

Community Groups

Discover | Connect | Serve



*“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” – **Hebrews 10:23-25** (NIV)*

Why Community Groups?

Because God created us to live life in the context of relationships! A Community Group is an opportunity for you to connect with others as you experience real life-change in your Christian walk.

What is a Community Group?

A “small group” of 6-10 people who “do life” together as they grow in their love for God, His word, and others. **Community Groups** encourage folks to take their next step spiritually as they: (1) **Discover** God and His grace, (2) **Connect** with others in life-transforming relationships, and (3) **Serve** the church and the world.

Thus, a **Community Group** is an environment where we are transformed more and more into the image of Jesus Christ (*Romans 8:29-30*). Our conviction is that “real life-change only happens in the context of biblical community.”

In addition to this, a **Community Group** is also a place for folks to have fun as they celebrate and share life together! Come join us!

Our journey begins with a study of the epistle (or letter) to the **Hebrews**. The following Study Guide is intended to immerse you into God’s word so that you will grow closer to Him in the context of life-transforming relationships.

Topeka Bible Church
1135 SW College Ave. Topeka, KS 66614 | (785) 234-5545 | www.DiscoverTBC.com

Discover | Connect | Serve

Community Groups | TBC

Study 1 | Hebrews 1:1-14

Background:

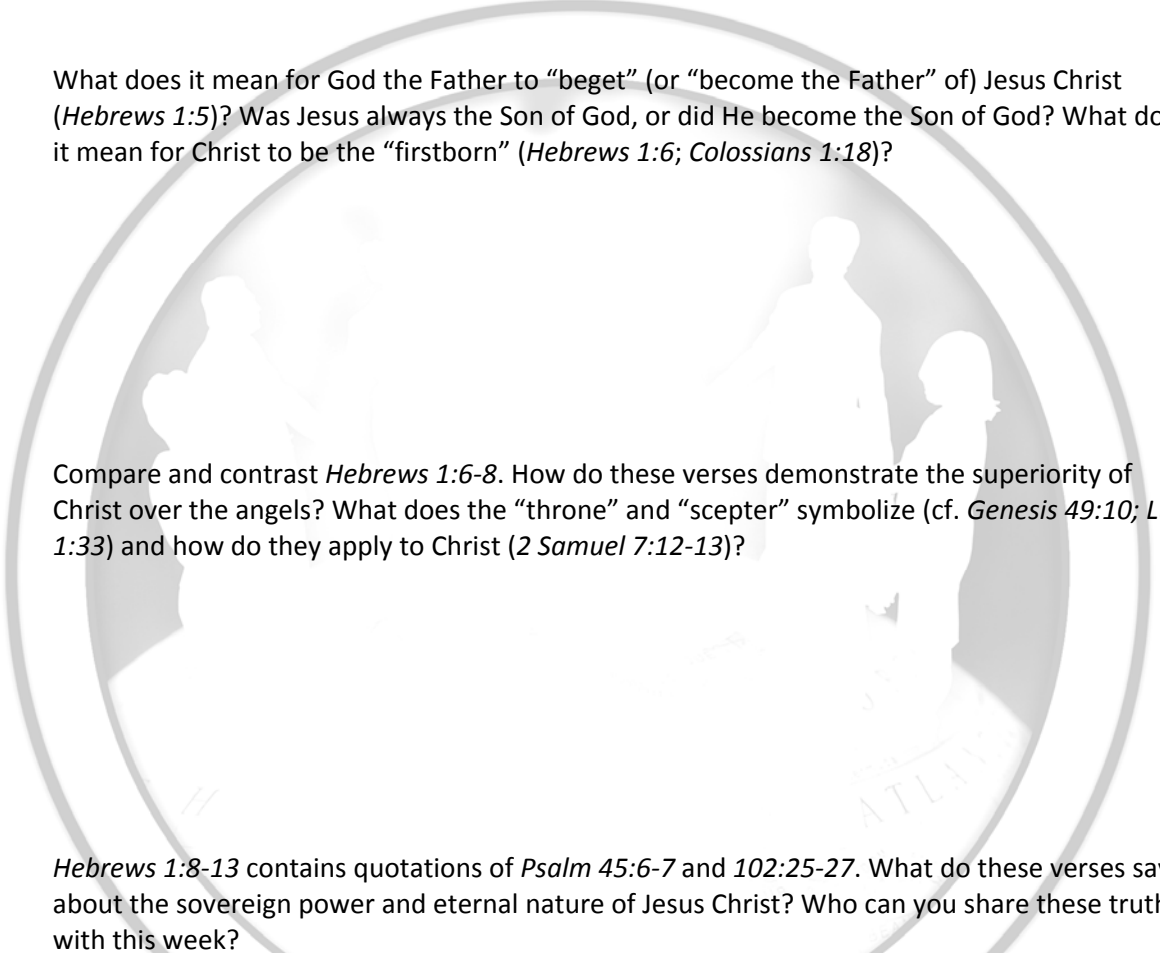
Author: The author of the epistle to the Hebrews is unknown.

