



24 Week Study in the Book of

# HEBREWS

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The Supremacy of Christ

## LEADER GUIDE

# Lead with patience and purpose

Prepare carefully, create room for honest conversation, and keep pointing your group to Jesus.

- |    |                                                                                      |    |                                                                              |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | Read the passage at least twice before you meet.                                     | 06 | Show your group Jesus.                                                       |
| 02 | Pray for your group by name each week.                                               | 07 | Learn to be okay with the silence.                                           |
| 03 | Don't rush through the questions; enjoy thinking and talking about God and His Word. | 08 | Ask your group to come ready to talk about the passage every week.           |
| 04 | Use your notes from Tuesday Nights as an aid.                                        | 09 | Open with prayer.                                                            |
| 05 | It is okay not to know all the answers.                                              | 10 | Take seriously the task at hand: You are pointing to the supremacy of Jesus. |

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# Weeks 01–12

Two pages per week: understand the text, then discuss and apply.

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Two pages per week: understand the text, then discuss and apply.

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# Hebrews 1:1-4

## BIG IDEA

The opening of Hebrews is about the supremacy of Christ. Jesus is number one; He has always been number one, and He always will be number one. There is none greater than the Son of God.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

1:1: This is a reference to the Old Testament and how God has revealed Himself to His people. Prior to Jesus coming, He spoke to them through the prophets, which make up a lot of the Old Testament, and what He spoke to them about was the Messiah who would save them.

1:2: The “last days” are the last period of time before Jesus returns. We live in the last days now, and it is in these days that God has spoken to us through His Son. The Son is not a lesser “God.” He is truly God and is the heir of all things. Jesus is not sitting back and relaxing, but as the heir of all things is reigning over the world that He created.

1:3: Jesus is God, and in His care for the world He created, He upholds it. He does so from the seat of honor, which He sat down in after He died, was raised, and ascended into heaven. The fact that Jesus is seated in heaven tells us that His atoning work is done, and that His blood truly washes away all sin.

1:4: In His incarnation, Jesus was lower than the angels, but now in glory, He is proven to truly be greater than the angels. Angels are magnificent creatures, but they are just that: creatures. Jesus was not created.



# Hebrews 1:1-4

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 Is there anything you are tempted to elevate to the same status as Jesus in your life?

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- 2 When you think about Jesus as the “radiance of the glory of God,” what comes to mind?

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### Theology

- 1 What does Jesus sitting down after making “purification for sins” communicate?

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- 2 How does this introduction keep us from treating Jesus as merely a moral example or good teacher?

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### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 The Jesus written about in Hebrews 1:1-4 is an incredible ruler. Have you asked those who don’t know Jesus what they think about Him?

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- 2 What do you think about those who say Jesus isn’t God?

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#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?

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# Hebrews 1:5-14

## BIG IDEA

While the angels are important, they are not the Son of God. Only the Son is royalty; He is utterly different from the angels as the eternal and enthroned Son of God, and only He is worthy of worship and devotion.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

1:5-7: These Old Testament quotes demonstrate the reality that the Bible has been telling a story about the Messiah all along. Each reference points out that Jesus is God and that the angels are not like Him. In fact, the angels are called to worship Jesus.

1:8-9: It is to the Son that the Father gives a throne that will last forever and ever. The Son is also the one who judges all things. He loves righteousness and hates wickedness.

1:10-12: This world will pass away, but Jesus will not. He is eternal, and the same from everlasting to everlasting. He is not a trend or a fad, but the eternal God who will have no end.

1:13: Jesus' enemies will be vanquished.

1:14: Angels are meant to be an aid to Christians.



# Hebrews 1:5-14

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 If God loves righteousness, what does that say about how we should live our daily lives?  
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- 2 How do you keep yourself from getting caught up in things that will fade away?  
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### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 Why do you think trends come and go so fast?  
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- 2 How can you use the passing of trends to point to a great hope?  
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### Theology

- 1 Why does a creator-creature distinction matter?  
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- 2 Why does God hate wickedness?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Why does He love righteousness?  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?  
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# Hebrews 2:1-4

## BIG IDEA

We have actually been revealed the truth of who the Son is and the great salvation that He offers. It is important that we don't neglect the teachings of the Scriptures and ignore the great gospel.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

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2:1: We need to take seriously what we have in God's word.

2:2-3: If what the angels declared was reliable, then how much more reliable must the message from the Son of God be? We cannot ignore the truth of what He has revealed about Himself and for our salvation.

2:4: The gospel was proclaimed by eyewitnesses, and those eyewitnesses were affirmed in their message and calling through great moves of the Spirit of God.



