

JESUS IS



HEBREWS

BETTER

H E B R E W S

WELCOME

Welcome to Hebrews! The book of Hebrews provides an incredibly rich Biblical and theological history. It also contains some of the most beloved passages found in the New Testament. While we do not know who wrote Hebrews, it is clear the individual had a complex knowledge of the Old Testament. This comes out quite strongly in Hebrews' many references to Old Testament passages. Throughout this study, we will continually go back to the Old Testament for an in-depth review of what the author is describing. Studying Scripture this way lets us see the entire narrative of God's redemptive work unfold from Genesis to Revelation.

Hebrews also contains strong warning passages to which Christians should pay particular attention. The author desires to see followers of Jesus grow up into deep, abiding maturity with a well-formed knowledge regarding their faith and its history. Again and again, Hebrews highlights how Jesus is the central figure for how God is setting things right and redeeming all of His creation.

The resounding theme of Hebrews is: Jesus is better! We will see several times how the author compares Jesus to a host of Old Testament practices, characters, and systems only to announce Jesus' supremacy over each thing. Moreover, Hebrews then calls Christians to live lives reflecting all that Jesus' supremacy means here and now! Jesus is better than anything else—so our lives should be informed by this ultimate reality!

This study walks methodically through each chapter of Hebrews. You will have five days of curriculum each week. The first day invites you to read through the text for that week and spend time reviewing the memory verse for the section you are currently studying. As you re-read the text on the second, third, and fourth days, you will be presented with questions to guide you deeper into Hebrews and its role within the entire canon of Scripture.

You may notice there is no lesson on Hebrews 11. We will be doing a Worship Week that particular week covering the chapter. It will be an exciting, different approach to what is an incredibly powerful portion of the Bible!

The fifth day of each week is designated for the spiritual practice of *lectio divina*, which means “divine reading”. You will be invited to read a selected passage of Scripture that corresponds to your study from that week. You will read the passage (just a few verses) three separate times and meditate on it, using a series of guiding questions after each reading.

May our God use this study to expand your faith, knowledge, and ultimately your love for Him and His people as you participate in His Kingdom here on Earth!

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I | JESUS IS BETTER THAN ANGELS & JESUS IS DIVINE

HEBREWS 1-2

Hebrews 1-2 opens the book with some big statements about Jesus and His identity. Right from the start, the author wants us to understand Jesus' divine nature and His supremacy even over things like angels. We are also introduced to the reality that Jesus is God's message to the world!

According to Hebrews, Jesus is the precise image of God to us. These chapters also highlight Jesus' role in the creation of the world as well as His role in purifying us from sin. His divinity is on full display as Hebrews opens!

We are also given strong warnings regarding not neglecting our salvation. Jesus has made God known to us, so how can we not pursue Him with everything?

MEMORY VERSE | HEBREWS 1:1-3

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power...”

1

Hebrews opens with beautiful language regarding God's divine activity throughout history. God has always been active in the lives of humans and speaking to us through various means over time. Despite the glory of the Law and Prophets, Jesus outshines all previous revelations of God's nature and character. These verses also introduce the incredibly important point of Jesus' divinity. He was not just an average man, but rather, the One through whom the whole world was created.

I.I

READ HEBREWS 1:1-4

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?
2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 1:1-3. Write it below.

I.2

READ HEBREWS 1:1-4

1. According to the author of Hebrews, how did God previously reveal Himself to humanity? How does God reveal Himself now?
2. Write down all the things used to describe the Son (Jesus) or the Son's actions in these verses.
3. Compare and contrast verse 1 and verse 2. What similarities and differences does the author highlight?
4. What does the author say about Jesus in verse 4?

I.3

1. As with any document or speech, the opening lines of Hebrews are essential for understanding the overall purpose and trajectory of the book. In these first few verses, the author makes great assertions about Jesus' role in creation, how Jesus reveals what God is like, and Jesus' role in our salvation. Read John 1:1-18; Colossians 1:13-22; and 1 Peter 1:18-21. In your own words, explain what these verses say about Jesus.
2. One of the greatest joys the author of Hebrews consistently reveals is God has spoken and is continuing to speak! God is not silent or far away. Rather, God is right in the middle of our lives with us. The author of Hebrews explains Jesus is the clearest and ultimate way God is revealed (because He is God in flesh). After 400 years of silence between the Old and New Testaments, God breaks forth through the birth of Jesus. Read Luke 1:46-80. What do these verses say about who Jesus is and what He will do for us?

3. As Hebrews unfolds, we will see the author compare Jesus to several people and institutions. With each comparison comes the exclamation: “Jesus is better!” In Hebrews 1:4, the author explains Jesus is better than the angels. Israelite thought at this time placed a great deal of emphasis on angels—some people were even tempted to worship them. Angels previously had been the primary messengers of God. Now that Jesus has arrived, however, He is the final, perfect message and is thus superior to the angels.

A. Read Colossians 2:16-19. As you consider the temptation throughout the Scriptures to worship angels as glorious beings, consider if there are things in your life you are tempted to worship other than God. Write a brief prayer to God seeking His help as you strive to worship Him alone.

B. Read Philippians 2:4-11. In your own words, compare and contrast these verses with our reading from Hebrews. What does this reveal to you about Jesus?

1. The opening of Hebrews references how God previously spoke to His people through the prophets. The prophetic books take up a large portion of our Old Testament, demonstrating how God was regularly trying to communicate with His chosen people. Read Isaiah 6:1-9; Jeremiah 1:1-10; and Ezekiel 2:1-10.

A. Explain, in your own words, what happens in each of these passages. What are the similarities and differences you see? How does God interact with His prophets?

B. These three passages are examples of the “call” of three major prophets in our Old Testament. As followers of God today, we are also invited to participate in sharing God’s message with the world. If God were to send you a specific “call” today, what do you think He would say? Write your response below.

I.5

LECTIO DIVINA

LECTIO DIVINA : JOHN 1:1-4

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.

LECTURE NOTES | HEBREWS 1:1-4

2

This week's reading primarily contains Old Testament quotations the author of Hebrews uses to make a point regarding how Jesus is better than angels. While this may seem strange to us, angels were highly revered, and, in some places, even worshipped during the time Hebrews was written. Expressing how Jesus is far better than the angels is a natural line of thought for the author. We are told the role of angels is to minister to and serve us as we move along the path of salvation.

2.I

READ HEBREWS 1:5-14

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?
2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 1:1-3. Write it below.

1. Who are the two main parties being compared in these verses?
2. How does the author of Hebrews describe the Son in 1:8-12?
3. According to 1:14, what is the purpose of the angels?
4. Go back and slowly read Hebrews 1 in its entirety. How does putting together last week's reading and this week's reading help you?

2.3

READ HEBREWS 1:5-14

1. The author of Hebrews strives to make clear the Son's divinity *and* humanity. This week's reading highlights His divinity by explaining how the Son is above the angels. This would have been striking to many original readers due to the importance previously placed on angels. To make the point, the author uses eight Old Testament references in these few verses. Read Psalm 2:1-12 and Psalm 104:1-5. Which part(s) of these verses are quoted in Hebrews 1:5-14? How does reading more of the surrounding context of these Psalms help you understand better what the author of Hebrews demonstrates regarding the Son and angels?
2. Hebrews 1:8 opens with the author describing the Son. Read Psalm 45:1-17 and Psalm 102:1-28. Which part(s) of these verses are quoted in Hebrews 1:5-14? Why do you think it is important for us to have such an in-depth, comprehensive picture of the Son?

3. Hebrews 1:13 quotes Psalm 110. This particular Psalm is called a “royal” or “enthronement” Psalm as it would have been used during the coronation of Israel’s kings. Read Psalm 110:1-7.

A. What are your impressions of this Psalm? What jumps out to you?

B. Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-27 and 1 Peter 3:18-22. What similarities do you see between these passages and Hebrews 1:5-14? Why do you think these commonalities are emphasized so often throughout the Scriptures?

2.4

READ HEBREWS 1:5-14

Re-read Psalm 2:1-12. A portion of this Psalm is quoted in Hebrews 1:5 and contributes to the foundation the author of Hebrews lays regarding the superiority of the Son. According to the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 32:17), the kingdoms of this world are ruled by evil, demonic forces. God's Kingdom stands in direct opposition to such activity, and therefore, God's appointed King stands against such activity as well. Psalm 2 speaks about how God's appointed ruler (here seen as Israel's King but ultimately fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah) will break the evil of all other nations. In light of this, read Acts 13:26-39.

