

T H E B O O K O F H E B R E W S

**STUDY
WITH US**

Glory



**CITY
ON A HILL**

P A R T O N E

INTRODUCTION

STUDY WITH US

Welcome to Study with Us - Part 1 of 3. This booklet contains information and questions to help you study the book of Hebrews in depth. These questions are the same ones we ask in Gospel Community. If you're in a Gospel Community, please study these questions before your meeting. If you're not in one yet, why not join today and study with us in community?

HEBREWS

"Hebrews is one of the most beautifully written, powerfully argued, and theologically profound writings in the New Testament" - Timothy Johnson

The book of Hebrews is for followers of Jesus who have been worn down by the world and need to be reminded of the greatness and glory of Jesus. This epistle is a masterpiece of theology, imagery, and pastoral wisdom, intentionally woven to teach us about the redemption we have in Christ. This letter is written with both encouragement and warnings so that followers of Jesus would 'not grow weary or fainthearted,' but rather be courageous disciples known for their endurance.

GLORY

Hebrews 1-4 focus on the theme of the person of Christ and how he's more glorious than anyone and anything else.

"He is the radiance of the glory of God" - Hebrews 1:3

The author of Hebrews deeply loved Jesus. In the author's eyes, Jesus eclipses all else, surpassing angels, prophets, and even revered figures like Moses, Aaron, and Joshua. His covenant is superior to the old covenant. The biggest theme in Hebrews is: Jesus is better - with the words "better," "more," and "greater" occurring a total of 25 times. There's nothing more glorious, more beautiful, more wonderful, more satisfying than Jesus - so fix your eyes on him. "Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted." - (Hebrews 12:3)

QUESTIONS

- Watch the Bible Project video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fNWTZZwgbs>
- What are your initial impressions or expectations of the Book of Hebrews?
- Have you read/studied it before?
- Is there anything in particular you are excited or apprehensive about?

BIBLE READING & CHALLENGES

To help you study and apply the book of Hebrews follow the reading plan below and complete the weekly challenges.

WK	PASSAGE	THEME	CHALLENGE
1	Hebrews 1:1-14 Psalm 19 Psalm 119:105	Glory	Memorise & meditate the following verse about the glory of Jesus (Hebrews 1:3)
2	Hebrews 2:1-18 Psalm 22 Isaiah 53:1-12	Temptation	Fast for 24 hours before Gospel Community.
3	Hebrews 3:1-19 Psalm 16 Isaiah 9:6-7	Counselling	Reflect and name one area in your life where you are struggling with unbelief, and then invite counsel from someone specific.
4	Hebrews 4:1-13 Psalm 23 Genesis 2:1-3	Sabbath	Rest for one day this week and memorise the Bedtime Shema prayer.

THE REVELATION

Hebrews 1:1-14

SERMON

1. What were you encouraged or challenged by in the sermon?
2. What questions do you still have about this text?

HEBREWS 1:1-14

1. What strikes you most about this chapter?
2. Reread Hebrews 1:1-4 and then list everything God has done and then list everything the Son has done.
3. What do these verses reveal about the Son? Jesus is
4. Reread Hebrews 1:4-14. Who is 'speaking' these words?
5. The author presents seven Old Testament quotations about the Son and angels.
 - Why do you think the author is making this comparison?
 - What might have been the recipients' view of angels?

Note: The book of Hebrews frequently references the Old Testament, showing the author's deep familiarity with it. Sometimes the Old Testament is used in unique ways, while other times, the author clearly engages with specific passages or events in his arguments.

6. Look up the following passages:

- Psalm 2
- 2 Sam 7:4-16
- Psalm 45 (*note: v.6, the psalmist is addressing the king as God's representative*)
- Psalm 102 (*esp 12-27*)
- Psalm 110

And answer the following questions:

- a. Who is this passage talking about?
- b. Compare it with how the OT quotation is used in Hebrews 1; who does this passage refer to?
- c. What claim do you think the author is making about Jesus here?

7. The early church may have been tempted to worship angels, or to obsess over spiritual beings generally rather than centring their worship of Christ. (E.g. Rev 19:10)

- a. Where in our culture do you see something similar happening?
- b. How might you respond to those situations in light of Hebrews 1?

8. What characteristic of Jesus stands out to you the most, and why?

- a. How does that help you worship and glorify him?
- b. What comfort or encouragement does that reality bring?

PRAYER

Take some time to worship Jesus for what this chapter reveals about him. Praise him in prayer, and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal more of his glory to you.

THE SAVIOUR

Hebrews 2:1-18

SERMON

1. What were you encouraged or challenged by in the sermon?
2. What questions do you still have about this text?

HEBREWS 2:1-18

1. What strikes you most about this chapter?
2. Look up Psalm 8; Genesis 1:26-28 and consider:
 - a. What role was humanity given by God?
 - b. What does Hebrews 2 reveal about the current state of humanity? Are they fulfilling their God-given role?
3. There are a lot of pronouns in this passage (he, him, his), and sometimes it can get a little confusing about who is being referred to! Walk through verses 8-12, and for each pronoun, identify whether it refers to:
 - i. God the Father
 - ii. Jesus
 - iii. Humankind
4. Look back at last week's list of everything revealed about Jesus in Hebrews ch1.
 - a. What is repeated in Hebrews 2?
 - b. What else do we learn about Jesus in this passage? Add it to your list
 - c. Draw a diagram that describes Jesus' position in relation to God, angels, other people and creation, according to Hebrews 1-2.