# Hebrews 2:1-4

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 Where are you tempted to see Jesus as useful, but not ultimate? Not as the one who is supreme?  
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\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What habits or pressures often cause Christians to neglect Christ?  
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### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 What would you say to those who ignore the message proclaimed by Christ?  
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\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Do we neglect Christ and His, when we failed to proclaim the gospel?  
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\_\_\_\_\_

### Theology

- 1 What are ways one might neglect Christ?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Why is neglecting Christ serious?  
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#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?

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# Hebrews 2:5-18

## BIG IDEA

The Son of God put on flesh to save sinners. He did not abandon humanity to sin and its power but made a way for sinners to be free and to have everlasting life by putting their faith in the Son of God who is Lord and Savior of all who believe that He was crucified, died, buried, and was raised on the third day. Jesus today still helps all who believe in Him as the faithful High Priest.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

2:5: The author contrasts humans and angels now to demonstrate who it is that Jesus came to die for: humanity.

2:6-9: For a short period Jesus was like us. The great mystery of the incarnation is a glorious reality that makes it ultimately possible for us to go to God. By coming as man, Jesus has made a way for those who believe in Him to have eternal life and rule with Him.

2:10: Jesus brings many sons and daughters to glory, but only through His suffering

2:11: There are not two different sources for sanctification and salvation, but one: God is the source. He saves, and He sanctifies through the power of the Holy Spirit that indwells all believers.

2:12-13: Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters.

2:14-15: By being a human and dying, Jesus defeated not only sin, but the power of death and the devil. Not only is that true in the sense that it leads to eternal life, but it also means we can live a life of righteousness now.

2:16: Jesus did not come to die for the angels.

2:17: To be the perfect sacrifice that could atone for our sins, the Son of God had to become like us.

2:18: Because Jesus suffered and was tempted, He can relate to us. He is not a far-off God who is unaware.



# Hebrews 2:5-18

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

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- ① Why does it matter that, as you live in the fallen world, Jesus can relate to you?  
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- ② What do the words 'merciful', 'faithful', and 'help' reveal about Jesus' priestly ministry?  
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### Evangelism / Apologetics

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- ① Have you ever asked someone if they are afraid of death?  
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- ② What hope does Jesus' life, death, and resurrection bring that person?  
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### Theology

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- ① How does Jesus bring reconciliation between humanity and God  
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- ② How does Jesus' death free us from bondage of sin and death?  
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#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?  
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# Hebrews 3:1-6

## BIG IDEA

The Bible is full of incredible men and women. Yet, none of them are Jesus. Jesus is the greatest of all, and for every hero of the Bible – He is the greater version. In this text we are told explicitly: Jesus is the greater Moses.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

3:1: Jesus is the one we should turn to. We shouldn't look to any earthly teacher, but to the one who made all things. He is the great apostle (sent one) who brought the message of salvation and the great high priest who reconciles man to God through His own death and resurrection.

3:2-4: Moses was faithful in the Old Testament, but Jesus is even more faithful. Thus, He is worthy of more glory and honor. Jesus is the Creator of all things, and thus, He is worthy of all we could ever imagine and so much more. It is idolatry to act otherwise.

3:5: Moses served as a witness in the Old Testament to what would be spoken about later on.

3:6: Jesus, the Son, was the one spoken of, and rules the house of God. Moses was in the house, but Christ is over the house, because He is greater than Moses. We can know that we are Christ's by looking at our testimony of faith and seeing that we have believed in the Son of God. And, if we have believed, we can have confidence in what God has said: He will save those who believe in Him. We are not saved because we persevere, but we persevere because we are saved. The warning here is a call to check our faith and ensure that it is in Christ and producing fruit.



# Hebrews 3:1-6

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 What does it look like for you to consider Jesus on a daily basis?

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- 2 What are you tempted to worship over the Creator?

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### Theology

- 1 Why does it matter that we produce good works?

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- 2 In what ways is Jesus the better Moses?

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### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 How do you invite others to consider Jesus?

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- 2 When was a recent time that you did this?

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#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?

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# Hebrews 3:7-19

## BIG IDEA

We must not harden our hearts with unbelief by not resting in the finished work of Christ. The Israelites once rebelled with unbelief; may we strive on in faith and exhort one another forward.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

3:7-9: While wandering in the wilderness, the Israelites did not believe God and hardened their hearts against Him. We harden our hearts against God by seeking our own ways, not walking by faith, and leading a life of humility despite seeing the great rest offered by God.

3:10-11: God takes this type of rejection seriously and did not let them enter into His rest. This connects well with Jesus' sermon on the Mount where He said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit" (Matthew 5:3). The entrance into the great rest is an understanding that one needs God to give the great rest.

