses to the faithfulness of Jesus. What do you see? Why is Jesus “*counted worthy of more glory than Moses*”? (v.3)

5. Verse 6 reminds us that believers are part of the house Christ is building. How do the following verses further expand this thought?

- 1 Peter 2:5
- Ephesians 2:20-22

6. Challenge (Optional): Does verse 6 imply that our salvation depends on our holding fast? Explain why or why not.

Day Three

Read Hebrews 3:7-11

1. The first warning given to us was to avoid “*drifting*” (chapter 2:1). We are now given the second warning in Hebrews 3:7-8. What do you see?

2. The writer of Hebrews refers us back to Psalm 95:7-11 which reminds Israel of the danger of a hardened heart and a heart that strays. The writer gives the example of Israel in the Exodus by quoting this Psalm. Read the following and explain how they developed **hardened hearts**

- Exodus 17:1-7
- Numbers 20:1-13, 20-24

3. What are some of the ways we too, can harden our hearts and how can we guard against this?

4. What consequences did Israel suffer because of their rebellious hearts? (vv.10-11)

5. Jesus spoke of a “rest” that is available to His children. (Matthew 11:29-30) How do these verses encourage you to enter into this “rest”?

Day Four

Read Hebrews 3:12-15

1. What warning do you see in verse 12? Why is it necessary to constantly be on guard against this sin? In what ways are you guarding your heart?

2. Challenge (Optional): Is unbelief the same as doubting? Is it sinful to doubt God? Explain why or why not.

3. Verse 13 gives us the remedy for the danger of a heart of unbelief. What is the solution to this danger? (v.13a) Using your resources (pg. 2) define the word *exhort*.

4. How is sin described in verse 13? Why is the story of Eve an example of this? (Genesis 3)

5. Verse 14 once more reminds us to be faithful. *“Faith is the root of salvation and endurance is the fruit.”* (William MacDonald, *The Believer’s Bible Commentary*) How do these verses (12-15) challenge you to faithfulness?

Day Five
Read Hebrew 3:16-19

“In the New Testament context, our belief centers on the superiority of Jesus Christ, the truth of who He is (fully God and fully man) and His atoning work for us as a faithful High Priest (as in Hebrews 2:17). When we trust in these things, making them the food of our souls, we enter into God’s rest” (Dave Guzik, *Blue Letter Bible*)

1. Hebrews speaks to us 11 times about *“entering rest”*. What keeps us from experiencing this rest? (v.19)

2. How did God respond to the rebellion and disobedience of Israel? (vv.17-19)

3. Using your resources (pg. 2) define the word *“unbelief”*. What do you see and how does this speak to you?

4. Unbelief means an unwillingness to commit oneself to another. How do the following verses speak to you about the issue of unbelief?

- Matthew 13:58
- Mark 9:24
- Mark 16:14

5. How has this chapter encouraged you to faithfulness, to entering His *rest*, to the awareness of the deceitfulness of sin?

Teaching Notes: Chapter 3

**For the word of
God *is* living and powerful,
and sharper than any two-
edged sword, piercing
even to the division of soul
and spirit, and of joints
and marrow, and is a
discerner of the thoughts
and intents of the heart.**

Hebrews 4:12

Chapter 4

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ² For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, ³ not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*. ⁴ For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: “So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest,’” although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁵ For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh *day* in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”; ⁶ and again in this *place*: “They shall not enter My rest.” ⁷ Since therefore it remains that some *must* enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, ⁸ again He designates a certain day, saying in David, “Today,” after such a long time, as it has been said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.” ⁹ For if ¹⁰ Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. ¹¹ There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. ¹² For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His. ¹³ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. ¹⁴ For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹⁵ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

Chapter 4 continues with the topic of entering into the rest that God has for His children. The entrance into this wonderful promise is through faith. There is a rest that believers obtain the moment we put our trust in Jesus Christ for salvation; a daily rest as we place our hope in His promises, and a future rest which is eternal in our Father's house.

Day One Overview

Prayerfully and carefully read Hebrews 4:1-16.

1. Record any words, phrases, or verses that speak to you and explain why.

2. Using your resources (pg. 2) define the following and share your thoughts concerning them:

- Diligent (v.11)
- Division (v.12)
- Discerner (v.12)

3. What do these verses tell us about entering the *rest* God has prepared for us and His Word?

4. How are you encouraged or corrected by this chapter?

Day Two

Read Hebrews 4:1-2

1. What exhortation is given in verse 1 and how does this relate to chapter 3:18-19?

2. How do the following verses speak to you about God's rest?

- Exodus 33:14
- Psalm 116:7
- Matthew 11:28-29

3. In what ways can we *fall short* of entering this place of rest? (v.1)

4. Why was the word unprofitable to the children of Israel? (v.2b)

5. How do the following verses affirm the necessity of faith?

- Habakkuk 2:4b
- Romans 4:5
- Romans 5:1-2

Day Three

Read Hebrews 4:3-10

1. Who are the ones who have entered God's rest? (v.3a)

2. How long has this rest been ready and what example does the writer give to explain this? (vv.3-4)

3. What kept the children of Israel (*those to whom it was first preached*) from entering the rest God had prepared? (v.6)

4. Using your resources (pg. 2) define the meaning of a *hardened heart* and why this is a danger. (v.7)

5. What promise do you see in verse 10 and how does this speak to you?

Day Four

Read Hebrews 4:11-13

1. Verse 11 reminds us of the children of Israel who, in the wilderness exodus, could not enter their rest because of their unbelief. What warning is given in order to enter into the rest that is promised us?

2. How is the Word of God described in verse 12 and what does it accomplish?

3. What do verse 12 and the following verses reveal to us about the power of God's Word?

- Psalm 119:9-16
- 1 Peter 1:23
- Isaiah 55:10-11
- Jeremiah 23:29
- Ephesians 6:17
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

4. Someone has aptly said "*you can run but you cannot hide*". How is this a proven according to verse 13?

5. The fact that we are totally exposed to God can either frighten us or encourage us. How does this speak to you? Explain why?

Day Five

Read Hebrews 4:14-16

Israel had many high priests who served and led in the observances of the Levitical law, but they never had a High Priest like Jesus. Seventeen times through the Book of Hebrews Jesus is spoken of as our Great High Priest, giving us the incentive for endurance in the midst of life's trials. As our Great High Priest, we find the One who sees us is the One who sympathizes with us.