Date written: c. A.D. 62.

Written To: First century Jewish Christians (both genuine and professing) to encourage them not to revert back to their Jewish faith, but rather to hold fast to their faith in Jesus Christ, the superior mediator of superior blessings of salvation through the New Covenant.

Notice the rich use of Old Testament language here by the author to demonstrate the supremacy of Jesus Christ over the angels!

1. What does it mean for the prophets to speak “at times” or “in portions” (*Hebrews 1:1*; cf. *Acts 3:21*)? What does the author mean by “last days” (*Hebrews 1:2*)? Does this refer to the end times or something else (*Hebrews 9:26*; *1 Peter 1:20*)?
2. What does it mean for Jesus Christ to be “appointed heir of all things” (*Hebrews 1:2*; cf. *1 Corinthians 8:6b*; *Colossians 1:15-17*)? If we are co-heirs with Christ (*Romans 8:17*, *Galatians 3:29*), what does this phrase mean for us?
3. The “right hand” refers to the place of power and privilege. What does it mean for Jesus Christ to sit at the right hand of God the Father (*Hebrews 1:2*; *12:2*; See *Psalms 110:1*)? How is Jesus the “exact representation” of God’s being/nature (*Hebrews 1:3*, cf. *Colossians 1:15, 19* and *Philippians 2:5-8*)?

- 
4. One of the major themes of the book of Hebrews is the supremacy of Jesus Christ. With this in mind, how is the name of Jesus Christ more excellent/superior than that of the angels (*Hebrews 1:4; Acts 4:12; Philippians 2:9*)?

 5. What does it mean for God the Father to “beget” (or “become the Father” of) Jesus Christ (*Hebrews 1:5*)? Was Jesus always the Son of God, or did He become the Son of God? What does it mean for Christ to be the “firstborn” (*Hebrews 1:6; Colossians 1:18*)?

 6. Compare and contrast *Hebrews 1:6-8*. How do these verses demonstrate the superiority of Christ over the angels? What does the “throne” and “scepter” symbolize (cf. *Genesis 49:10; Luke 1:33*) and how do they apply to Christ (*2 Samuel 7:12-13*)?

 7. *Hebrews 1:8-13* contains quotations of *Psalms 45:6-7* and *102:25-27*. What do these verses say about the sovereign power and eternal nature of Jesus Christ? Who can you share these truths with this week?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 1:2 – “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.” (ESV)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 2 | Hebrews 2:1-17

Jesus Christ, who became fully human and shared in the entirety of our human experience, has freed us from the power of death through His own death on the cross.

1. Why does the author warn us to “pay attention” (*Hebrews 2:1*)? Are you “paying attention”? What does it mean to “drift away” (*Hebrews 2:1*; cf. *6:6*)? How is this connected to neglecting our “great salvation” (*Hebrews 2:3*; *10:29*)?
2. Read *Hebrews 2:6-8* and *Psalms 8:4-6*. Do you notice any differences between the two? What does it mean for Jesus to be “made lower” (*Hebrews 2:7*; *Philippians 2:5-8*)?
3. Do you believe that God the Father has subjected everything to Jesus Christ the Son (*Hebrews 2:8*)? Why or why not? What does this mean (*Colossians 1:17*; *1 Corinthians 15:24-25*)? Does this truth encourage you when you experience trials?
4. How did Christ’s suffering and death result in His being crowned with glory and honor (*Hebrews 2:9*; *Philippians 2:9-11*)? How exactly did Christ perfect our salvation through His sufferings (*Hebrews 2:10*; *Acts 5:30-31*; *2 Corinthians 5:21*)?

5. Why did Jesus Christ have to be fully human as well as fully divine (*Hebrews 2:14, 17*)? How did He render the devil powerless (*2 Timothy 1:10; 1 Corinthians 15:25-26*)? If this is true, why do we still experience death and temptation from Satan (cf. *Romans 8:20-22*)?