3:12: It is good to live in community with others, so that you may check one another, and call those who are unbelieving to believe.

3:13: As brothers and sisters, we are obligated to exhort one another to run the race. Until the Lord tarries, we should devote ourselves to challenging one another to rest in Christ.

3:14-15: We will have eternal life if we have faith in Christ. We can have confidence in this, not because of the strength of our faith, but because of the strength of the one we have faith in to save us.

3:16-19: We should not assume that just because someone is among our assembly that they truly believe and will be saved. Many left Egypt; many hardened their hearts and did not enter into the rest of the Lord. We must call each other to believe the gospel and know Christ.



# Hebrews 3:7-19

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 What are things that encourage you in your faith in Christ?

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- 2 Is there anyone explicitly who encourages you in your faith?

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### Theology

- 1 Why is eternal life referenced as the great rest?

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- 2 What does God's willingness to hear our confession of sins reveal about His grace, mercy, and patience?

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### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 What does this passage teach us about the need to share the gospel?

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- 2 Why do you think people reject God, despite seeing His works?

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#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?

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# Hebrews 4:1-13

## BIG IDEA

God's offer of rest still stands, and He will uphold that offer because He promised to do so. God desires to save a people for Himself, and He wants them to rest in Him and know that their need for working is over.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

4:1: We should not neglect the promise of rest in Christ, and the free gift it is.

4:2: The wilderness generation did not understand the need for faith in order to enter the rest of God. Our hearing of the good news must be met with a response: faith.

4:3-5: The rest of God has existed since the seventh day of creation when God rested after making the world. The promised land that the Israelites sought was a shadow of the land of rest that has existed since the creation account.

4:6-7: Many have not entered the great rest, but God has graciously tarried and gives us this day to turn to Him and receive the eternal rest He has offered all who believe.

4:8: Joshua's entrance into the promised land points to the fact that there is a greater land to be had; a land with God in His great rest.

4:9-10: The true Sabbath rest is the eternal and great rest with God. We will one day rest from all of our striving completely, but can rest now in the completed works of Jesus as we push onward in the faith.

4:11: We must ambitiously pursue the day of rest; storing up treasures in heaven and living every moment for Christ.

4:12: God's word is what causes us to be sanctified and leads us in our striving. The word convicts us of sin, leads us in holiness, and calls us to more.

4:13: All will stand before the judgment seat of God and give an account for their lives.



# Hebrews 4:1-13

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 In what ways are you tempted to try and earn your salvation and God's love?  
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- 2 How does God's word lead you in your Christian walk?  
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### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 Why do you think people want to work their way into heaven?  
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- 2 How do you respond to those who say they will go to heaven because they have done good things?  
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### Theology

- 1 Why can we never work our way into the great rest that God offers?  
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- 2 Why will everyone stand before God and give an account of their life?  
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#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?  
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# Hebrews 4:14-5:10

## BIG IDEA

Jesus is the divinely appointed great high priest. He alone was sinless and capable of dying for sin.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

4:14: We will all stand before God and give an account for our lives, but we can have confidence in entering the great rest, not because of our work, but because of the great high priest's work.

4:15-16: Because Jesus is on our side, we can draw near to God, and should, with confidence. God is not going to reject us, because we are now righteous through Christ.

5:1-6: The earthly priests all had to be cleansed in order to enter into the temple and offer sacrifices. Jesus, the great high priest, was sinless and did not have to have this happen. However, like the other earthly priests, Jesus was called by God to be a priest of the highest order. Jesus' role as priest was not only to make the sacrifice, but to be the sacrifice.

5:7: Before Jesus' crucifixion, He cried out to the Father, and the Father comforted Him.

5:8-10: Jesus did not become sinless during His suffering. He was always sinless, but through the suffering throughout His life and ending in the crucifixion, He was "made perfect" or made fit to be a priest of the order of Melchizedek.



# Hebrews 4:14-5:10

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 What does it look like for you to draw near the throne of grace?

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### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 Why do you think people feel that God is far away?

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- 2 How would you answer someone who says, "God doesn't care about our problems or answer our prayers"?

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### Theology

- 1 What does Christ's mediating role as the high priest mean for our access to God now?

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- 2 Why did Jesus have to die for sin?

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- 3 What does Jesus' suffering - His prayers, tears, and obedience - reveal about His humanity?

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#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?

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# Hebrews 5:11-6:3

## BIG IDEA

We must not become lazy in our faith. We are called to continually grow in understanding Christ and His word and to progress in our sanctification.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

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5:11-12: Something had prevented the original audience from growing. They had fallen prey to being coddled in their faith and were used to only being given milk when they needed solid food. You can survive on milk, but it is no way to live.