Notice that the writer has taken us through a progression, showing us that Jesus is greater than angels, than the prophets, than Moses, than Joshua, and now we see He is greater than Aaron and his earthly priesthood.

1. How is our Great High Priest described? What do you see concerning His divinity and His humanity? (vv.14-15)

2. Using your resources (pg. 2) explain what it means to “*hold fast our confession*”. (v.14) How do the following verses increase your understanding of this exhortation?

- 2 Corinthians 9:13
- 1 Timothy 6:12-13
- Hebrews 10:23

3. “*The ancient Greek word translated sympathize literally means to suffer along with.” (Dave Guzik, Blue Letter Bible) What is your response to the fact that Jesus understands and sympathizes with our weaknesses? (v. 15)*

4. How is God’s throne described? (v.16)

5. Challenge (Optional): Why is mercy placed before grace? (v.16)

6. Are you being tempted to give in and give up when faced with your weakness to sin? Accept the invitation to enter His throne room and find His mercy and grace.

But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 5:14

Chapter 5

For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He can ^[a]have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. ³ Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer *sacrifices* for sins. ⁴ And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron *was*.⁵ So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but *it was* He who said to Him: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.”⁶ As *He* also says in another *place*: “You *are* a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek”; ⁷ who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, ⁸ though He was a Son, *yet* He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. ⁹ And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, ¹⁰ called by God as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek,” ¹¹ of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. ¹² For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the ^[b]oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. ¹³ For everyone who partakes *only* of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are ^[c]of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of ^[d]use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

The Hebrews were not understanding of the fact that Jesus was a High Priest. He had not descended from the family of Aaron but was of another priesthood, one that was chosen by God, not inherited from man. Because of His divinity He met all the requirements to offer sacrifice for sin. This chapter gives us the qualifications for the earthly priesthood and how Jesus has met each one.

Day One Overview

Prayerfully and carefully read Hebrews 5:1-14.

1. Record any words, phrases, or verses that speak to you and explain why.

2. Record what you see concerning the following:

- Priesthood
- Melchizedek
- Aaron

3. Why is Jesus, our High Priest, able to have compassion on us? How does this encourage you?

4. In what way are we warned to develop spiritual growth? What will be the outcome?

Day Two

Read Hebrews 5:1-4

Eerdman's Bible Dictionary: "The high priest descended from Eleazar, the son of Aaron. The office was normally hereditary and was conferred upon an individual for life...The high priest was bound to a higher degree of ritual purity than ordinary Levitical priests."

1. Verse 1 tells us the high priest must be taken from men. What responsibilities were required of him? (v.1b)

2. Using your resources (pg. 2) define the word *compassion*. (v.2) Why is the high priest able to have this quality? (v.2b)

3. Why is this attribute so important in the life of a believer? How has Christ, as our Great High Priest, shown compassion to you?

“Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into the places of pain, to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears. Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human.” (Henri Nouwen)

4. What do you see in the following verses and how do they speak to you?

- James 5:11
- Lamentations 3:32
- Psalm 51:1
- Psalm 116:5
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4
- Matthew 9:35-38

Day Three

Read Hebrews 5:5-11

1. What was the basis for Jesus' call to be our Great High Priest? (v.5b)

2. How long is His priesthood to last? (v.6)

3. Challenge (Optional): Using your resources (pg. 2) give a brief description of Melchizedek and why he is used as an example of Christ as high priest. (Hebrews 5:6)

4. How is the humanity of Christ displayed in verses 7-8 and how do the following verses further this thought?

- Matthew 26:36-46
- Luke 22:39-46

5. What was accomplished by the suffering of Christ and to whom is it offered? (vv.8-9)

Day Four

Read Hebrews 5:12-14

Verse 11 has warned us of the danger of spiritual lethargy. Now the writer wants to spur the readers on to growth, reminding them that every Christian who has been a believer for a few years should be knowledgeable enough in the scriptures to instruct a younger believer.

1. What was lacking in the lives of those the writer was addressing? (v.12)

2. Using your resources (pg. 2) define the following words:

- *milk*
- *meat*
- *oracles*

What do you see?

3. Who does solid food belong to? (v.14)

4. What is the one who is mature able to do? (v.14)

5. These verses tell us that the one who is of full age (spiritually) is able to discern between good and evil. Using your resources (pg. 2) define discernment.

Day Five

Read Hebrews 5:12-14

1. Why is spiritual discernment vital in a Christian's life?

2. Read 2 Peter 1:5-11. How do these verses relate to Hebrews 5:12-14?

3. What specific steps are you taking to grow spiritually in the following areas?

- in prayer
- in God's word
- in fellowship
- in serving

4. How will this help you in your discernment between good and evil?

Teaching Notes: Chapter 5

Lined area for notes with 24 horizontal lines.

**This *hope* we have as an
anchor of the soul, both
sure and steadfast, and
which enters
the *Presence* behind the
veil**

Hebrew 6:19

Chapter 6

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to [a]perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ³ And this [b]we will do if God permits. ⁴ For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶ [c]if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame. ⁷ For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; ⁸ but if it bears thorns and briers, *it is* rejected and near to being cursed, whose end *is* to be burned. ⁹ But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner. ¹⁰ For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and [d]labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. ¹¹ And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² that you do not become [e]sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. ¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, ¹⁴ saying, “Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.” ¹⁵ And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. ¹⁶ For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation *is* for them an end of all dispute. ¹⁷ Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the [f]immutability of His counsel, [g]confirmed *it* by an oath, ¹⁸ that by two [h]immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we [i]might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*. ¹⁹ This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil, ²⁰ where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

This chapter is a very difficult one to understand and many scholars have wrestled with it, considering it the most difficult and controversial passage in the Bible. However, it will help us to better grasp its meaning if we remember that it deals with our fellowship with God rather than our salvation.

Day One Overview

Prayerfully and carefully read Hebrews 6:1-20.