A. What do these verses say about God's anointed Messiah (Jesus)?

B. Consider the third temptation of Jesus found in Matthew 4:8-11. How does Jesus overcoming this specific temptation deepen your understanding of His role as Messiah, specifically as it relates to Him as God's chosen ruler?

2.5

LECTIO DIVINA

LECTIO DIVINA : JOHN 1:9-13

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.

3

This week continues the conversation regarding Jesus' superiority to the angels. We are also introduced to the concept of endurance in the face of suffering—which will play a major role as Hebrews unfolds. Jesus' sufferings and victory over death have now resulted in Him being crowned the King over all creation. We can rest confidently in His finished, sanctifying work.

3.1

READ HEBREWS 2:1-13

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?
2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 1:1-3. Write it below.

READ HEBREWS 2:1-13

- 31

1. Hebrews 2:6-8 quotes from the text of Psalm 8. Here, the psalmist is explaining God's creation and the original role given to humans to rule over this creation. However, Genesis 3 tells us of humankind's rebellion against God's created order. Read Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 3:1-7; and Psalm 8:1-9.

A. How have humans rebelled against God's original plan according to the passages from Genesis?

B. The author of Hebrews takes Psalm 8 (a psalm originally explaining humans' role in creation) and reinterprets it in the light of Christ as the ultimate human representative. Where we have failed, Jesus has succeeded! Read Colossians 1:21-23. How do these verses describe humanity? What are we instructed to do in light of Christ?

2. Suffering plays a major role in our passage from this week. Hebrews 2:9 explains how Jesus was temporarily made lower than the angels so He might suffer and ultimately receive glory and honor.

A. Read Romans 6:5-11 and 2 Timothy 2:1-13. In your own words, what do these passages, along with Hebrews 2:9-10, say about suffering?

B. Hebrews 2:11 uses a strange phrase to describe the role of suffering in Jesus' life. The author of Hebrews is not saying Jesus was somehow imperfect prior to his death, burial, and resurrection. Rather, the author is explaining how the savior of humanity needed to fully experience our pain, suffering, and even death in order to enact our salvation. Because Jesus has suffered as we have, He is now our perfect Savior because He can relate perfectly to every aspect of our lives. Read Philippians 2:1-11. How does this passage inform your understanding of Jesus' suffering and glorification?

3. Hebrews 2:10-11 explains Jesus is the "founder" (some translations say pioneer, source, captain, or author) of our salvation and, because He has suffered as we do and has sanctified us through His suffering, we are now welcomed into community with God. We are to be made more and more into the image of Jesus since He is the origin of our salvation. Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-24 and Colossians 1:15-20. Explain, in your own words, what these verses tell you about Jesus' role and what He has accomplished for us. What do these verses say about humanity?

3.4

READ HEBREWS 2:1-13

Good Bible study practice tells us to pay special attention when the word “therefore” appears. Hebrews 2:1 is no exception! The author is drawing our attention to something important: a warning against abandoning the faith. The argument centers around the reality Israel had the Law, Prophets, and other signs prior to Jesus, yet they still wandered away from God. Now we have Jesus, who is God Himself. How are we to escape judgment if we abandon God incarnate? This “abandoning” does not necessarily mean a flat renunciation of the Christian faith. Instead, it often looks far more subtle. General apathy, a lack of care for others, and a “someone else will pick up the slack” mentality are just a few examples of how apathy can sneak into our lives.

Consider your own life. Where are you tempted to subtly wander away from the teachings of Christ? In the space below write a prayer or a few sentences about what comes to mind.

3.5

LECTIO DIVINA

LECTIO DIVINA : JOHN 1:14-18

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.

LECTURE NOTES | HEBREWS 2:1-13

4

The truth of Jesus' full humanity is highlighted in this week's reading. While we have previously established His divinity, the author of Hebrews now makes a case for the reality Jesus was indeed fully human. His humanity allows Him to understand the difficulties of our lives. He is merciful and patient with us as our high priest because He knows exactly what it feels like to be human. Jesus' faithfulness in the face of temptations during His life on earth now allows Him to help us when we are tempted.

4.I

READ HEBREWS 2:14-18

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?
2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 1:1-3. Write it below.

4.2

READ HEBREWS 2:14-18

1. Write down what Jesus does in Hebrews 2:14-15.
2. According to verse 15, why are humans subjected to slavery?
3. Re-read verse 17. Why is Jesus made like us?
4. How does the fact Jesus was tempted help us today? What thoughts does this bring to your mind as you consider our Savior?

1. Hebrews 2:14-15 explains how Jesus became like us in every way through the Incarnation. We are told He did this in order to destroy the power of death. Death is a major “character” throughout the entire Bible. Read Genesis 2:15-17; Genesis 3:19; Romans 5:12-17; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; and 1 John 3:1-8.

A. Write down, in your own words, how each passage discusses sin and/or death.

B. Re-read Hebrews 2:14-15. How does the story starting in Genesis point to what the author of Hebrews says in our passage?

4.3

READ HEBREWS 2:14-18

2. The Scriptures explain in several places how humanity is subjected to sin and death. Hebrews speaks to this by explaining how Jesus took on suffering and death so we may no longer be enslaved and bound by their power. Read John 8:31-38; Romans 8:11-23; and Galatians 5:1.

A. What do these passages say about sin, slavery, and death?

B. Re-read Hebrews 2:15. From what have you been freed? Why is this important?

3. In the passage you just read from John 8:31-38, we see the Jews of Jesus' day exclaiming they had never been slaves to anyone. This is not true when we consider they had been enslaved multiple times to powers such as Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon. Even as they are speaking to Jesus, they are enslaved to Rome. They appealed heavily to their identity as offspring of Abraham for their salvation. Read Isaiah 41:8-9; Romans 4:13-25; and Ephesians 2:11-3:6. According to these passages, how are non-Jews (Gentiles) welcomed into God's family? How does this welcome affect your understanding of Hebrews 2:16?

4.4

READ HEBREWS 2:14-18

Our passage from Hebrews this week strives to emphasize Jesus' humanity while Hebrews 1 and the first part of chapter 2 emphasize His divinity. Both of these realities play a role in the great mystery of the Incarnation. Take a moment to re-read Hebrews 2:17-18. Write down the reasons we are given for Jesus' humanity.

Now, read Luke 4:1-14. How does considering Jesus' full humanity, His temptation, and His suffering expand your understanding of the God you serve?

LECTIO DIVINA : JOHN 1:29-34

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you. Write down your response.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned?

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.



2 | JESUS IS BETTER THAN MOSES & THE PROMISED LAND

HEBREWS 3-4

The next major section of Hebrews focuses heavily on Moses and the Promised Land. A quick glance at the first few books of the Old Testament reveals the importance of Moses and the Promised Land in Israel's history. However, despite the prominence of these things, the author of Hebrews demonstrates Jesus' superiority and continues to cement His role in the narrative of salvation.

In the last section we saw a great emphasis on Jesus' divinity. Here, we see the importance of His full humanity as well. Due to His full humanity, He is able to understand what it is like to suffer as a human. He sympathizes with us in our weakness and pain.

MEMORY VERSE | HEBREWS 4:14-16

"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

5

The main concept illustrated this week is Jesus' superiority to Moses. Moses was one of the greatest figures from the Old Testament and held in the highest esteem in Jewish thought. He was a great leader and prophet who led Israel out from under Egyptian oppression. However, despite Moses' greatness and accomplishments, the people of Israel still sinned and disobeyed God. Jesus' ministry is greater than Moses' ministry for several reasons that will be revealed as we study this week.

5.1

READ HEBREWS 3:1-6

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?
2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 4:14-16. Write it below.

5.2

READ HEBREWS 3:1-6

1. Why do you think the author begins Hebrews 3 with the word “Therefore”?
2. In Hebrews 3:1, what two roles does Jesus have?
3. Who are the two main characters in this passage?
4. Make a list of all the things Moses did, Jesus did, and what the text says about us in light of these this.
5. Why do you think the author of Hebrews places so much emphasis on Moses?

5.3

READ HEBREWS 3:1-6

1. Hebrews 3:1 states we share in a heavenly calling. To share in something implies a connection amongst participants. In this case, we, as Christians, are participating and sharing in God's mission in the world. Read Romans 1:1-7; Ephesians 4:1-6; Colossians 3:12-15; and 2 Timothy 1:8-10. What do these verses say about calling? How are God's people described? How does this inform your understanding as someone God has called personally?
2. As seen earlier in our study, the author of Hebrews consistently seeks to elevate Jesus. We have already seen how Jesus is better than angels. Now, we are told Jesus is better than Moses. Moses was a servant of God who relayed messages and instructions from God to the Israelites. He was a great leader and prophet of Israel, but he failed to enter the Promised Land. Jesus, however, holds the revered status as the Son of the Father. Jesus was faithful throughout His entire ministry and accomplished everything He was to do. Moses helped create Israel's community, whereas Jesus helped create *everything* (Hebrews 1:2). Read Numbers 12:6-8 and 2 Corinthians 3:1-18.