5:13-14: Those who are used by God are those who are equipped with His word to use His word, and you cannot be equipped if you are living on milk.



# Hebrews 5:11-6:3

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 What are things that keep you from progressing towards solid food, so that you can grow in Christ?
- 2 One reason people stay on milk is that they only see themselves as consumers. Are you tempted to stay a consumer of the faith, rather than someone who pours out into others?

### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 What are the foundational teachings of Christianity?
- 2 How should these teachings impact your evangelism?

### Theology

- 1 How does going deeper in studying theology and God's word impact our growth as Christians?
- 2 What areas of doctrine are you most afraid of diving into?

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?



# Hebrews 6:4-8

## BIG IDEA

The author of Hebrews is warning about those who make a profession of faith, but don't actually know the Lord. Those who commit apostasy may appear to receive the blessings of knowing God, but they are not and were never known by Him. This is a warning to test our faith and to look at the Judaizers in the original context who were examples of having professed faith, yet never truly believed. We can have confidence that God saves His people, and that when people walk away from the faith, it is not because of a lack of God's power, but it is to show that they were never truly Christians (1 John 2:19).

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

6:4: Those who were "enlightened" actually participated in real experiences of God. Jesus warned that He will turn away many who say that they did things in the name of the Lord. This emphasizes that it is not just about a profession of faith, but about a saving faith rooted in Christ.

6:5: The word of God is good to all, and even those who commit apostasy have the privilege of participating in it.

6:6: The state of apostasy is a final state, and so someone who denounces the faith may not be an apostate unable to turn to Christ.

However, at the day of judgment, apostasy charges will be given to those who professed faith and denied that profession. The cross will be of no use to the apostate, and only bring condemnation upon them for having known the truth and rejected it.

6:7-8: The author uses an agricultural example to point out how God sees those who hear the word and become unproductive. This is a direct connection to what God did with Israel, who had become useless and did not have good soil.



# Hebrews 6:4-8

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 Why is what's described in this section more than just a battle against sin?  
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- 2 What helps you cling to Christ, rather than Christian activity and community?  
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### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 How does the warning connect to evangelism?  
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### Theology

- 1 What does this text reveal about simply having head knowledge about God?  
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- 2 Can anyone truly lose a gift that is freely given to them? Look at John 10:28-29, Romans 8:28-30, Philippians 2:6, and John 6:37-39.  
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#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?  
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# Hebrews 6:9-20

## BIG IDEA

The warning against apostasy is real, but believers can have confidence not in their own work, but in God, who has made a promise to save His people.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

6:9-10: The author of Hebrews doesn't apply the warning from before to those who are actually Christians. Christians don't commit apostasy. Rather, they love God and live for Him, because they are loved by Him.

6:11-12: Confidence in the faith leads to a life of imitating the one we have faith in, and it causes us to have zeal for the Christian life. The author wants us to have confidence in our salvation.

6:13-14: Our confidence is not built on our works, but on God, who is the greatest, and the one who made a promise to save a people for Himself.

6:15-16: Abraham did not see the full completion of the promise but did see it partially fulfilled in the birth of Isaac.

6:17-18: We can rest in the promise of God to save all those that call upon His name, because of who He is, namely God is immutable (unchanging), and thus, so are His promises.

6:19-20: Because Jesus entered into the holy place and became the sacrifice on our behalf, we can have Him as the anchor of our salvation and walk with confidence in knowing God.



# Hebrews 6:9-20

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 What gives you confidence in your salvation?

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- 2 Why is hope

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### Theology

- 1 Why is it significant that God is unchangeable?

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- 2 Why is Christian hope not just wishful thinking?

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### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 What do you think the world hopes in?

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- 2 How does Jesus speak to the things that the world hopes in?

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#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?

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# Hebrews 7:1-10

## BIG IDEA

Jesus is the great high priest, and the Old Testament foreshadowed that with a typology (a person or object foreshadowing something in the New Testament). Melchizedek was a type of Christ that pointed to the royal priest Jesus is.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

7:1: In Genesis, Abraham met a king who was also a priest. Jesus is the king and the priest. Jesus is of this priestly order to signify His greatness.

7:2: Abraham understood that Melchizedek was greater than he, so he gave a tenth of all his things to him. Jesus is even greater than Melchizedek, and worthy of infinitely more.

7:3: Melchizedek was a real king, but almost everything about him points to a comparison with Jesus.

Abraham didn't know where he came from, and Jesus truly does have no beginning. Melchizedek was the king of peace, and Jesus is the actual king of peace, and He brings it.

7:4-7: The Levite priests are lesser than Melchizedek, and model in part what he did.