1. Record any words, phrases, or verses that stand out to you, and explain why.

2. Record what you see concerning the following:

- hope
- sluggishness
- diligence

3. What exhortation or warning does this chapter present to the believer? (v. 12)

4. Who will be the inheritors of the promises of God? Why is faith and patience emphasized? (v.12)

Day Two

Read Hebrews 6:1-3

1. Hebrews 6 encourages us to wake up from spiritual lethargy. What are we exhorted to do in order to *wake up*? (v.1b)

2. What was hindering the believers from moving on? (v.1)

3. Verses 1-2 tell us there were 6 elementary principles the believers were holding on to. List them here:

4. Using your resources (pg. 2) define the word *principles*. (NKJV)

5. Explain in your own words the meaning of “*let us go on to perfection*” and how we can accomplish this.

Day Three

Read Hebrews 6:4-9

Keep in mind as you read this portion of the chapter that the writer is not seeking to frighten us but to reassure us of our salvation and to spur us on to growth in Christ. The problem that is being addressed is not the loss of salvation but the lost opportunity of growth, of “*going on to perfection*”.

1. What are the spiritual experiences listed in verses 4-5? Do spiritual experiences make one a Christian? Why or why not? (Matthew 7:21-23) (James 2:19)

2. Using your resources (pg. 2) define the term *fall away*. (v.6)

3. Compare this passage (vv.4 -9) to the following verses. What do you see? How do they reassure you of your salvation?

- John 5:24
- John 10: 26-30
- Romans 8:29-39

4. Verses 7-9 speak of the true believer's spiritual growth which produces fruit. Read Galatians 5:22-25. What fruit do you see evident in your life? What fruit do you need to see produced in your life?

5. What is necessary in order to produce this fruit (John 15:5) and how are you seeking to accomplish this?

Day Four

Read Hebrews 6:9-12

1. What encouragement is given to the friends of the writer and how does he address them? (v.9)

2. Describe some of the fruit that was being produced in their lives and God's response to them. (v.10)

3. The believers are warned not to rest on their spiritual achievements, but we are exhorted to continue to grow. What do these verses tell us is necessary for this continued growth? (vv.11-12)

4. What is the *key* to inheriting the promises of God? (v.12) How are you exercising faith and patience as you wait for the fulfilment of His promises?

Day Five
Read Hebrews 6:13-20

1. God made a specific promise to Abraham (v.14). How did Abraham see this fulfilled? (v. 15)

2. God has given specific promises to His children, to those who have put their trust in Him. How do the following verses confirm this? How do these encourage you?

- 2 Peter 1:3-4
- 1 John 2:24-25
- John 1:12-13
- Romans 8:14-15
- Ephesians 1:6

3. Using your resources (pg. 2) define the word *immutability*. (vv.17-18) What does this tell us about God's word and His character?

4. Why is the fact that God cannot lie a source of hope and how is this hope described? (vv. 18-19)

5. What do you see about Jesus in verses 19-20? Take a moment now and express your thankfulness for all He is.

**Therefore, He is also able
to save to the uttermost
those who come to God
through Him, since He
always lives to make
intercession for them.**

Hebrews 7:25

Chapter 7

For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ² to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated “king of righteousness,” and then also king of Salem, meaning “king of peace,” ³ without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.⁴ Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the ^[a]spoils. ⁵ And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham; ⁶ but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷ Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. ⁸ Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he *receives them*, of whom it is witnessed that he lives. ⁹ Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, ¹⁰ for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him. ¹¹ Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need *was there* that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? ¹² For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law. ¹³ For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has ^[b]officiated at the altar. ¹⁴ For *it is* evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning ^[c]priesthood. ¹⁵ And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest ¹⁶ who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. ¹⁷ For ^[d]He testifies: “You *are* a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.” ¹⁸ For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness, ¹⁹ for the law made nothing ^[e]perfect; on the other hand, *there is the* bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God. ²⁰ And inasmuch as *He was* not *made priest* without an oath ²¹ (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: “The LORD has sworn And will not relent, ‘You *are* a priest ^[f]forever According to the

order of Melchizedek' ”), ²² by so much more Jesus has become a [a]surety of a better covenant. ²³ Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. ²⁴ But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save [a]to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. ²⁶ For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, [a]harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; ²⁷ who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, *appoints* the Son who has been perfected forever.

As we continue our study of this book, we must keep in mind that it is being written to Hebrew believers who would have been familiar with the concepts being presented. The writer is seeking to reveal the superiority of Jesus over the prophets, over angels, over Moses, over Joshua, and over the Levitical Priesthood.

Day One Overview

Prayerfully and carefully read Hebrews 7:1-28.

1. Record any words, phrases, or verses that stand out to you and explain why.

2. Using your resources (pg. 2) define the following:

- priesthood (v.11)
- tithe (v.5)
- perfection (v.11)
- annulling (v.18)

3. What does verse 25 tell us about Jesus, our High Priest?

4. How does this verse give you encouragement?

Day Two

Read Hebrews 7:1-3

1. Who was Melchizedek and what was his relationship to Abraham? (v.1)

2. What did Abraham do in response to the blessing given him by Melchizedek? (v.2)

3. Melchizedek's name means "*king of righteousness*" and "*king of peace*". (v.2)
Record your thoughts concerning these terms given in the following verses:

- Isaiah 32:17
- Psalm 85:10
- James 3:17-18
- Hebrews 12:10-11

4. Why is Melchizedek considered a "*priest continually*" (v.3) and how does this relate to Jesus?

Day Three

Read Hebrews 7:4-10

1. How did Abraham acknowledge the greatness and authority of Melchizedek? (v.4)

2. List some ways we can acknowledge the greatness and authority of Jesus, our Great High Priest?

3. Giving our tithes to the Lord is one way of honoring Him. What do the following verses tell us about our giving?

- Acts 20:35
- Hebrews 13:16
- Proverbs 11:24-25
- 2 Corinthians 9:7
- Deuteronomy 16:17

4. According to verses 9-10, through the seed of Abraham, Levi symbolically paid tithes to Melchizedek. Why is this significant? What does this prove about the greatness of this priest?

Day Four
Read Hebrews 7:11-22

1. Why was Jesus unable to be a priest according to the Mosaic Law? (vv.13-14)

2. What was the priesthood of Jesus based upon if it was not from a fleshly commandment? (vv.15-17)

3. How did Jesus show us His priesthood was superior? (vv.16-17)

4. Verses 18-19 tell us the old Levitical Law was annulled. How is it described? What is our “*better hope*”? What are the results?