A. Explain what these two passages say about Moses in your own words.

B. Focus on 2 Corinthians 3:1-18. Make a list comparing and contrasting Moses and Jesus. What does this passage say about us?

3. The word “confession” (some translations say “acknowledge”) appears in Hebrews 3:1. What does it mean for Jesus to be a high priest and apostle of our “confession”? High priests were responsible for making atonement for sins, while apostles were sent out with a specific message to share with others. Read 2 Corinthians 9:10-15; 1 Timothy 3:14-16; and 1 Timothy 6:11-16.

A. What do these passages say about confession? What is being confessed?

B. Write your own confession (or acknowledgement) of who Jesus is and what He has done for you.

5.4

READ HEBREWS 3:1-6

In Hebrews 3:1, the author refers to the readers of Hebrews as “holy brothers” (also including sisters). In our daily lives, it is sometimes quite easy to forget our true calling as holy sisters and brothers. The word “holy” implies something is different and set apart. We are called out of this world to serve God uniquely using the various gifts He has given us within the Christian community. Other letters and sermons in the New Testament remind their readers and listeners of their true callings in light of Christ. Read Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; and Jude 1:1-2. How are Christians addressed in each of these passages?

Consider your life. What causes you to forget your heavenly calling? Write down what comes to mind and then pray over what you have written, asking God to remind you of your true role as a holy brother or a holy sister.

LECTIO DIVINA : PSALM 46:1-3

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.

LECTURE NOTES | HEBREWS 3:1-6

6

This week's reading and lesson is admittedly odd. The reading from Hebrews contains some obscure and somewhat difficult concepts to grasp. We read about Moses, Joshua, and the Promised Land and are also introduced to the somewhat strange idea of entering God's rest. The main encouragement and warning centers on how the Old Testament Israelites were ultimately disobedient and did not fully enter the rest offered to them in the Promised Land. Christians are warned not to follow in this type of pattern. Through Jesus, we are offered ultimate, eternal, peaceful rest if we do not fall away. Endurance and faithfulness are major themes this week and are vital for the Christian life.

6.1

READ HEBREWS 3:7-4:13

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?
2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 4:14-16. Write it below.

6.2

READ HEBREWS 3:7-4:13

1. In your own words, summarize Hebrews 3:12-13. What do you think the author is trying to communicate?
2. With whom are Christians being compared in Hebrews 3:16-4:13?
3. What do you think is the main topic of Hebrews 4:1-13?
4. Re-read Hebrews 4:8-9. Why is there still a Sabbath?

6.3

READ HEBREWS 3:7-4:13

1. Our study of Hebrews has already revealed how an appreciation for and a knowledge of the Old Testament is vital for understanding the story of God's redemption. Here, we see the author using several Old Testament stories to make a point. Read Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 14:20-35; and Joshua 5:5-6. Now, read Psalm 95:6-11.

A. After reading these passages, consider Hebrews 3:12-19. Why do you think the author uses these stories? How does the Old Testament context shape your understanding of what you have read in Hebrews?

B. Write down all the rhetorical questions contained in Hebrews 3:16-18. What causes are given for the Israelites not entering God's rest?

2. Hebrews 3:12-14 contains very strong warnings. The verses reveal the importance of Christian endurance even in the face of trials. Some people have attempted to use these verses to argue Christians can lose their salvation. However, we are told several times, true followers of Jesus are sealed forever and will not lose their salvation. Read John 10:27-29; Romans 8:38-39; Ephesians 1:3-5; and 1 Peter 1:3-5.

A. Summarize what these passages say about the followers of God. What thoughts does this bring up for you? Re-read Hebrews 3:14. What is the mark of a true follower of Christ?

B. While true followers of God will never lose their salvation, the warnings in Hebrews still speak very strongly against those who do not truly believe and thus become hardened and walk away from God. How are we to treat such individuals? Read James 5:19-20. Is there someone in your life who fits this mold? How are you praying for them?

3. Hebrews 4:1-11 primarily addresses the “rest” for the people of God and how believers may enter into it both during their present lives and in the age to come. The Israelites whom Moses led out of Egypt did not enter the rest of the Promised Land because of their unbelief and hardness of heart. This serves as a strong warning to those wishing to enter the rest of God today.

A. The rest the author talks about has both an immediate and eternal aspect. Re-read Hebrews 4:7. When are we told we can enter God’s rest? Now, re-read Hebrews 4:9-10. What type of future does the author envision for those who ultimately enter God’s rest? Have you ever experienced God’s rest even in a small way?

B. Hebrews 4:8 explains the reality that Canaan was not the ultimate rest for God’s people. They entered into that land with Joshua, yet still fell into sin and disbelief. According to Hebrews 4:8-11, how can we avoid falling into those same patterns?

6.4

READ HEBREWS 3:7-4:13

Hebrews 4:12-13 is perhaps one of the more well-known passages from the New Testament. The phrase “word of God” can mean different things in the Scriptures. When the phrase is capitalized, Word of God, it is a description of Jesus (John 1:1-17). When it is lowercase, it can refer to God’s unique message of salvation for the world (see Hebrews 13:7). It can also be used to describe God’s definitive, shaping pronouncements; this is how it is used in our text from Hebrews today. Take a moment to re-read Hebrews 4:12-13. Write down all the actions attributed to the word of God.

Now, read Ephesians 6:13-17. How do these passages form your understanding of God’s definitive acts and words? Where is a place you sense you may be attempting to hide from God? Consider how nothing is hidden from His sight or from the power of His words. What do you need to confess today in light of this truth?

LECTIO DIVINA : PSALM 46:4-7

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.

LECTURE NOTES | HEBREWS 3:7-4:13

7

This week we cover just three short verses from Hebrews 4. While our passage is short, it is packed to the brim with beautiful encouragement for us as followers of Jesus. Once again, we see how Jesus' priesthood is so much better than any other. He personally and intimately understands what it means to be a human and, therefore, is kind to us in our weaknesses. We are encouraged to approach God directly and boldly because of what Jesus has done. This is perhaps one of the greatest truths of the Christian life!

7.1

READ HEBREWS 4:14-16

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?
2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 4:14-16. Write it below.

7.2

READ HEBREWS 4:14-16

1. What is most impressive to you about Hebrews 4:14-16?
2. Write down all the ways the author describes our high priest in verses 14-15.
3. With what mindset and disposition are we able to approach the throne of grace?
4. What are we told we will find at the throne of grace?

1. So far in our study, the author of Hebrews has explained how Jesus is better than angels, Moses, Joshua, and the Promised Land, while also revealing how Jesus is both fully God and fully human. Now, the author begins an explanation regarding Jesus' superiority to the priesthood and all the former high priests of Israel. We previously read about Jesus as the better high priest in Hebrews 2:17 and 3:1. However, we now can begin to see the full scope of the author's intentions regarding the priesthood of Jesus.

A. In many ways, the high priest was the spiritual leader of the entire nation of Israel. He was responsible for making intercession, offering sacrifices, and appearing before God on behalf of the people. There was a great deal of ritual involved in an individual becoming a priest. Read Leviticus 8:1-9:24. What is most striking to you about this passage?

B. Reflect upon Hebrews 1:3, 2:17-18, 3:1, and 4:14-16. Combined with what you just read from Leviticus, write down your thoughts as you consider Jesus, our great high priest.

7.4

In the Greek text, Hebrews 4:15 contains a double negative. This serves to emphasize the author's point that we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with us, but rather, one who completely understands what it is like to be human. We are told many times throughout Hebrews that perseverance and holding fast to our confession are defining marks of a Christian (see Hebrews 3:6, 3:14, 4:11, and 4:14). Hebrews 4:14-16 tells us why we are able to endure and persevere in this life—because Jesus is our great, sympathetic high priest.

Consider your own life. Where or how are you most tempted right now? What causes you to want to give up your perseverance? Write those things below.

Now, re-read Hebrews 4:14-16. What do you need God's grace for right now? Where is your deepest need?

7.5

LECTIO DIVINA

LECTIO DIVINA : PSALM 46:8-11

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.