7:8-10: The Levite priests were represented in Abraham, who gave a tenth to Melchizedek. This emphasizes that the Melchizedek order was greater than the Levitical one.



# Hebrews 7:1-10

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 How does seeing Jesus as the royal priest deepen your peace?

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- 2 How does seeing Jesus as the royal priest increase your reverence for Him?

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### Theology

- 1 How does Jesus serve as priest and king?

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- 2 How does the author of Hebrews teach that the Bible, including the Old Testament, is a unified story pointing to Jesus?

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### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 In what ways can you point to the mysterious role of Jesus as the great priest on a daily basis?

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- 2 How can you use the story of Melchizedek to defend Jesus as the eternal God who saves?

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#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?

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# Hebrews 7:11-28

## BIG IDEA

Jesus' sacrifice is not like the sacrifices made by the priests of the Old Testament. It is the final sacrifice, the one that all the others pointed to, and the one that actually pays the penalty for sin.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

7:11-14: The Levitical priesthood could not bring God's people to perfection, so another kind of priest was needed. Jesus came from Judah, a tribe not appointed to priestly service under Moses. Thus, showing that His priesthood introduced a necessary change in the law and prepared the way for a better covenant.

7:15-17: The indestructible life of Jesus solidifies the greatness of His sacrifice and priesthood.

7:18: The law was not supposed to save. It exposed the need for saving, and the sacrifices of the Old Testament pointed forward.

7:19: Jesus' work as a great priest gives us hope that the old sacrifices could never.

7:20-22: Jesus is the guarantor of a better covenant because He is God in the flesh, the one who makes the sacrifice, the one who is the sacrifice, and the one establishing the new covenant through the sacrifice.

7:23-25: Jesus is the eternal priest. Thus, the better priest. He is always interceding on behalf of those who believe in Him and assures that they are declared righteous.

7:26-28: Jesus is holy and exalted forever! He is without sin and is the great priest. The earthly priests were flawed, but were shadows of the Son of God, who is the perfect priest who is a royal priest forever.



# Hebrews 7:11-28

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 Jesus has paid for all of your sins. What fears, shame, or unconfessed sin do you need to bring to Him?
- 2 How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus is mediating on your behalf right now?

### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 What message does the gospel give those who are constantly trying to make themselves better?
- 2 Does anyone intercede for those who are not Christians?

### Theology

- 1 Why could the sacrifices of animals never atone for our sins?
- 2 Why is the hope of Jesus' sacrifice greater than that of what was offered by the priests in the Old Testament?
- 3 In what ways is Jesus different from the priests of old?

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?



# Hebrews 8:1-13

## BIG IDEA

The temple made by man is not where God resides, but He resides in heaven. There, we have a great priest who sits at the right hand of God. The sacrifices of the Old Testament, the temple, and the tabernacle were all shadows of the heavenly temple.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

8:1-2: The reason we look back at the old priests is to better understand just how great the priest in heaven is. Jesus is there now, interceding on our behalf, seated on high.

8:3-4: Jesus' priestly service is of a new order, and thus, He would not have been one if He were not on earth. It is important to remember that Jesus did not do priestly activities while on earth. The offering He gives in heaven is His own body.

8:5: The tent that Moses erected was a copy of what was present in heaven

8:6-7: Jesus' mediating work of the new covenant is greater than the one that had been given to Moses. If Moses' covenant was greater, then there would be no need for Jesus.

8:8-13: The prophecy here comes from Jeremiah. Through him, God promised a covenant that would be unbroken, and that He would be within them. It is the people that God will be within, that God will know intimately, and He will remember their sins no more.



# Hebrews 8:1-13

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 What does Jesus' seated posture reveal about our sins?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Which new-covenant promise do you most need to live from this week: transformed desire, belonging, knowledge of God, or forgiveness? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 How does God's expression that He will know His people meet the desires of people today?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Why do you think people desire to be known?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Theology

- 1 What did the promise of the New Covenant in Jeremiah point to?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 For the Christian, what role does the Old Testament law play if it is obsolete in light of the New Covenant?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 How did the old covenant fail?  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?  
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# Hebrews 9:1-14

## BIG IDEA

In the Old Testament, only the high priest entered the Holy Place repeatedly, though only once a year. They would enter to make sacrifices through the blood of bulls and calves, but Jesus, the better and great high priest, enters into the holy place through His own blood.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

9:1-2: God cared about how He was worshipped in the first covenant, and that has not changed. 9:3-5: The tent demonstrated the care that we should take in our worship of God.

9:6-7: The priests could not enter the Most Holy Place. This was reserved for the high priest. He would enter once a year with blood for himself to sacrifice before making sacrifices on behalf of the people. It is important to point out that the high priests needed to be cleansed of their sins. Jesus does not.