5. How did God confirm His choice of Jesus as our High Priest? (vv.21-22)

Day Five
Read Hebrews 7:23-28

1. Why were the Levitical priests prevented from continuing their priesthood? (v.23)

2. How does this compare with the priesthood of Jesus? (v.24)

3. What is your response to the fact that Jesus “*always lives to make intercession*” for those who come to Him? (v.25) How is this confirmed in Romans 8:33-34?

4. How is Jesus, our High Priest described? (vv.25-28)

“Because Jesus is a perfect High Priest, He was able to offer up Himself as a perfect sacrifice for our sin. Jesus is perfectly qualified to be our perfect High Priest-perfected forever”. David Guzik (Blueletter Bible)

5. Take a moment and give Him thanks and praise for the fact that He is our High Priest and that He gave Himself as the offering for our sin.

**For this *is* the covenant
that I will make with the
house of Israel after those
days, says the LORD: I will
put My laws in their mind
and write them on their
hearts; and I will be their
God, and they shall be My
people.**

Hebrews 8:10

Chapter 8

Now *this is* the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, ² a Minister of the ^[a]sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. ³ For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore, *it is necessary* that this One also have something to offer. ⁴ For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; ⁵ who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See *that* you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” ⁶ But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises. ⁷ For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. ⁸ Because finding fault with them, He says: “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— ⁹ not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD. ¹⁰ For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ¹¹ None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. ¹² For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins ^[b]and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” ¹³ In that He says, “A new *covenant*,” He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.

We are once again reminded that Jesus, our High Priest, is seated in heaven at the right hand of the Father. According to the Old Testament, the Levitical priests never sat down but always stood because their work was never finished. Christ sat down because His offering for our sin was accomplished once and for all.

Day One Overview

Prayerfully and carefully read Hebrews 8:1-13.

1. Record any phrases, words, or verses that stand out to you and explain why.

2. Using your resources (pg. 2) define the following:

- covenant (v.7)
- majesty (v.1)
- tabernacle (v.2)
- mediator (v.6)

3. What promise did God make to Israel? (v.8)

4. List any attributes you may see concerning Jesus, our High Priest.

5. Challenge (Optional): What were the responsibilities of the earthly high priest and how has Jesus fulfilled them?

Day Two

Read Hebrews 8:1-2

1. What is the “*main point*” the writer is seeking to make? (v.1)

2. Where is our High Priest now seated and why is this significant? (v.1)

3. How do the following verses confirm the position and prominence of our High Priest?

- Ephesians 1:20-21
- Ephesians 2:4-6
- Zechariah 6:13
- 1 Peter 3:22

4. How is the tabernacle described and why is this important to understand? (v.2)
(Hebrews 9:11,24)

Day Three

Read Hebrews 8:3-5

1. What were the duties of the high priest? (v.3)

2. What do the following verses tell us about Jesus, our Great High Priest and His offering?

- John 6:51
- Ephesians 5:2
- Hebrews 7:27

3. The Levitical Law required a blood sacrifice for the atonement of sin. How is this contrasted with the sacrifice of Christ and His gift? (Romans 6:9-10)

4. What sacrifice are you willing to make in response to this great gift? How is this clarified in Romans 12:1-2?

5. Briefly explain why the tabernacle Moses was instructed to make was a mere “*copy and shadow*”. (v.5)

Day Four

Read Hebrews 8:6-9

1. In what way is the new covenant superior to the old covenant? (v.6b)

2. Why was a new covenant necessary? (v.7)

3. For what reason did God “*disregard*” Israel and Judah? (v.9)

4. Challenge (Optional): Explain the old covenant and its conditions? (Exodus 19:5-6)

5. What does God's word tell us about obedience? How do these verses speak to you?

- John 14:15
- Luke 11:28
- James 1:22-25

Day Five

Read Hebrews 8:10-13

1. The old covenant made with Israel was weak because it depended on the abilities of men who cannot keep it because they are weak. How is the new covenant different from the old? (vv. 11-13)

2. Where is the new covenant now written? (v. 10)

3. Is this promise in effect now?

4. How would this promise (vv. 10-12) have been an encouragement to those Hebrew Christians? How is it an encouragement to us?

5. How is the old covenant described and what is the result? (v.13)

But Christ came *as* High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

Hebrews 9:11

Chapter 9

Then indeed, even the first *covenant* had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary. ² For a tabernacle was prepared: the first *part*, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the [ⓐ]sanctuary; ³ and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, ⁴ which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; ⁵ and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. ⁶ Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. ⁷ But into the second part the high priest *went* alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and *for* the people's sins *committed* in ignorance; ⁸ the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. ⁹ It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience— ¹⁰ *concerned* only with foods and drinks, various [ⓑ]washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation. ¹¹ But Christ came as High Priest of the good things [ⓒ]to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ¹² Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, [ⓓ]sanctifies for the [ⓔ]purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without [ⓕ]spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? ¹⁵ And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. ¹⁶ For where there *is* a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. ¹⁷ For a testament *is* in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. ¹⁸ Therefore not even the first *covenant* was dedicated without blood. ¹⁹ For when Moses had spoken every [ⓖ]precept to all the people according to the

law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰ saying, “This *is* the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you.” ²¹ Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry. ²² And according to the law almost all things are [u]purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no [u]remission. ²³ Therefore *it was* necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be [u]purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, *which are* [k]copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; ²⁵ not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— ²⁶ He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. ²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

We must keep in mind as we continue, that the Jewish Christians were discouraged and in danger of turning back to Judaism. They were beginning to think that they no longer had the things they had in the past as Jews: the covenant, the sanctuary, the sacrifices. The first 6 chapters present the superior Person, the next 3 present the superior Priesthood. In chapter 8 we see a superior Covenant and Sanctuary. Now, in chapter 9, we see a superior Sacrifice. There was no need for the Jews to go back to Judaism because Jesus was better than all they had left.

Day One Overview

Prayerfully and carefully read Hebrews 9:1-28.