WORSHIP WEEK



3 | JESUS IS BETTER THAN THE KINGS & THE PRIESTHOOD

HEBREWS 5-7

Here, we see how Jesus' full divinity and full humanity intersect for our eternal benefit. Jesus is able to take on the entire sacrificial system of Israel's history and enact it ultimately and finally as part of our salvation. He is both eternal high priest and sacrifice—something no one else was or will ever be able to accomplish.

Once again, the author of Hebrews presents a warning to believers that they should desire maturity in their faith and be continually willing to learn about God's nature and work in the world.

We are also shown how Jesus, while being the better and ultimate high priest, is also better than all of Israel's kings. Unlike Israel's kings, He is able to save and eternally lead His people.

MEMORY VERSE | HEBREWS 7:24-25

"...But He holds his priesthood permanently, because He continues forever. Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

8

After a few chapters explaining how Jesus is better than Moses and the Promised Land, we now turn to see how Jesus is better than the old priesthood. We meet the somewhat strange and obscure character of Melchizedek as the author illustrates Jesus' own priesthood and how God the Father uniquely appointed Jesus for this role. This fills us with great hope and appreciation as we see how God's plan has been unfolding for thousands of years! Jesus' life, death, and resurrection give us eternal salvation, thus making His priesthood superior to all who came before Him.

8.1

READ HEBREWS 5:1-10

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?
2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 7:24-25. Write it below.

1. Re-read Hebrews 5:1. What is the high priest's role?
2. For whose sin must the high priest consistently offer sacrifices?
3. According to Hebrews 5:4, is anyone able to make himself a high priest? Why or why not?
4. Who designated Jesus as a high priest?
5. From what line/order is Jesus' priesthood?

8.3

READ HEBREWS 5:1-10

1. In the Israelite tradition, the role of high priest was one of honor and severity. High priests had to fit a certain description and go through a rigorous purification process prior to taking the role. The high priest was appointed (never self-selected) and given the immense task of representing the people before God and vice versa. They were responsible for making atonement for their own sin as well as for the entire nation's sins on the Day of Atonement. Read Leviticus 16.

A. What is most striking to you about this passage?

B. Consider our text from Hebrews 5:1-4. In light of Leviticus 16, what most stands out to you about the description of high priests given in Hebrews?

2. As we discussed last week, Jesus is our great, better high priest who is able to sympathize completely with our human lives. Hebrews 5:7-10 explains some of the anguish and struggles Jesus faced while on the earth. Read Mark 14:32-42 and Mark 15:32-37.

A. How is Jesus experiencing anguish in each of these passages?

B. Does the reality of Jesus' sufferings deepen and expand your understanding of God? Why or why not?

3. Hebrews 5:5-10 introduces the character of Melchizedek. He will become an important figure as the book of Hebrews unfolds. As we learned above, a priest was appointed by God—it is not a title and honor someone can assume for himself. When God institutes the formal priesthood through Aaron (Moses' brother), He explains how Aaron's descendants (men from the tribe of Levi) are the only ones who will be priests. Melchizedek precedes these instructions and was a priest directly appointed by God. He interacts with Abram (not yet Abraham) in the Old Testament. Read Genesis 14:17-24.

A. In your own words, explain who Melchizedek is and what he does in this passage.

B. Like Melchizedek, Jesus is not from the priestly line of Aaron. Therefore, according to Jewish law, He was not permitted to be a priest. However, Hebrews 5:10 tells us God appointed Jesus as a high priest. God was the source of Jesus' priesthood, not a human lineage. Read Romans 11:33-36 and Hebrews 1:2. Considering Jesus as our co-suffering high priest, what do these verses say about God's activity and plans?

4. In Lesson 3, we read Hebrews 2:10 and learned about Jesus' suffering. The author picks up this idea again in Hebrews 5:8-9. As we discussed in Lesson 3, these texts do not mean Jesus was somehow lacking or imperfect prior to His suffering. Instead, the author is pointing out how, by becoming human, Jesus was able to completely and fully experience and understand the human condition. This full comprehension of our humanity made Him our perfect Savior—fully God and fully human. According to Hebrews 5:9, what does Jesus' role as our perfect Savior give us? What role do we play in this verse?

8.4

READ HEBREWS 5:1-10

It is clear by now how the author of Hebrews draws heavily on the idea of Jesus as our great high priest. John 17 is the great “High Priestly Prayer” of Jesus just before His arrest and crucifixion. In this prayer, Jesus prays both for His present followers and for all those who would come later. Read John 17. What most strikes you about this chapter? How does knowing Jesus prayed for you impact your understanding of Him and yourself?

LECTIO DIVINA : REVELATION 5:1-6

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.

LECTURE NOTES | HEBREWS 5:1-10

9

This week, there are very strong warnings against apostasy. We are instructed to remain steadfast until the end and to flee from the temptations that would cause us to turn away from God. For the author of Hebrews, these are not mere warnings for things that are only hypothetical. Instead, Christians are instructed to continually deepen their knowledge of God and thus endure any temptation or hardship. Fortunately, we do not have to do this on our own. We can have confidence and hope in the work of Jesus as we strive to live the Christian life.

9.1

READ HEBREWS 5:11-6:12

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?
2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 7:24-25. Write it below.

9.2

READ HEBREWS 5:11-6:12

1. In your own words, summarize Hebrews 5:11-6:1.
2. What illustration does the author use in Hebrews 5:12-14? How does the author describe mature Christians?
3. Re-read Hebrews 6:4-6. What progression does the author use to illustrate those who leave their Christian faith?
4. According to Hebrews 6:11-12, what are some defining markers of true believers?

9.3

READ HEBREWS 5:11-6:12

1. Our reading for this week contains some strong warnings. Hebrews 5:1-14 uses the illustration of milk and solid food to explain how some believers have not matured past infancy in their faith. The author speaks rather harshly against such individuals. Read 1 Corinthians 3:1-3; 1 Corinthians 13:11-12; and Ephesians 4:11-16.

A. In your own words, summarize the main themes and ideas from these passages.

B. Where do you see yourself in these verses? Are you still in need of spiritual milk? What is most challenging to you about the warnings you have read?

A. Re-read Hebrews 6:4-6. Why are those who fall and turn away from God unable to return in repentance?

B. According to Hebrews, those who have contempt in their hearts towards God (even if they once fully participated in the Christian community) are not true believers. Instead, they make a mockery of the Christian life and, by their decisive willful and sinful actions, metaphorically and repeatedly crucify Jesus. They have finally and ultimately rejected the gift of repentance. Read Acts 5:27-32 and Acts 11:15-18. According to these passages, who gives repentance? How do you think this ties in with what the author of Hebrews is trying to communicate?

9.4

READ HEBREWS 5:11-6:12

After some hard concepts, the author turns towards encouragement. Take a moment to re-read Hebrews 6:9-12. Consider how the author refers to the readers as “beloved”. What does the term “beloved” draw out in you? What other encouragement does the author provide in these verses? How do these verses influence your thoughts about God and yourself? Is there a challenge or call to action for you?

LECTIO DIVINA : REVELATION 5:7-10

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.

LECTURE NOTES | HEBREWS 5:11-6:12

10

The important Old Testament characters of Abraham and Melchizedek make appearances in our study this week. We receive great encouragement in the first part of this week's reading and subsequently are given an Old Testament history lesson as the author continues to highlight Jesus' superiority. Our hope is in Jesus, who offers us an unchangeable hope in the face of this world's uncertainties and temptations.

10.1

READ HEBREWS 6:13-7:10

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?
2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 7:24-25. Write it below.

10.2

READ HEBREWS 6:13-7:10

1. What story does the author of Hebrews use in 6:13-18 to demonstrate the certainty of God's promises?

2. Who did God swear by when He made promises to Abraham?

3. Re-read Hebrews 6:19-20. What has Jesus done for us?

4. What characteristics of Melchizedek are given in Hebrews 7:1-3?

10.3

READ HEBREWS 6:13-7:10

1. Once again, Hebrews appeals to Old Testament examples and stories to illustrate the superiority of Jesus. In Hebrews 6:13-20, the example of God's covenant with Abraham is used to demonstrate God's faithfulness and how Jesus has continued God's faithfulness into the present day. Read Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 17:1-22; and Genesis 22:16-18.

A. What happens in each of the passages from Genesis? What promises are made to Abraham?

B. Read Romans 4:13-25. How do God's promises to Abraham endure even today?

2. Hebrews 6:19-20 mentions the “inner place behind the curtain” (some translations differ on the wording). The author is making a reference to the Holy of Holies—the place in the Tabernacle and Temple where God’s literal presence dwelt just above the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant. Once a year the high priest would enter into the Holy of Holies to make atonement for his own and for the people of Israel’s sins.