9:8-10: The author points out that the tent is analogous to our present age. As long as this age exists, we will not yet have the consummation in which the new heaven and new earth will be ushered in.

9:11-12: Jesus entered only once to offer the sacrifice to atone for sins. He doesn't need to be continually re-sacrificed because, as the greater high priest, He offered a perfect sacrifice, unstained by sin, unlike the priests before Him.

9:13-14: The old sacrifices of the animals made the priests eligible for their duties in worshipping God, so how much greater is the blood of Christ, who is like us, yet without the stain of sin?



# Hebrews 9:1-14

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 What does this text tell us about how we should approach God?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 How would a cleansed conscience change the way you confess sin, worship, and serve God?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Theology

- 1 How is Jesus' offering greater than that of the high priests before Him?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What could the old gifts and sacrifices accomplish, and what could they not perfect?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 How does Jesus' once-for-all death challenge the idea that we have to constantly get atonement for our sins?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 If Jesus died for all of our sins once, do they have to be punished at any point in time again?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?  
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# Hebrews 9:15-22

## BIG IDEA

Blood brings life, and it is through the blood of Christ that life comes for those who believe in Him.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

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9:15: We are all in need of cleansing from our sins, because we have all transgressed the law. Jesus, the greater high priest, mediates on our behalf by His blood, and makes us righteous.

9:16-17: God's promise was to redeem His people. If we go back to Genesis 3:15, we can see that He promised to do that all along through the shedding of blood and death.

9:18-22: Blood is central to the covenants, and it is only through the shedding of blood that we can have forgiveness for sins. Jesus' death on the cross was a blood sacrifice that results in the forgiveness of sin for all who believe in Him.



# Hebrews 9:15-22

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 What does blood communicate about the seriousness of sin?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 How does that change how you view your sin?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 How should the costliness of Christ's sacrifice impact our view of His grace to save?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 Does the culture view transgressions against God's ways as worthy of death?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 How can you discuss the seriousness of sin with the lost?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Theology

- 1 What does Jesus' death do for those who died before Him and those who died after Him?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Why can forgiveness of sin never be reduced to God pretending that sin does not matter?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?  
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# Hebrews 9:23-10:18

## BIG IDEA

Jesus entered God's presence for all who believe and offered Himself as the once-for-all sacrifice. His sacrificial work is now complete, and those who believe in Him are righteous.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

9:23-24: Christ did not enter the earthly Holy Place, but the presence of God to make a final and completely perfect sacrifice. He did this on our behalf, those who believe.

9:25-26: Jesus is not repeatedly sacrificed for sins. Rather, His death was sufficient and efficient as a one-time deal to wash away sins from the past, present, and future.

9:27-28: Jesus' second coming will not be to die for sins again, but to save those He died for already. We only have one life to live, and we should live it in light of that day.

10:1-4: The sacrifices in the Old Testament had to be repeated, because they reminded the people that their sins were not taken care of through animal sacrifices, and could only be really dealt with in the death of the Messiah.

10:5-7: Everything in the Old Testament pointed to Christ, who was prophesied to die for the sins of God's people.

10:8-10: Jesus' sacrifice did away with the old by being the ultimate and perfect sacrifice.

10:11-14: Jesus perfect sacrifice was accepted, and thus, He has sat down in heaven because His work is complete. Those who are now being sanctified are already perfected in heaven. Believers live in the tension of the "there and not yet" as individuals who are perfect, yet are becoming perfect as they get sanctified by the Spirit.

10:15-18: The Spirit sanctifies believers and leads them in righteousness. He also gives us the peace of God by reminding us that if we have been forgiven, we don't have to worry about God changing His mind. God has truly forgotten our sins.



# Hebrews 9:23-10:18

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 What hope comes from knowing that we are perfected through the blood of Christ and now are being sanctified?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Where do you behave as though another offering, punishment, achievement, or spiritual performance must be added to Jesus' work?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 Do you think people live in light of the fact that one day they will die?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 How can you use conversations about death as a launching point to the gospel?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Theology

- 1 Why is it so important that we understand that the atoning work of Jesus is completed?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What is the significance of Jesus' cleansing work being definitive and final and making us perfect? Do we have to do anything to be perfected?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?  
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# Hebrews 10:19-25

## BIG IDEA

Because Jesus has saved us from our iniquity, we can have confidence in our salvation. We also should live as members of the faith community, so we can stir one another on in the faith.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

10:19: We do not have to be fearful of being rejected by God. He will allow us to enter into His presence and worship Him. Not because we have done something, but because of Jesus' perfect sacrifice.