1. Record any phrases, words, or verses that stand out to you and explain why.

2. Using your resources (pg. 2) define the following:

- eternal redemption (v.12)
- eternal Spirit (v.14)
- eternal inheritance (v.15)

3. What do you see about the shedding of blood?

4. How has Christ secured our salvation and the forgiveness of sin? (vv.26-28)

5. What verse in this chapter gives you comfort and hope?

Day Two

Read Hebrews 9:1-10

1. What were the first and second parts of the tabernacle called? What were the articles that were placed inside the sanctuary? (vv.2-5)

2. What are we told about the “*Holiest of All*” and what separated it from the first part of the tabernacle? (v.3)

3. Perhaps the most important piece of furniture in the “*Holiest of All*” was the *mercy seat*. This was a place of “*propitiation*”, a place where the wrath of God was turned away from the people. What do you see in the following verses about our “*propitiation*”?

- 1 John 2:2
- 1 John 4:10

4. Only the high priest was allowed into the Holy Place once a year. What was required of him and what sins was he making atonement for? (vv.6-7) What does 1 John 1:9 tell us about our sins and our forgiveness?

5. The offerings made were only concerned with external uncleanness and not the purity of the heart. What do the following verses tell us about purity?

- Psalm 119:9
- 1 John 3:3
- 1 Peter 1:16
- 2 Corinthians 7:1

6. How does Galatians 2:20 encourage you to pursue purity and what steps can you take to make this evident in your life?

Day Three

Read Hebrews 9: 11-15

1. What title was given to Jesus? (v.11)

2. What was the sacrifice Jesus offered, rather than the blood of goats and calves? What did He accomplish there in the Most Holy Place? How long does this accomplishment last? (v. 12)

3. Read Isaiah 53:1-12. How was this prophecy fulfilled according to Hebrews 9:11-14?

4. The old sacrifices dealt with the external but the sacrifice of Christ deals with the internal (our consciences). Through His sacrifice our consciences have been cleansed from dead works to “serve” the living God. (v.14) Now that you have been made clean, how are you choosing to serve the living God?

5. Chuck Smith: “...back in verse 12, we had eternal redemption, and now the eternal inheritance for those who are eternally redeemed.” (v. 14) What do the following verses tell us about our eternal inheritance?

- 1 Peter 1:3-5
- Ephesians 1:11
- Romans 8:17
- Ephesians 1:13-14

Day Four
Read Hebrews 9: 16-22

1. What is necessary for a *last will and testament* to become effective? (v.16)

2. How was the first covenant (or promise) made? (v.18) (Exodus 24:1-8)

3. Why is the shedding of blood so important? (v. 22)

4. How does Romans 3:24-25 further your understanding of the importance of the blood?

“During the 1000 plus years of the old covenant, there were more than a million animal sacrifices. So, considering that each bull’s sacrifice spilled a gallon or 2 of blood, and each goat a quart, the old covenant rested on a sea of blood. During the Passover observance each year, a trough was constructed from the Temple down to the Kidron Valley for the disposal of blood...a sacrificial plumbing system.” Kent Hughes

5. What is your response to the fact that Jesus Christ shed His blood for the remission (forgiveness) of our sins?

Day Five
Read Hebrews 9:23-28

1. The people, the priest, the book of the law, the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry had to be sprinkled with blood. According to verse 23, what was the purpose?

2. Where is Christ now and how is this place described? (v.24) Why has He entered this place?

3. Using your resources (pg. 2) define the term *put away*. How has Christ *put away* our sin? (v.26)

4. How does the promise of Jesus' returning again encourage or challenge you?

5. Compare this promise with 2 Peter 3:1-18. What do you see? How are we then to live our lives as we wait for Christ's return?

**Let us hold fast the
confession of *our* hope
without wavering, for He
who promised *is* faithful.
Hebrews 10:23**

Chapter 10

For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. ² For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once ^[a]purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. ³ But in those *sacrifices there is* a reminder of sins every year. ⁴ For *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. ⁵ Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. ⁶ In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin You had no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.’” ⁸ Previously saying, “Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and *offerings* for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure *in them*” (which are offered according to the law), ⁹ then He said, “Behold, I have come to do Your will, ^[b]O God.” He takes away the first that He may establish the second. ¹⁰ By that will we have been ^[c]sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. ¹¹ And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being ^[d]sanctified. ¹⁵ But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, ¹⁶ “This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,” ¹⁷ *then He adds*, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” ¹⁸ Now where there is ^[e]remission of these, *there is* no longer an offering for sin. ¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness^[f] to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves

together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. ²⁶ For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. ²⁸ Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on *the testimony of two or three witnesses*. ²⁹ Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," ^[a]says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." ³¹ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. ³² But recall the former days in which, after you were ^[h]illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings: ³³ partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; ³⁴ for you had compassion on ^[i]me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your ^[i]goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves ^[k]in heaven. ³⁵ Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶ For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: ³⁷ "For yet a little while, *And He*^[i] who is coming will come and will not ^[m]tarry. ³⁸ Now the^[n] just shall live by faith; But if *anyone* draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him." ³⁹ But we are not of those who draw back to ^[o]perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

Verses 1-18 of this chapter concludes the doctrinal section of the Book of Hebrews. Using repetition, the author makes clear, once more, that if the Jewish believers were to return to Judaism and its sacrificial system, they would forfeit the great benefits that were purchased for them by Jesus Christ. His once-for-all sacrifice secured for them a perfect standing with Him and was all that was necessary for eternal life.

Day One Overview

Prayerfully and carefully read Hebrews 10:1-39.

1. Record any words, phrases, or verses that stand out to you and explain why.

2. What promises speak to you in this chapter? What warnings or exhortations are you challenged by?

3. Using your resources (pg. 2) define the following:

- Shadow (v.1)
- Sanctified (vv.10, 14, 29)
- Willfully (v.26)
- Perdition (v.39)

4. The word *sacrifice* is repeated 8 times in this chapter. Why is this significant?

Day Two

Read Hebrews 10:1-10

1. Why was the Law insufficient to make the worshipper perfect? (vv.1-4)

2. Using your resources (pg. 2) explain the phrase *to make those who approach perfect.* (v.1)

3. If the blood of bulls and goats could not take away sins, what was the only solution? (vv.5 -7)

4. How did the repetition of these sacrifices reveal their inadequacies? (vv. 1-4)

5. Personal: Jesus shows us the absolute necessity of total submission to the will of the Father. Submission occurs when we are obedient to His will. How are you living out obedience to His will in the following areas?