A. In Lesson 8, we read Leviticus 16:1-22. Read this text again in a different translation than you did for that lesson. Considering this passage along with Hebrews 6:19-20, what is most striking to you about these verses?

B. Hebrews tells us Jesus metaphorically entered into the Holy of Holies on our behalf, thereby giving us hope. Read Exodus 26:31-34; Numbers 18:6-7; and Matthew 27:45-51. Summarize what these passages say about the curtain. How does knowing what Jesus did give you hope today?

3. We have already been introduced to the character of Melchizedek. Now, the author continues using him as an illustration for the priesthood of Jesus. Hebrews 7:1-10 offers us more details on Melchizedek and his role as a king and priest. In the Israelite tradition, kings and priests did not come from the same tribes. Kings came from the tribe of Judah and priests were Levites. However, Melchizedek is of an unknown origin and preceded the tribes. He operated as both a priest and a king.

A. What does “Melchizedek” mean? What does “Salem” (where he was king) mean?

B. How does Jesus’ priesthood resemble Melchizedek’s?

C. Re-read Hebrews 4:14-5:6. Now, consider what you have read and learned about Melchizedek and the priesthood. How do these verses and concepts deepen your understanding of Jesus and His role as our great high priest?

10.4

READ HEBREWS 6:13-7:10

Our passage this week emphasizes the promises of God to ancient generations. We are now the beneficiaries of God's faithfulness to people like Abraham and his children. Take some time to consider God's faithfulness throughout your life. Write down a list of times you have experienced His enduring presence in your life and in the life of your family. Now, offer a prayer of thanksgiving!

LECTIO DIVINA : REVELATION 5:11-12

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.

LECTURE NOTES | HEBREWS 6:13-7:10

11

The comparison between Jesus and Melchizedek continues this week as we gain more information regarding how the Law and the Old Covenant operated. The author shows us how the Law and the Levitical priesthood were not able to help people attain perfection. They could offer sacrifices all day long, but the sacrifices were never able to cleanse the people completely. The ineffectiveness of the Law and Old Covenant would be cause for great distress and dismay, but we are told Jesus has made a better covenant possible to us.

II.I

READ HEBREWS 7:11-28

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?

2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 7:24-25. Write it below.

II.2

READ HEBREWS 7:11-28

1. What “if/then” statement is used in Hebrews 7:11?

2. From what tribe did Jesus descend?

3. How is Jesus described in Hebrews 7:22?

4. In your own words, summarize Hebrews 7:23-25.

5. How is Jesus, our high priest, described in Hebrews 7:26-27?

II.3

READ HEBREWS 7:11-28

1. In our text from this week, the author of Hebrews seeks to make clear how the Law, handed down through Moses, and the Levitical priesthood it commissioned were ultimately ineffective in helping people attain perfection and salvation. This does not mean the Law was useless or pointless. Rather, it was ineffective, and its ineffectiveness points to something beyond itself. This is why Jesus did not proceed from the Levitical priesthood. Instead, His priesthood was directly from God in the same order as Melchizedek. Read Romans 7:4-24.

A. What do you think the text from Romans is saying with regard to the Law?

B. Now, read Romans 7:25-8:4. What role does Jesus play in the Law?

2. The Levitical priesthood was ineffective for several reasons. Hebrews explains how it was unable to grant perfection and salvation (Hebrews 7:11 and 7:19). It was also dependent upon the obedience and work of humans. Read Leviticus 10:1-7 and 1 Samuel 2:12-35.

A. What happens in these two passages?

B. What does this tell you about how seriously the priesthood was to be handled? What does it tell you about humans' ability to remain faithful?

3. The main role of priests was to offer sacrifices and to mediate between God and humanity. They cared for the Tabernacle and the Temple and acted as intercessors between God and the Israelites. However, as the question above illustrates, the priesthood was flawed and always in danger of being handled inappropriately. In light of this, re-read Hebrews 7:25. Now read Romans 8:31-39.

A. Summarize the passages from Hebrews and Romans.

B. What do these texts show you about your great high priest?

4. The primary theme of Hebrews we have been discussing throughout our study is, “Jesus is better”. Now that we are more than halfway through the book, re-read Hebrews 1:4, 3:3, 4:8-9, 7:22, and 7:26-28. What or who is Jesus better than in each of these verses?

II.4

READ HEBREWS 7:11-28

A popular, secular line of thought for many years has circulated around the idea that there are many ways to God/Heaven. If we are just good enough, we can get to God. Or it doesn't matter what religion you follow because they all, ultimately, lead to the same God. The Bible demonstrates over and over how these are not true positions and makes its case for the only way to know God. Hebrews plays a role in this demonstration. Re-read Hebrews 5:9 and 7:25. What do these verses reveal to you? How do they shape or re-enforce your thoughts on the person of Jesus? Write a few words of thanksgiving for all Jesus has done, and continues to do, for you.

LECTIO DIVINA : REVELATION 5:13-14

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.

LECTURE NOTES | HEBREWS 7:11-28



4 | JESUS IS BETTER THAN THE OLD COVENANT & SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM

HEBREWS 8-11

This is the fourth and largest section of Hebrews. Here, we will discover how Jesus is better than the rituals of the Old Testament. He Himself is the ultimate sacrifice and can therefore accomplish what all other sacrifices throughout Israel's history could not. Where Israel had to daily offer countless sacrifices in the Temple, Jesus offered an ultimate, one-time sacrifice whose efficacy is permanent for all.

Jesus is also able, by His superiority to all things, to establish a new, eternal covenant that is available to all people. The covenant and the sacrificial system are inextricably linked in Israel's history. Jesus is able to take the full weight of both these important realities and reveal His superiority over them for our eternal benefit!

We will also encounter the important role of faith in the life of believers!

MEMORY VERSE | HEBREW 10:23-24

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...”

12

We now turn to a lengthy explanation regarding how Jesus is better than the Old Covenant and how His priesthood is far better and more effective than all who came before Him. The author quotes an extensive passage from Jeremiah, where a New Covenant is foretold. As Christians, we now live as “New Covenant people” who have a high priest with us eternally.

I2.I

READ HEBREWS 8:1-13

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?
2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 10:23-24. Write it below.

I2.2

READ HEBREWS 8:1-13

1. Write out Hebrews 8:1-2 in the space below.
2. According to Hebrews 8:4-5, what do priests who offer sacrifices according to the law represent?
3. Summarize Hebrews 8:6.
4. What does the author say about the New and Old Covenants in Hebrews 8:13?

I2.3

READ HEBREWS 8:1-13

1. Hebrews 8:1-2 offers a wonderful summation of what the author has been discussing for several previous verses. The author brings up the tent (or “tabernacle”) that was previously set up and juxtaposes it against the “true” tent Jesus established. Throughout the Bible we see this comparison between things made by human hands and things “not made with hands”. Read Mark 14:53-65; Acts 7:44-50; and Acts 17:24-27. In your own words, what do each of these passages (along with Hebrews 8:1-2) say about things made with hands vs. things not made with hands? What thoughts or questions does this raise for you?
2. The author explains how Jesus did not serve as a priest in the earthly Tabernacle or Temple because He was neither a descendant of Aaron nor a member of the tribe of Levi. Instead, Jesus’ priesthood is in the heavenly places. The book of Ephesians also speaks a lot about the heavenly places. Read Ephesians 1:3-23 and Ephesians 2:4-7.

A. In your own words, summarize what Ephesians 1:3-23 and 2:4-7 are explaining.

B. Now, reflect upon Hebrews 8:1-5 and the passages from Ephesians. Where do you see humanity, and where do you see God? What is our role in participating in the heavenly places?

3. Hebrews 8 discusses the Old and New Covenants. It is important to note the author is not saying the Old Covenant was useless or not ordained by God. Instead, the Old Covenant was ultimately ineffective because it was unable to bring God's people into perfection and fulfillment in His Kingdom. This certainly can be a tricky topic to grasp. The Law and the Covenant were bound together when Moses presented God's law and God re-established His Covenant with Israel in Exodus 34. To help clarify the differences between the Old Covenant (built on the Law of the Old Testament) and the New Covenant, read Romans 10:1-4 and Galatians 3:15-29.

A. What do these passages say about the Law (and therefore the Old Covenant)?

B. Read Luke 22:14-20 and John 13:31-35. Now, re-examine Hebrews 8:6-13. How does Jesus' ministry play into the New Covenant? What do the Gospel readings tell you about your role in the New Covenant?

I2.4

READ HEBREWS 8:1-13

Hebrews 8 quotes from Jeremiah 31:31-34. Take a moment now to read those verses. What is most interesting to you about these verses? What is most encouraging? Why?