10:20-21: Jesus' role as great high priest also means that we can have confidence that God will hear our prayers. We are not going to be rejected or mocked by God for bringing our needs to Him.

10:22: Sin and lies of the evil one want us to believe that we can't draw near God, but because of Christ's blood we can.

10:23: We need to remember our profession of faith and the one we have hoped in.

10:24-25: We can remind each other of the hope we have in Christ by gathering together regularly. The normative means for this is on the Lord's Day.



# Hebrews 10:19-25

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

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- 1 Why are you a Christian today?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Are you a part of the local church?  
Why or why not?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 How can you encourage others in  
this group?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Evangelism / Apologetics

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- 1 Have you ever shared your  
testimony with someone who is  
not a Christian?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Theology

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- 1 Does God hear the prayers of  
those who are not being mediated  
by Jesus?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 How important is God's church in  
the plan of sanctifying His people?  
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\_\_\_\_\_

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give  
up this week to be more usable  
for the kingdom of God?  
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# Hebrews 10:26-31

## BIG IDEA

To knowingly repudiate the sacrifice of Christ is to make a mockery of the death of the Son of God.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

10:26: If we see the cross of Christ as a license to sin, we do not understand the sacrifice that has been made for us. If we do this, we are spitting in Christ's face. Grace does not abound that we may sin, but grace does abound when we sin.

10:27: For those who are not under the actual grace of Christ, but seek to abuse it, there is only judgment to come.

10:28: Someone who sets aside the law of Moses turns to idols.

10:29: God was ready to punish those who were committing idolatry under the Mosaic covenant by wiping them out. How much more do you think He will punish those who make light of the cross on which His Son died?

10:30-31: God will not play with sin and will punish those who rebel. It is a dangerous place to be a sinner in the hands of an angry God.



# Hebrews 10:26-31

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 If God doesn't play with sin, should we?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What role does community play in helping you fight sin?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Theology

- 1 Does God have the right to punish sin?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 How does God's holiness separate Him from us?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 How do you engage those who say they are Christians, but abuse the grace of God?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What does the world say about God's hatred of sin?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?  
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# Hebrews 10:32-39

## BIG IDEA

We should remember the faithfulness we once had, and have confidence in God's promises.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

10:32-33: It is good to look back on how God has sanctified us in the past. The original readers faced suffering when they first believed and were encouraged to reflect on it.

10:34: Originally, in the face of suffering, the readers responded with joy and compassion to others. The blessing of those who persecute you only comes from understanding that there is a greater treasure in heaven.

10:35-36: In the face of persecution, we should not grow weary, but remember the hope that we have, so that we may endure to the end.

10:37-38: The righteous live by faith, and they have a confidence in God, knowing that He will save them. True faith does not back down from suffering, but perseveres. Those who have faith are declared righteous, but those who don't are not pleasing to God.

10:39: The Christians are those who have faith, and thus, are righteous.



# Hebrews 10:32-39

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 What encouragement do you draw from those who are persecuted, yet persevere in the faith with confidence in Christ?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 How do you respond to persecution or opposition to your faith?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 When suffering comes, where do most people turn to?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Theology

- 1 What makes someone righteous?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Why do those who are righteous persevere? Think about the perfected statements discussed previously.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?  
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# Hebrews 11:1-40

## BIG IDEA

God has always operated under the plan that faith is what saves. The Hall of Faith is a list of people who lived lives of faith and how God provided for them and saved them.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

11:1-7: Faith treats God's unseen reality and future promise as substantial and certain; creation, Abel, Enoch, and Noah showed trust that acts on God's word. For all of them, faith produced works, not works produced faith.

11:8-22: Abraham and his family obeyed as pilgrims, and sought the better heavenly country and trusted God even when fulfillment appeared impossible. It is to Abraham that the promise of a great nation was given, and that promise is fulfilled through Christ who brings many sons and daughters to glory

11:23-31: Moses and the exodus generation chose to follow God's plan by faith rather than the treasures and simple pleasures afforded to them in Egypt.

11:32-40: Sometimes those who had faith conquered, and sometimes those who had faith suffered without earthly rescue. Yet, all were commended, and all awaited the better fulfillment God prepared. Likewise, we are to have faith and wait for the heavenly reward.



# Hebrews 11:1-40

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 Which of these stories encourages your faith?

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- 2 What does it mean for you to live out your faith on a daily basis?

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### Theology

- 1 How should we define faith?

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- 2 What is the repeated pattern in God's plan of saving His people?

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### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 What do most people think faith is?

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- 2 Do you think people who aren't Christians have faith in things?

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#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?