- Your finances
- Your speech
- Your relationships
- Your thought life
- Your devotional life

Day Three

Read Hebrews 10:11-18

1. What is the significance of the priest who was standing and Jesus who has sat down at the right hand of God? (vv.11-12)

2. How many offerings were made by *this Man* and for how long? (v.12)

3. Verse 13 tells us that Jesus is *waiting until His enemies are made His footstool*. Why is He waiting? (2 Peter 3:9)

4. What has Jesus accomplished for those who are being sanctified (set apart)? (v.14)

5. Challenge (Optional): In your own words explain verses 16-18. How does the promise given explain verse 18?

Day Four

Read Hebrews 10:19-25

Verses 1-18 conclude the doctrinal portion of the Book of Hebrews and we now begin to see our responsibilities in view of the privileges we have been given.

1. What privilege is now given through the blood of Jesus? (v.19)

2. What phrase do you see that is used three times in verses 22-24? What is your response to these exhortations?

3. We are reminded in verse 23 of the faithfulness of God that allows us to draw near to Him. How does God's faithfulness make it possible for us to hold fast to the *confession of our hope*?

4. In light of the exhortations given in verses 24-25 why is it vital for us to assemble together?

5. What are some of the possible results of avoiding the assembling of ourselves together? Make it a point this week to reach out to those you know who have been neglecting this wonderful privilege and encourage them to return.

Day Five
Read Hebrews 10:26-39

1. Verses 26-31 warn of the danger of rejecting the sacrifice of Jesus, knowing the truth but turning our backs on Him. What will be the consequences for those who reject Christ? (v.27)

2. Why were the believers commended? (vv. 32-34) What hope allowed them to endure their great struggle? (v.34b)

3. Endurance during trials is an absolute necessity for our growth in Christ. What do the following verses tell us about endurance?

- Galatians 6:9
- Hebrews 12:1
- Philippians 3:12-14
- Romans 5:3-4
- Philippians 4:13

4. How does the promise of Christ's coming encourage you to endure? (v.37)

5. Challenge (Optional): A final incentive to endurance is given in verses 37-39. The *just shall live by faith*. How are the true believers contrasted with those who *draw back to perdition*?

**But without faith *it*
is impossible to
please *Him*, for he who
comes to God must
believe that He is,
and *that* He is a rewarder
of those who diligently
seek Him.**

Hebrews 11:6

Chapter 11

Now faith is the ^[a]substance of things hoped for, the ^[b]evidence of things not seen. ² For by it the elders obtained a *good* testimony. ³ By faith we understand that the ^[c]worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. ⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. ⁵ By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. ⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. ⁷ By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. ⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; ¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God. ¹¹ By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she^[d] bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as *many* as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. ¹³ These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off ^[e]were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that *country* from which they had ^[f]come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly *country*. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*, ¹⁸ ^[g]of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” ¹⁹ concluding

that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. ²⁰ By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. ²¹ By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, *leaning* on the top of his staff. ²² By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. ²³ By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw *he was* a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. ²⁴ By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the ^[a]passing pleasures of sin, ²⁶ esteeming the ^[b]reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures ^[c]in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. ²⁷ By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. ²⁹ By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry *land*, *whereas* the Egyptians, attempting to do so, were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who ^[d]did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace. ³² And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: ³³ who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. ³⁵ Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, ^[e]were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in dens* and caves of the earth. ³⁹ And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, ⁴⁰ God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Chapters 1-10 give us the foundation for our faith, that Jesus Christ is Supreme and all sufficient as our High Priest. The last few verses of chapter 10 remind us that we are to live by faith, not by the external practices that can never cleanse us or give eternal life. The emphasis is now, not on *saving faith*, but on the life of faith. We have been exhorted to have faith, now we have:

- the explanation of faith
- the examples of faith
- the endurance of faith

Day One Overview

Prayerfully and carefully read Hebrews 11:1-40.

1. Record any phrases, words, or verses that speak to you and explain why.

2. How is faith described? (v.1)

3. Pick one example of the life of faith that is listed and share how it encourages you to live a life of faith.

4. Challenge (Optional): In light of these first three verses, what was being hoped for but not yet seen? Why will faith no longer be necessary when we reach heaven?

Day Two

Read Hebrews 11:1-7

1. What do the following verses tell us about faith?

- 1 Peter 1:3-9
- Romans 10:17
- 2 Corinthians 5:6-8

2. What were the elders commended for? (v.2)

3. Why is it important for us to believe that creation was formed by God? (v.3) Using your resources (pg. 2) find other scriptures that affirm this fact.

4. How does the faith of Abel still speak to us today? (v.4) Why was he declared righteous? Verse 5 tells us that Enoch was “*taken away*”, meaning he did not taste death. What was his “*testimony*”? (v.5)

5. What attitude must we have in order to come to God and why does our faith please Him? (v. 6) How did Noah exercise his faith and what were the results? What else do you find about Noah and his relationship to God? (Genesis 6:8-9)

6. How do these three patriarchs of the faith (Abel, Enoch, Noah) inspire you to live by faith?

Day Three

Read Hebrews 11:8-19

1. How did Abraham respond when called to go out into the unknown, not knowing where it would lead him? (v.8)

2. In what way would you respond if asked to leave everything behind and go out into the unknown? What concerns, fears, or questions would you have?

3. Abraham lived in tents but waited for a heavenly city, made by God. How is this city described in Revelations 21:10-27?

4. How was Abraham's faith tested? (vv.17-19) Why does God test our faith and what results does He look for? (James 1:1-3, 1 Peter 1:6-7)

5. What was the basis for Sarah's faith? What miracle did she experience because of this? (v.11) What promises are you trusting God to fulfill and why does His faithfulness give you hope?

Day Four

Read Hebrews 11:20-31

1. Why are Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph all listed in the hall of faith? (vv.20-22) What stands out most to you about their lives?

2. Moses' parents exercised faith when they hid their child, not fearing the king's command to destroy the children. (v.23) How would you respond if you were placed in this terrible situation? What difficult situations have you been placed in and how did you choose to obey God rather than man?