As members of the New Covenant, we are ushered into the promises and hopes that God offers. This relationship is not something we can create ourselves. Read 2 Corinthians 3:2-18. Verse 4 tells us that we can have confidence in the work of Christ. It is tempting to work out our salvation and understanding of God on our own. Sometimes we may feel weak, inadequate, or unworthy. How does knowing we can have confidence through Jesus help you this week?

LECTIO DIVINA : 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-4

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.

LECTURE NOTES | HEBREWS 8:1-13

13

As Hebrews 9 begins, the author spends a lot of time discussing the Temple and the items it contained. There is a lot of explanation given to the priest's roles throughout the Temple. The author also references the Day of Atonement and the high priest's responsibilities on that day. Then, we are told the old sacrifices were never able to clear the conscience of the people. This is devastating in many ways, but the author quickly points us onward toward Jesus and His better priesthood that is able to completely clear our conscience and make us alive again.

I3.I

READ HEBREWS 9:1-14

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?

2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 10:23-24. Write it below.

READ HEBREWS 9:1-14

1. What items are in the tent?
2. What is in the Ark of the Covenant?
3. Who is allowed in the Holy of Holies (also called “Most Holy Place”)? What must they take with them when they enter?
4. How does Christ enter the holy places?
5. According to Hebrews 9:14, what does the blood of Christ do for us?

13.3

READ HEBREWS 9:1-14

1. Hebrews 9 compares the sacrificial system of the Old Covenant with Christ's death, sacrifice, and the New Covenant. Hebrews 9:6-10 explains how the priests continually offered sacrifices and how year after year the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies to make atonement for his own and the people's sins. These offerings, according to verse 9, are imperfect because they are unable to help the worshiper attain a perfect, pure conscience. Unlike the Old Covenant and sacrificial system, Jesus' sacrifice was a once-for-all act with eternal efficacy. Read Romans 5:18-21; Titus 2:11-14; and Hebrews 1:3. What do these passages say about Jesus' redemptive work? What do they say about us?
2. The Law made it possible for Israel to maintain a proper relationship with God so that God would remain in their midst. This is clearly laid out in the covenantal arrangements found in the Old Testament. Israel was to remain faithful and not to worship any other gods. However, the Old Testament contains several stories of Israel's lack of faithfulness to the Covenant, ultimately resulting in God leaving the Temple and in Israel's subsequent captivity and exile. Israel needed the Covenant to be set right but lacked the ability to do so. Jesus enters the story and institutes a whole New Covenant through the power of His blood (Hebrews 9:11-14). To meditate on the healing, powerful work of Jesus, read Luke 1:46-55; Luke 1:77-79; Acts 2:14-36; and Galatians 3:10-14.

A. In your own words, summarize what these passages say about the work of Jesus.

B. What do these passages make you think about Jesus? How does this affect your life this week?

3. Hebrews 9:14 explains how the Spirit was active and present throughout Christ's redemptive work (we know through other Scriptures that God the Father was also involved in this beautiful, redemptive Trinitarian work). Here, the Spirit is referred to as "eternal," thus signifying the ultimate efficacy of Jesus' ministry. It has eternal impact and can not be undone. There are prophecies in the Old Testament about how the Spirit would fill the Messiah. Read Isaiah 42:1-9 and Isaiah 61:1-3.

A. What do these passages say about the Spirit's role in the Messiah's work?

B. Now, read John 16:5-15; Acts 2:1-4; and Romans 8:10-11. What do these passages say about the Spirit's work in the lives of believers? How does this affect your thoughts on the Spirit?

I3.4

READ HEBREWS 9:1-14

While we do not follow all the dietary, purification, and ritualistic laws from the Old Testament, there are still ways God desires us to act. Read Galatians 5:16-26 and Philippians 4:8. What do these verses tell you about how God wants His followers to conduct themselves in this world? Is there an aspect from any of these verses that most sticks out to you as something God may be calling you to work on with Him?

LECTIO DIVINA : 1 CORINTHIANS 15:5-10

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.

LECTURE NOTES | HEBREWS 9:1-14

14

Several of our readings have pointed out how Jesus is better than the old priesthood and how, unlike animal sacrifices, His sacrifice has eternal efficacy. We continue to see this in our lesson this week as the author once again compares Jesus' sacrifice and the New Covenant with Moses and the Old Covenant. Towards the end of this week's reading, we also get a small glimpse into what Jesus' second appearance will be like. Due to His final, ultimate sacrifice, we can be filled with hope and confidence as we live our lives in ways properly reflecting His sacrifice and eagerly awaiting His second coming.

I4.I

READ HEBREWS 9:15-28

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?
2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 10:23-24. Write it below.

14.2

READ HEBREWS 9:15-28

1. In many Bible translations, the first word of Hebrews 9:15 is “therefore”. Look back at the verses preceding v. 15. Why do you think the word “therefore” (or a similar phrase) is present?
2. What illustration is used in Hebrews 9:16-17?
3. According to Hebrews 9:24, what does Christ do for us in Heaven?
4. How many times did Jesus have to offer Himself as a sacrifice?
5. According to Hebrews 9:28, what is the purpose of Christ’s second appearance?

I4.3

READ HEBREWS 9:15-28

1. Hebrews 9:15 uses the word “called” to describe those who participate in the New Covenant. The idea of being “called” is vitally important throughout the entire Bible. To gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of your Christian calling (both what you are called out of and what you are called into), read Romans 1:6-7; Romans 8:28-30; 1 Corinthians 1:4-9; Ephesians 1:17-23; Colossians 3:15; 1 Peter 2:9-10; and 1 Peter 2:21. What do each of these passages say about being called? How does this impact you right now?
2. In Hebrews 9:16-17, the illustration of a will is used to highlight the author’s insight about covenants. The word used for “will” is the same word often translated into the word “covenant”. Just as a will does not take effect without someone dying, so too a covenant does not become effective until there is a sacrifice.

A. Read Exodus 24:3-8. What happens in these verses to solidify God's covenant with Israel?

B. Now, re-read Hebrews 9:21-24. In your own words, explain what Jesus does in light of your understanding of the passage you just read from Exodus. How does this frame your thoughts on God's eternal plans?

3. The final verses of Hebrews 9 describe how Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection secure salvation. We are told, in Christ's death, sin has been dealt with once and for all. With this in mind, the author then turns to the hope this reality produces in us as Jesus' followers. Christ will appear a second time to save those expectantly awaiting His return. This idea of eagerly or expectantly waiting for Christ's return is mentioned elsewhere in Scripture. Read Romans 8:18-23; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; and Philippians 3:20-21.

A. What do these verses say about waiting for Christ's return?

B. Read Matthew 28:16-20. What are we, as disciples, called to do while we wait for Jesus to return? How are you actively participating in this command?

I4.4

READ HEBREWS 9:15-28

Hebrews 9:23 tells us Jesus' death was a better sacrifice than all the former sacrifices made in the Tabernacle and Temple. Unlike the daily sacrifices at the Temple, His sacrifice is eternally effective and does not need to be reenacted or repeated. Due to this better, ultimate sacrifice, Jesus is now with God the Father mediating on our behalf (Hebrews 9:24). Spend some time meditating on this reality. The all-powerful, creating, eternal God of the universe is pleased with you because of the Son's sacrifice. There is immense freedom in this reality for each of us! Write down some thoughts, a prayer, or words of praise as you consider this reality today. How does it inform your life this week?

LECTIO DIVINA : 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-23

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.

LECTURE NOTES | HEBREWS 9:15-28

15

This week we continue learning how Jesus is better than the old sacrificial system and how His priesthood is superior to all who preceded Him. There are rich Old Testament references all throughout these verses that serve to make the author's point regarding Jesus' superiority. As we will see throughout the lesson, the old sacrificial system was not bad, but rather incomplete and insufficient. Only Christ's sacrifice can completely remove and forgive sin. His final, once-for-all offering should spur us on daily as we worship our great High Priest.

15.1

READ HEBREWS 10:1-18

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?
2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 10:23-24. Write it below.

I5.2

READ HEBREWS 10:1-18

1. Summarize, in your own words, Hebrews 10:1.
2. What does Hebrews 10:3-4 state about the yearly sacrifices?
3. According to Hebrews 10:11-12, what are the differences between Jesus' priesthood and the priests who preceded Him?
4. Consider Hebrews 10:14. How effective is Christ's sacrificial offering? What does it accomplish?