5. Perfection in Hebrews carries a sense of completeness. How is Jesus 'made perfect' through suffering (v10)? How do you think his suffering helps in his role as a 'merciful and faithful high priest'? (We'll look more at Jesus' role as high priest in later weeks).

6. What does it mean that 'he who sanctifies and those being sanctified have the one source' [lit. 'of one']? Compare different English translations to help you.

7. According to this passage, why is it important that Jesus 'was made like his brothers' and is 'not ashamed to call them brothers (v17, 11)?

8. Draw a comparison table. On one side, write: Because Jesus became human... and on the other write: If Jesus didn't become human...

For each side, what would the impact be for:

- a. Your relationship with Jesus?
- b. Your relationship with God?
- c. Your relationship with the rest of creation?
- d. Your relationship with death?

9. Jesus is Lord of the world to come, and is 'crowned with glory and honour' (v 9). He also brings many sons (and daughters) to glory.

- a. What does that mean for believers? What do we have to look forward to?
- b. Can you think of any Bible passages that give a picture of 'the world to come'?
- c. How does this promise of glory with Jesus help you to trust him now?

10. Look back at what you have learned about Jesus from this passage. What comfort or encouragement can you find in Jesus when you experience suffering and temptation?

PRAYER

- Thank Jesus for becoming 'for a little while lower than the angels' for our sake.
- Ask for help in resisting temptation this week, remembering that Jesus is able to help us in the face of temptation.
- Praise God for the glorious inheritance we share in Christ Jesus.

THE COUNSELLOR

Hebrews 3:1-19

SERMON

1. What were you encouraged or challenged by in the sermon?
2. What questions do you still have about this text?

HEBREWS 3:1-19

1. Read Hebrews 3:1-6.
 - a. How does this passage present Moses and Jesus?
 - b. What do you think it means to be God's 'house'?
 - c. Add to your ongoing list anything you learn about Jesus from these verses.
2. Read Hebrews 3:7-19.
 - a. Who 'speaks' this psalm in the present?
 - b. What do you think is the significance of this Scripture being spoken by him? How does this shape our understanding of the Bible? (*think back to our teaching series on the Holy Spirit*).
 - c. Does it raise any new questions for you about the Bible?
3. Look up Exodus 19 and Numbers 13-14.
 - a. Summarise what happens in these episodes between Israel and God.
 - b. How would you describe the Israelites in these chapters?

4. Look back at Hebrews 3.

- a. Draw a heart in the centre of some paper or a tablet. With words or pictures, describe as much as you can about the heart we read about in this passage.
- b. What strikes you most about this description?
- c. Thinking back over the last week, how would you describe your own heart towards God?

5. Reread Hebrews 3:13-14.

- a. What does it mean that we all 'share in Christ'? How does that relate to the warning in verse 12?
- b. The passage instructs us to 'take care' that none of us turn to unbelief, and to 'exhort one another everyday'.
 - i. Can you think of a time when someone encouraged you to continue trusting Jesus?
 - ii. How can you apply this instruction?
 - iii. What is one way you can personally encourage another believer this week?

PRAYER

- Spend some time confessing where your heart is prone to wander.
- Pray for help to remember Jesus' work for us and the blessings we have in him.
- Thank the Holy Spirit for speaking this warning for our benefit, and thank our Father for giving us a church family to help keep our hearts set on Jesus.
- If appropriate, pray for someone you know who may be struggling to trust and obey Jesus.

THE REST-GIVER

Hebrews 4:1-13

SERMON

1. What were you encouraged or challenged by in the sermon?
2. What questions do you still have about this text?

HEBREWS 4:1-13

1. What is rest? What does it look like in our culture to rest?
2. Read Hebrews 4:1-13.

Note: A big theme in chapters 3-4 is God's rest. This study is going to look a little different, as we track through what God reveals about rest in the Bible.

3. For each reading below ask: How is rest/Sabbath/peace understood in this context?

Beginnings of rest

Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:8-11, 23:10-12, Exod 31:12-17; Deut 5:12-15, Deut 12: 8-12

Disrupted/temporary rest

Numbers 13-14; Joshua 23; Judges 3; 1 Chron 22:6-10, Lam 1:1-3

Anticipated rest

Jer 50:33-34; Isa 11:1-10, 61:1-4, Psalm 95

Jesus and rest

Matt 11:28-29; Luke 4:16-21, Luke 6:1-11, Luke 13:10-17, Luke 19:41-44

Resting with God/future rest

John 14:1-3, Heb 3-4, 2 Cor 4:13-5:5, Revelation 21-22

4. How would you summarise the way God reveals his plan of rest to his people?
5. What difference does this spiritual rest make to our daily lives?
6. How does it affect our relationship/communion with God?
7. How does it affect our weekly routine, our attitude to work and leisure?
8. Where are we tempted to seek rest apart from Jesus?
9. What is the relationship between the spiritual rest we experience now and the future rest we will have with God? How does our future hope shape our present experience?
10. Verse 11 exhorts us to 'strive to enter that rest'. Read 4:12-13. What do verses 12-13 say about the word of God?
 - a. What does this mean for those who do not listen and obey God's voice?
 - b. How can it encourage us to keep believing and obeying God's word?
11. Take some time to remember and enjoy the spiritual rest you have in Jesus. Listen to your favourite worship songs and meditate on some of the passages you read about future rest with God.

PRAYER

- Thank God for drawing us into his rest:
 - For rescuing us from slavery to sin
 - For the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives
 - For the hope we have of resurrection, the new creation, and life with Christ forever.
- Ask God to protect us from lies that cause us to seek salvation in something other than Christ.



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