3. Moses chose to suffer affliction rather than the pleasures of sin. What was the basis for his choice? (vv.24-27)

4. How did Moses and the children of Israel exercise faith after leaving Egypt? (vv.28-29)

5. Verses 30-31 refer to Joshua and the faith of Israel in the defeat of their enemies. How is Rahab connected to this event and why is she listed in the hall of faith even though she is described as a harlot? (Joshua 2:1-24)

Day Five
Read Hebrews 11:32-40

1. What great feats were accomplished by other heroes of faith? (vv.32-38)

2. Challenge (Optional): Using your resources (pg. 2) do further research on one of these heroes and share your findings.

3. Why are the sufferings of others and their endurance meant to inspire us to faith?

4. David Guzik explains verse 40 by saying, “*The idea of perfect is ‘complete’. They could not be made complete until the work of Jesus. They looked forward to Jesus and His work, we look at it from behind...and enjoy the fruit of His work.*” (blueletter bible)
What is your response to this explanation?

5. How has this chapter challenged or encouraged you in exercising faith?

**...looking unto Jesus,
the author and finisher
of *our* faith, who for the joy
that was set before
Him endured the cross,
despising the shame,
and has sat down at the
right hand of the throne of
God.**

Hebrews 12:2

Chapter 12

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the ^[a]author and ^[b]finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. ⁴ You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. ⁵ And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the ^[c]chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; ⁶ For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.” ⁷ If ^[d] you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? ⁸ But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. ⁹ Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness. ¹¹ Now no ^[e]chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. ¹² Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, ¹³ and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated, but rather be healed. ¹⁴ Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: ¹⁵ looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; ¹⁶ lest there *be* any fornicator or ^[f]profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. ¹⁷ For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears. ¹⁸ For you have not come ^[g]to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and ^[h]darkness and tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard *it* begged that the word should not be

spoken to them anymore. ²⁰ (For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned ^{or} shot with an arrow.” ²¹ And so terrifying was the sight *that* Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.”) ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the ^{general} assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of* Abel. ²⁵ See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks* from heaven, ²⁶ whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I ^{will} shake not only the earth, but also heaven.” ²⁷ Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we ^{may} serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. ²⁹ For our God *is* a consuming fire.

We have looked at the exhortation to faith in chapter 10, the examples of faith in chapter 11, and now we are spurred on to the endurance of faith in this chapter. Many of the heroes mentioned in the previous chapter suffered greatly but remained loyal to the Lord, persevering by faith. The “*great cloud of witnesses*” are witnesses to us that we, too, can run our race with endurance.

Day One Overview

Prayerfully and carefully read Hebrews 12:1-29.

1. Record any words, phrases, or verses that speak to you and explain why.

2. Using your resources (pg. 2) define the following words:

- endurance (v.1)
- Mediator (v.24)
- reverence (v.28)
- ensnares (v.1)

3. What one theme do you see running through this chapter? (Hebrews 12:1)

4. What example of endurance is given and how does this encourage you to keep trusting in the midst of trials? (v.3)

Day Two

Read Hebrews 12:1-2

1. How is the Christian life described for us in verse 1? What is our motivation for this life that is pictured?

2. Using your resources (pg. 2) explain the difference between weights (or encumbrances) and sins. (v.1) What are the weights and sins that may be hindering your race? What things might be weights but not sins?

3. What is the answer for endurance? (v.2) Explain what it means to “*look unto Jesus*”. Read Matthew 14:28-33. What resulted when Peter failed to “*look unto Jesus*”?

4. What are some specific ways we can fix our eyes on Jesus every day?

5. Why did Jesus submit to the shame of the Cross? (v.2) How does this encourage you to persevere in your race?

Day Three

Read Hebrews 12:3-17

1. What do you see about discipline and what is its purpose? (vv.5-11)

2. Challenge (Optional): Are all trials and difficulties the discipline or chastening of the Lord? Why or why not?

3. What does it reveal about our Father when we experience His chastening? (v.10)
What does it reveal about us when we are chastened? (vv.5-10)

4. What do the following scriptures tell us about discipline?

- Proverbs 12:1
- 1 Corinthians 9:27
- Revelations 3:19
- Deuteronomy 8:5
- Galatians 6:1
- Job 5:17

5. According to verses 12-15, how are we to respond to God's discipline in our lives?
(v.15)

6. In verses 16-17 we see that Esau's life was lived for the things that gratified his flesh rather than one who chooses to live in the Spirit. How is his life an example and a warning for us today?

Day Four

Read Hebrews 12:18-24

"The writer of Hebrews contrasts Mt. Sinai and the giving of the Law with the heavenly Mt. Zion and the blessings of grace in the church." Warren Wiersbe

1. How is the first mountain (Mt. Sinai) described? (vv.18-21)

2. Read Exodus 20:18-21 to further your understanding of the solemn event that took place on Mt. Sinai. What was Moses' answer to the fear of the people? (Exodus 20:20)

3. Hebrews 11:16 tells us the heroes of faith were looking for a heavenly city, Mt. Zion, not one made with hands. (Mt. Zion represents the new covenant) How is this city described in chapter 12:22?

4. What do verses 23-24 tell us about:

- the church?
- God?
- Jesus?
- the new covenant?

5. How does the thought of heaven stir you to live with an eternal perspective rather than a temporal perspective? How does 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 affirm this eternal perspective?

Day Five

Read Hebrews 12:25-29

1. What do these verses tell us about resisting God's voice? (v.25) How can we avoid resisting His voice when our flesh is strong, and we are tempted to disobey?

2. What incentive is given to keep us growing and remaining faithful to God's faithfulness? (v.28)

3. Haggai 2:6 tell us a great "*shaking*" will take place in the end times. How is this "*shaking*" described in 2 Peter 3:10-12? In what way should this influence us to live for those things that are eternal? What does this tell us about the foundation we are building?

4. In light of all this, how are we to serve God? (v.28)

5. Using your resources (pg. 2) explain the fact that "*our God is a consuming fire*".

**Therefore, by Him let us
continually offer the
sacrifice of praise to God,
that is, the fruit
of *our* lips, giving thanks
to His name.**

Hebrews 13:15

Chapter 13

Let brotherly love continue. ² Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so *doing* some have unwittingly entertained angels. ³ Remember the prisoners as if chained with them—those who are mistreated—since you yourselves are in the body also.