1. Our study of Hebrews has revealed many ways in which the sacrifices and rituals of the Old Covenant point forward to something greater. We see this again in 10:1, where the Law is explained as a shadow of the good things to come. The author is not saying the Old Covenant and Law were bad or a waste of time. Instead, the sacrifices acted as a sign pointing forward to something else. Read Colossians 2:16-19.

A. What do these verses say about the shadow of the laws and regulations of the Old Covenant?

B. What do the verses say about Jesus? How do these verses connect with what you have been learning in Hebrews?

2. Hebrews 10:1-4 explains how the sacrifices offered under the Old Covenant were not able to perfect the people of Israel. Therefore, sacrifices had to be offered daily on an individual basis and yearly for the community as a whole. Christ's sacrifice stands in contrast to these because it is a one-time offering able to perfect and to completely clear the conscience of any person who accepts Christ as Lord. Read Acts 15:8-9; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Titus 2:14; 1 John 1:7; and Revelation 1:5-6. What do these verses say about the complete, cleansing power of Jesus' sacrifice?

3. Hebrews 10:12-14 offers a picture of Jesus reigning and ruling as the ultimate King of all things, with His enemies subjected to His dominion. This Kingship is one sealed and secured at Christ's victorious resurrection from the dead, where He defeated sin and death—the ultimate enemies. Read Acts 2:22-36 and 1 Corinthians 15:20-28.

A. What do these passages say about Christ's resurrection and His rule over all things?

B. Write a few sentences combining the ideas from Acts 2:22-26; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; and Hebrews 10:12-14. What common themes do you see in them?

15.4

READ HEBREWS 10:1-18

Take some time to meditate on Hebrews 10:14. Often, whether we realize it or not, we are easily tempted to fall back into old patterns of thinking we have to earn God's favor or to do something to achieve our salvation. This is not the story the Scriptures tell us. The Lord has provided everything necessary for you to know Him and to have a relationship with Him. Our actions are but a response to what He has already accomplished. Christ's offering has completed the work. There is nothing you need to add. Write a few words or even a prayer below thanking God for His gift of grace.

15.5

LECTIO DIVINA

LECTIO DIVINA : 1 CORINTHIANS 15:24-28

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.

16

Our reading this week explains the privileges we now have because of what Jesus has done. These privileges also come with the expectation we will properly live out the Christian life and endure things like hardship and suffering. These verses contain beautiful encouragements immediately followed by strong warnings. Both should be heeded. Endurance through suffering is a major theme this week and, while sometimes a difficult topic to discuss, one necessary for Christian living.

16.1

READ HEBREWS 10:19-39

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?
2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 10:23-24. Write it below.

I6.2

READ HEBREWS 10:19-39

1. In your own words, summarize Hebrews 10:19-23.
2. According to Hebrews 10:24-25, what are Christians to do for each other?
3. What do you think the author is saying in Hebrews 10:26-31?
4. Why, according to Hebrews 10:34, are Christians able to endure suffering?
5. How does the author describe Christians in Hebrews 10:39?

I6.3

READ HEBREWS 10:19-39

1. Hebrews 10:22-25 explains how Christians are called to conduct themselves. They are to draw near, hold fast, encourage each other, and meet together. The author bases these actions on two primary concepts. The first is found in Hebrews 10:21, where we are reminded of our great priest. The second is found in Hebrews 10:24, where we are told the Day is drawing near. For a more comprehensive understanding of what is meant by the “Day”, read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; 2 Timothy 1:8-12; James 5:7-11; and 1 Peter 4:7-11.
 - A. What do each of these passages state about the Day of the Lord or the second coming of Jesus?
 - B. According to these passages, how are Christians to act as they wait?

2. In Hebrews 10:32-36, the author encourages readers to remember and to recall their sufferings as a means of reminding them of the need for endurance. The practice of remembrance is of great importance throughout the entire Bible. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-15; Ephesians 2:11-16; 2 Timothy 1:6-7; 2 Timothy 2:8-9; and Titus 3:1-7.

A. What do these passages say about remembering?

B. What do you need to remember about God this week?

3. In Hebrews 10:37-38, the author quotes from Habakkuk 2:3-4. Christians are exhorted to remain faithful and to persevere in the face of difficulties and trials because they have confidence in the work of Jesus. The author acknowledges the Christian life can be difficult in different seasons. However, we are left with the encouragement in Hebrews 10:39 that Christians are not people who shrink back and are destroyed, but instead we persevere despite any circumstance. Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-18.

A. Summarize these verses in your own words.

B. If you were to write your own version of 2 Corinthians 4:8-9, what would it say? What may God be calling you to endure right now?

I6.4

READ HEBREWS 10:19-39

In previous lessons, we have discussed how Christians will not lose their salvation. However, according to the Scriptures, there are people who will come into a Christian community for a season, then reject Christ and leave. For those who ultimately and finally reject Christ, there is judgement. This is again what Hebrews 10:26-31 is explaining. This text is about people who have heard the truth, yet reject and even mock Christ and God's plan of salvation. Christians should be prayerful for those who do not yet know Christ as Lord. Write the names of people you know who do not yet know the Lord. Spend some time praying for them by name this week.

LECTIO DIVINA : 1 CORINTHIANS 15:55-58

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.

LECTURE NOTES | HEBREWS 10:19-39

WORSHIP WEEK

This Worship Week will focus on Hebrews 11, offering a special approach to the stories therein and the role of faith in the Christian life.





5 | OUR RESPONSE TO CHRIST'S SUPREMACY

HEBREWS 12-13

Our study of Hebrews has displayed multiple times the reality of how Jesus is better than a host of important Biblical characters, rituals, and traditions. What does this mean for us in the twenty-first century? This may be a daunting question, but Hebrews requires we examine it and consider our unique place in God's narrative.

Here, we are spurred on in our faith so we can produce the discipline necessary to endure the Christian life in this world. The author also provides us with great hope in the reality of God's unshakable and sure Kingdom in which we are participating even now!

As you strive to deepen your faith and grow in your understanding of what God has called you to do, be encouraged! God has promised to equip us for whatever lies ahead!

MEMORY VERSE | HEBREWS 13:20-21

"Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."

17

This lesson begins the final section of Hebrews. The eleven previous chapters have been full of teachings, insights, warnings, and a host of other information. Now, the author begins to unpack how all the information we have learned affects our lives here and now. Once again, we will see a quotation from the Old Testament as the author ties concepts together and roots them in the person of Jesus. After all we have experienced earlier in Hebrews, we cannot simply sit idly by and not take action. Now, we begin to receive instruction as to how Jesus' superiority impacts our daily lives.

I7.I

READ HEBREWS 12:1-17

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?
2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 13:20-21. Write it below.

I7.3

READ HEBREWS 12:1-17

1. Hebrews 12:1-2 uses the illustration of Christians running their race while looking to Jesus for help and direction. We are told Jesus endured the cross and is now seated in glory at the right hand of God the Father. As we have seen throughout Hebrews, endurance in the face of trials identifies true followers of Christ. Suffering and the need to endure hardship is something that will occur in each of our lives at various points. Read Philippians 1:27-30; 1 Thessalonians 2:2-4; 1 Timothy 6:11-12; and 2 Timothy 4:1-8.

A. Examine these verses along with Hebrews 12:1-2. What do they say about endurance, suffering, and the Christian life?

B. What is your takeaway from these verses as you live out the Christian life this week?

2. Hebrews 12:3-4 paints a vivid picture of Christ's suffering and death. His struggle against the systems of sin and the power of death in this world ultimately led to His crucifixion. While Christ's resurrection marks the end of our bondage to sin and death, we are still awaiting His return, where everything will be brought into subjection under Him. This is why we must continue to work for God's Kingdom over and against the sin in this world.

A. Read Acts 2:32-39 and Hebrews 12:3-4. According to these passages, who was responsible for Jesus' suffering and death?

B. Now, consider your own struggle against temptation and sin in this world. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. Who and what are we fighting against? How are we to handle temptations and struggles?

3. Further instructions for living the Christian life are offered in Hebrews 12:12-15. The author uses rich imagery to depict the strength, endurance, and behavior Christians should possess. Read Psalm 34:11-14; Isaiah 35:1-4; Isaiah 40:1-4; and Romans 12:14-21. Now, summarize in your own words how these passages illustrate what you read in Hebrews 12:12-15.

I7.4

READ HEBREWS 12:1-17

Hebrews 12:5-11 covers the difficult, and sometimes confusing, topic of how and why God disciplines us. Good fathers, Hebrews teaches, discipline their children because they love them and have better plans for them than the children are unable to realize in the moment. Good fathers also only discipline their children out of love, never out of anger or for an ulterior motive. The author of Hebrews explains how God's discipline will yield holiness, peace, and righteousness in our lives. Reflect on your own life. When have you experienced the discipline of the Father? Can you identify ways in which it shaped you and instilled holiness, peace, or righteousness in your life?