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# Hebrews 12:1-3

## BIG IDEA

We are not the first believers in God and have a history of God's people that have come before us. We should run the race by remembering the faith of those who have come before us and fixing our eyes on Jesus.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

12:1: Those mentioned in chapter 11, and others, are meant to serve as a witness to the truthfulness of the Christian faith. Their stories are meant to encourage us, and call us to more in this life as we run the race.

12:2: We should live life not looking at the world, but at Jesus. Jesus is the one who has saved us. He established our faith, He made us righteous, and He keeps us.

12:3: When it gets hard to be a Christian, we should consider all that Christ endured, that we may be encouraged to run the race, and finish well.



# Hebrews 12:1-3

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

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- 1 Who encourages you in your faith?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What can you give up this week to consider Jesus more readily?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 What are you tempted to look at instead of Jesus?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Evangelism / Apologetics

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- 1 All of the apostles died horrific deaths except John. What does that say about the authenticity of Christianity?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Theology

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- 1 What role does church history play in your understanding of the Christian faith?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Are there any stories from church history that encourage you?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?  
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# Hebrews 12:4-29

## BIG IDEA

Endurance in the faith comes through knowing Jesus and the loving discipline He brings.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

12:4: We should fight sin and remember that we did not have to shed our own blood for it, but Jesus did.

12:5-8: God disciplines those He loves. He does not let us just wander around in sin, but as a loving father draws us back through chastisement.

12:9-11: Earthly fathers discipline, so how much more should we expect the good God, our heavenly Father, to discipline us well? The discipline is momentary and designed for our good, making us more like Jesus.

12:12-17: We must not continue in sin, and we must help those who are weak in the faith to be strong. As Christians, we should pursue peace and holiness as we fight against unbelief and a life of faithlessness.

12:18-24: Sinai was a terrifying place, and one that was created, but Christians are not called to Sinai. Christians are called to the heavenly Zion, God's joyful assembly, where Jesus the great mediator speaks.

12:25-29: We cannot refuse the God who speaks from Zion. God will come to judge the whole earth, and He will shake away all those who don't believe. However, those who truly believe will not be shaken, because Christ is their righteousness.



# Hebrews 12:4-29

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 How does understanding God's loving discipline impact you?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What are ways that you are fighting sin?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 What does it mean for God to be a consuming fire?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 God's judgment will come. How does this impact your evangelism?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Theology

- 1 What roles do grace, gratitude, reverence, awe, and God's consuming holiness play in our worship?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Compare and contrast Sinai and Zion. Why are they so different?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 What privileges do believers already have through Jesus?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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# Hebrews 13:1-25

## BIG IDEA

The closing chapter is about the supremacy and unchanging grace of Jesus, and the community that is created by it. If we have faith, we are to be marked by these things.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

13:1: Love is at the center of the Christian community.

13:2-6: The brotherly love we are called to have for one another is expressed through caring for the poor, taking care of strangers, remembering the imprisoned, honoring marriage, seeking sexual purity, not being covetous, and resting in knowing God is the great provider.

13:7: There is a need for Christians to remember the leaders of the church and to be submitted to them in the local church.

13:8-16: There were strange teachings rising up in the community of the original audience, and they were called to remember the truth they had been taught. Likewise, we must not get caught up in weird teachings, but focus on what has been revealed, and know only Christ and Him crucified.

13:17-19: Good church leaders matter, because they watch over the souls of the members of the church. This is why church membership matters.

13:20-25: The book concludes with a blessing that the God of peace would equip and give grace to the audience, and us as secondary readers.



# Hebrews 13:1-25

## DISCUSS & APPLY

Move from observation to belief, witness, and everyday faithfulness.

### Christian Living

- 1 What would you say are the marks of the Christian life marked by love?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Looking back over Hebrews, what truth about Jesus most needs to become a lasting in your life?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 How do God's promises strengthen our desire to live a life for Him?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Theology

- 1 Why is the church significant in helping believers walk in purity?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What sacrifices please God now that Jesus has completed the sacrifice for sin?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 How did this book help you understand the gospel?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Evangelism / Apologetics

- 1 Why is it important that a watching world sees how we love one another?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

What would you have to give up this week to be more usable for the kingdom of God?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## OPTIONAL WEEK 25

# Reflect on Hebrews

Look back over the full study and name what God has shown you, exposed in you, and called you to do.

01 Which truth about Jesus most changed the way you understand the gospel?

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02 Which warning exposed a real danger or pattern in your life?

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03 Where did this group help you persevere, confess sin, or take a step of obedience?

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04 Who will you intentionally encourage or disciple because of what you learned?

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05 What shared practice should continue after this study ends?

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06 How did this study change your view of the church?

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07 Will you consider church membership now?

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08 Who in this group has helped you love Jesus more?

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