⁴ Marriage *is* honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge. ⁵ *Let your conduct be* without covetousness; *be content* with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” ⁶ So we may boldly say: “The LORD *is* my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”

⁷ Remember those who ^[a]rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of *their* conduct. ⁸ Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever. ⁹ Do not be carried ^[b]about with various and strange doctrines. For *it is* good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. ¹¹ For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. ¹² Therefore Jesus also, that He might ^[c]sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. ¹³ Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. ¹⁴ For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. ¹⁵ Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, ^[d]giving thanks to His name. ¹⁶ But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. ¹⁷ Obey those who ^[e]rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. ¹⁸ Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably. ¹⁹ But I especially urge *you* to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. ²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, ²¹ make you ^[f]complete in every good work to do His will, working in ^[g]you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen. ²² And I appeal to you, brethren, bear with the word of exhortation, for I have written to you in few words. ²³ Know that *our* brother Timothy has been set free,

with whom I shall see you if he comes shortly. ²⁴ Greet all those who ^hrule over you, and all the saints. Those from Italy greet you. ²⁵ Grace *be* with you all. Amen.

As our study of this book wraps up, we are reminded once again that the life of a believer is to be lived by faith. We have been exhorted to faith, given examples of faith, spurred on to endure in faith, and now, in this chapter, we see the evidence of practical faith worked out in our lives.

Day One Overview

Carefully and prayerfully read Hebrews 13:1-25.

1. Record any words, phrases, or verses that speak to you and explain why.

2. Using your resources (pg. 2) define the following:

- covetousness (v. 5)
- established (v. 9)
- reproach (v. 13)
- everlasting covenant (v. 20)

3. What warning is given in verse 9? How does Ephesians 4:14 speak to this issue?

4. In what ways could this chapter be an encouragement to one who was wavering in their faith?

Day Two

Read Hebrews 13:1-6

1. Brotherly love and hospitality go hand in hand. What are some ways we can show our love and extend hospitality to others? What impetus are we given to do this? (vv. 1-2)

2. Many fellow believers around the world are suffering for their faith. How are we to “remember” (or have compassion) for those who are in prison? (v.3) What do you see in verse 23 that can relate to this issue? Give some examples of those who are suffering for their faith today.

3. What does this verse teach us about God’s design for marriage and the role of intimacy? (v.4) How do the following verses affirm this?

- 1 Corinthians 7:1-5
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5
- Malachi 2:15
- Proverbs 5:18-19

4. Verse 5 warns of the danger of covetousness and contrasts it with contentment. In what areas can we become discontent or covetous?

5. How do these verses give us the motive for contentment? (vv.5b-6) Record Paul’s attitude toward this issue in Philippians 4:11-19. How do these virtues give us confidence and freedom from fear?

“For he hath said, ‘I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee’. This is the reason why we must not be covetous. There is no room to be covetous, no excuse for being covetous, for God hath said, ‘I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee’. We ought to be content. If we are not content, we are acting insanely, seeing the Lord has said, ‘I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.’” Charles Spurgeon

Day Three
Read Hebrews 13:7-9

1. Why are we to remember and follow the faith of those who “*rule over us*”? (vv.7-9)

2. What do you see about Jesus and how does this encourage you to be steadfast in the doctrine of grace? (v.8)

3. Following the faith and Godly behavior of faithful leaders keeps us safe from false doctrine. What warning is given in verse 9?

4. The Hebrew Christians were once more being warned about returning to the law and Judaism, its doctrines, its traditions, and its legalism. What false doctrines and traditions do you see infiltrating the church today?

5. Verse 9 gives us the answer to help us avoid being carried away with “*various and strange doctrines*”. What do you see?

6. Using your resources (pg. 2) explain how our hearts are to be “*established by grace*”. (v.9)

Day Four

Read Hebrews 13:10-16

1. In verses 10-11 a contrast is being made between the earthly altar of the tabernacle and the heavenly altar. What differences do you see?

These verses were written to teach a principle that the people of God are to be separate from the world system. Just as the animals were offered for sin and taken outside, the Christian is to be removed from the world and its influence, to come apart, to be holy as He is holy.

2. How would verses 13-14 challenge the Hebrew Christians to stay the course in their difficulties, to identify with Christ? How does this challenge you?

3. How does verse 14 reinforce what we studied in chapter 11 concerning the patriarchs of the faith?

4. What sacrifices are we to give in contrast to the blood sacrifices offered under the law? (vv.15-16) How does God respond to these sacrifices? (v.16) Why is our praise a sacrifice?

5. Not only are we to praise Him with our lips but we are also to “*do good and to share*”. (v.16) Record some practical ways we can implement this in the following areas:

- in our home
- in our community
- in our employment
- in our church

Day Five

Read Hebrews 13:17-25

1. What two exhortations are made in verses 17-19? What does this reveal about the responsibilities of a leader? What responsibility do we have toward those who lead us? (v.18a)

2. How is God described in verse 20? Jesus is described as our “*great Shepherd of the sheep.*” In what ways do the following verses affirm this fact? Why should knowing these things about our Shepherd bring us comfort?

- John 10:1-18
- Psalm 23

3. The writer to the Hebrews concludes with a beautiful prayer (vv.20-21). How would this example help you to pray for a fellow believer?

As we come to the conclusion of this letter to the Hebrew believers, the writer now urges us to remain faithful to Christ, to go on to maturity, to put behind us the old traditions of the law because Christ is superior. The blood of Jesus is the only sacrifice necessary for our forgiveness. Trusting in Him brings us eternal life, a life lived in the “*city made without hands.*”

Have you received Jesus as your only sacrifice? Are you trusting Him for eternal life? If not, make that your prayer today.

4. How has the study of this book encouraged you to:

- Grow in maturity?
- Continue when experiencing difficulties?
- Be thankful for the superiority of Jesus Christ?

OLD COVENANT

Repeated sacrifices
The blood of others
Covering sin
For Israel only
Left the holy of
holies
Came out to bless
the people

NEW COVENANT

One sacrifice
His own blood
Putting away sin
For all sinners
Entered heaven and
remains there
Will come to take His
people to heaven