LECTIO DIVINA : COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.

LECTURE NOTES | HEBREWS 12:1-17

18

The fifth and final section of Hebrews continues to offer us encouragement and insight into how to live the Christian life. This week's lesson touches once again on how the covenant we have through Jesus is far better than anything preceding it in history. The surety of God's unshakable Kingdom prompts courage and worship in the lives of Christians as we strive to live lives acceptable to God.

18.1

READ HEBREWS 12:18-29

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?

2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 13:20-21. Write it below.

18.2

READ HEBREWS 12:18-29

1. List the things the author of Hebrews says we will *not* experience, according to Hebrews 12:18-21.

2. List the things the author of Hebrews says we *will* experience, according to Hebrews 12:22-24.

3. How is Jesus described in Hebrews 12:24?

4. In your own words, summarize Hebrews 12:28.

18.3

READ HEBREWS 12:18-29

1. Once again, the author of Hebrews appeals to Moses and the Exodus story to illustrate a point about the superiority of Jesus. Hebrews 12:18-21 describes several events that occur in the Old Testament during the giving of the Law and the ratification of the Old Covenant. Read Exodus 19:10-22 and Exodus 20:18-21.

A. What similarities do you see between these passages in Exodus and Hebrews 12:18-21?

B. Now, consider Hebrews 12:22. The author juxtaposes our inheritance through Christ with the experience laid out in Exodus. Mt. Zion (historically God's holy mountain and the religious epicenter of David's royal kingdom) stands over Mt. Sinai as the true, better place where, through Jesus, God meets us. Read Psalm 125:1-5 and Psalm 134:1-3. What do these Psalms say about Mt. Zion? How do these Psalms expand your understanding of what the author of Hebrews is attempting to illustrate?

2. Hebrews 12:25-27 once again deals with the issue of making sure people respond appropriately to the gospel of Jesus Christ. The author explains how God will shake the earth and the heavens in order to remove the things that cannot stand in His Kingdom. Only eternal things will remain after Jesus returns. How do we ensure we are acting rightly and doing things with eternal value that will not be shaken? Read Micah 6:8; John 13:31-35; 1 Peter 2:9-12; and 1 John 3:1-18. According to these verses, how are we to conduct ourselves?

3. Hebrews 12:28-29 offers a beautiful encouragement alongside a weighty reminder. As God's people, we are citizens of His Kingdom. According to Hebrews, the only proper response to this amazing reality is worship! To learn more about this Kingdom, read Romans 14:17-19; Galatians 5:19-24; Colossians 1:11-14; 1 Thessalonians 2:11-13; and 2 Timothy 4:1-2.

A. What do these passages explain about the Kingdom? What do they explain about our role in the Kingdom?

B. Read Luke 12:22-32. In your own words, write out what these verses are explaining. What does this make you think about the Kingdom?

18.4

READ HEBREWS 12:18-29

This week's lesson dealt a lot with the Kingdom of God. We are welcomed in as citizens of this Kingdom when we declare Jesus as Lord. However, our role in the Kingdom does not stop once we become a Christ-follower. Rather, we are called to work and to minister on behalf of our new King as we serve as His representatives here on earth. This can sometimes feel like a daunting, or even impossible, task. Perhaps you feel unqualified or lacking in some element you think necessary to be God's representative. Earlier this week, we read part of Luke 12. Spend a moment re-reading Luke 12:32. What does it stir in you? How does it deepen your idea of God's disposition toward you as a citizen and representative of His Kingdom?

LECTIO DIVINA : COLOSSIANS 1:21-23

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.

LECTURE NOTES | HEBREWS 12:18-29

19

The last chapter of Hebrews offers what on the surface may look like disjointed closing remarks. However, a careful and thoughtful reading of this chapter, in light of everything the author has said thus far, will provide you with a beautiful finale to the wealth of insight Hebrews contains. There are reminders about the superiority of Jesus, a call to continue loving others, a statement regarding our inheritance, and a benediction full of rich encouragement. Careful reading of this last chapter will leave you with a deep appreciation for all the topics you have covered in your study of Hebrews.

19.1

READ HEBREWS 13:1-25

1. What words, themes, or names stick out to you? What questions do you have about these verses?
2. Memory Verse: Spend some time considering Hebrews 13:20-21. Write it below.

19.2

READ HEBREWS 13:1-25

1. Write down a list of things the author says we are to do and not do from Hebrews 13:1-5.
2. Write out Hebrews 13:8 below. You may write it verbatim or paraphrase it in your own words.
3. According to Hebrews 13:12-14, where did Jesus suffer?
4. In your own words, and in light of what you have read and learned through this study, summarize Hebrews 13:20-21.

19.3

READ HEBREWS 13:1-25

1. Hebrews 13 offers final exhortations and instructions to the reader. In Hebrews 13:1, we are told to continue loving each other. This may seem trivial or elementary, but the author has good reason for pointing the readers in this direction as Hebrews concludes. After all that has been written and explained for the past twelve chapters, the author begins the farewell with this incredibly important instruction. Read Romans 12:9-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12; and 1 Peter 1:22-23.

A. What do these passages say about love?

B. What most stands out to you or convicts you from these verses?

2. Speaking out about Christ's work and the saving power of the gospel are essential aspects of a Christian's life. We cannot always expect our actions to be the only way people know we are Christians—often, we have to actually open our mouths! The author of Hebrews explains this in 13:15-16. Read Isaiah 45:22-23; Romans 10:9; Philippians 2:9-11; and Revelation 12:9-11.

A. In your own words, what do these passages say about speaking the name of Jesus and declaring what He has done?

B. Read Matthew 28:16-20. What role does verbalizing your faith play in Christ's command?

3. In Hebrews 13:20-21, the author offers a benediction and blessing for the readers. Many themes of the book appear in this benediction. We are reminded of Jesus' resurrection, His role as our overseer and care-giver, His blood, and the better and eternal covenant He inaugurated. 1 Peter has a similar ending. Take a moment to read 1 Peter 5:1-11.

A. What similarities do you see between the 1 Peter passage and Hebrews 13:20-21?

B. What is most encouraging to you from these verses? What is most challenging?

I9.4

READ HEBREWS 13:1-25

Hebrews 13:10-14 references how Jesus suffered outside the city. This alludes to His crucifixion, which took place outside the city of Jerusalem. The author encourages us by stating how suffering outside the camp (a symbolic place of reproach and rejection) is bearable because we are citizens of an eternal city. Read Revelation 21:2-27. What type of city are we awaiting? What is most encouraging to you about what we have been promised? How does knowing what God has promised to do help you bear up under difficulties now?

LECTIO DIVINA | COLOSSIANS 1:24-29

READ

Read the passage slowly and prayerfully. Listen for a word or phrase that resonates with you. Write it below.

REFLECT

Read the passage a second time, recalling the word or phrase you wrote down above. Spend time savoring this word or phrase, asking God what He wants to say to you and your life at this specific moment. Wait patiently in the silence for God's invitation to you. Write down anything you sense God revealing to you.

RESPOND

Read the passage a third time. Ask God how He wants the passage to impact your life this week. Spend time praying, confessing, or praising God for what He revealed. What does God want you to do with what you learned? Write down your response.

REST

Sit quietly and rest in God's presence, enjoying time with Him as His words settle within you.

LECTURE NOTES | HEBREWS 13:1-25

20

This week, you will take some time to go back over the five sections of the Hebrews curriculum and review what God has taught you through your studies. Review your responses, the prayers you wrote, the Scriptures you memorized, and anything else that sticks out to you. This is a wonderful opportunity to review the whole book of Hebrews and consider how it has impacted and can continue to inform and change your life!

20.I

1. Spend time going back over the first section of the curriculum. What most stands out to you? Review your answers and consider what you have learned about Hebrews.

20.2

1. Spend time going back over the second section of the curriculum. What most stands out to you? Review your answers and consider what you have learned about Hebrews.

20.3

1. Spend time going back over the third section of the curriculum. What most stands out to you? Review your answers and consider what you have learned about Hebrews.

20.4

1. Spend time going back over the fourth section of the curriculum. What most stands out to you? Review your answers and consider what you have learned about Hebrews.

20.5

1. Spend time going back over the fifth section of the curriculum. What most stands out to you? Review your answers and consider what you have learned about Hebrews.



The *Hebrews* curriculum was written by Laurien Hook

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