6. Do you fear death (*Hebrews 2:15*)? How does this fear subject you to slavery? What does freedom look like (*Romans 6:14; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57*)? What does “atonement” (NIV) or “propitiation” (NASB) mean (*Hebrews 2:17*; see *Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2*)?

7. How was Christ tempted (*Hebrews 2:18; Matthew 4:1-11*)? Do you really believe that He is able to come to your aid when you are tempted (*Hebrews 4:15; 1 Corinthians 10:13*)? How should we respond to this truth?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 2:18 – “For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.” (ESV)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 3 | Hebrews 3:1-19

Jesus is shown to be superior to Moses, God's great servant of old. We are warned not to share the unbelief of the Israelites who failed to enter "rest" in the Promised Land.

1. What does it mean to share or participate in a "heavenly calling" (*Hebrews 3:1; 1 Corinthians 1:9*)? How consistently do you think about this heavenly calling (*2 Thessalonians 2:13-14*)? What does it mean for Jesus to be an "apostle?"
2. What impact would mentioning Moses have on the Jewish Christians reading this letter (*Hebrews 3:2*)? How is Christ, the Son (*Hebrews 3:6*) compared to Moses, the servant (*Hebrews 3:5*; cf. *Deuteronomy 18:15*)? How does this contribute to the author's argument for the supremacy of Christ?
3. What does it mean for God to be the builder of "all things" (*Hebrews 3:4; 2:10; Psalm 127:1*; cf. *Genesis 1:1*)? Have you ever built something and taken pride in it? Does God take pride in what He has built?
4. Do you hold firmly to the confidence and hope that is found in Christ (*Hebrews 3:6; 4:14; 1 Corinthians 15:1-2*)? What happens when someone fails to do this (*Hebrews 10:35-36*)? How does God ensure us that we will persevere (*2 Corinthians 12:9; Ephesians 1:13-14*)?

5. Why did the Israelites wander in the wilderness for 40 years (*Numbers 14:26-35; Hebrews 3:9-10; Psalm 95:10*)? Why is the heart so important to God (*Hebrews 3:8; Psalm 95:8*)? Is it possible for a Christian to harden his heart before God as the author describes (*Hebrews 3:12*)?

6. What specific sin are the Hebrews warned against here (*Hebrews 3:12-13*, see also *10:23-25*)? Why is this particular sin so “deceitful?” (*Genesis 3:1; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 1 Peter 5:8*)? Have you ever helped anyone avoid this sin?

7. What does it mean to “share/partake” in Christ (*Hebrews 3:14; 2 Peter 1:4*)? Notice the sequence of events for the Israelites in *Hebrews 3:16-19* (cf. *Psalm 106:24-27*): Disbelief ... Disobedience ... Consequences. How should their negative example spur you on towards faith and obedience (*1 Corinthians 10:11-12*)?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 3:13 – “But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” (ESV)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 4 | Hebrews 4:1-13

The author places an emphasis on obedience here. As God's people, we can expect to experience a future "Sabbath rest" if we stay faithful to Him.

1. How might we fall short of God's rest (*Hebrews 4:1*)? What does it mean to unite your "hearing" of God's word with "faith" and how does this impact your entrance into God's rest (*Hebrews 4:2*; cf. *1 Thessalonians 2:13*)?
2. How is God used as an example of "rest" in *Hebrews 4:4* (cf. *Genesis 2:1-3*)? How might this have impacted Jewish Christians who still observed the Sabbath Day (*Exodus 20:8-11*; *Jeremiah 17:21-22*)?
3. Why did some fail to enter God's rest (*Hebrews 4:6, 11*; *3:18*; *Psalms 95:11*)? What is the connection between disbelief (*Hebrews 4:7*; *Psalms 95:7-8*) and disobedience (*Hebrews 4:6*)? Can a Christian disobey in this way (*Ephesians 2:2*; *5:6*)?
4. Joshua led Israel into the land, where they experienced physical "rest" for a while (*Hebrews 4:8*). What role did obedience play in their experiencing of that rest (*Joshua 22:4-5*)? Why did earlier generations of Israelites fail to experience this same rest (*1 Corinthians 10:5-11*)?

5. How will the “Sabbath rest” in *Hebrews 4:9* differ from this physical rest of *Joshua 22:4*? When will we experience this rest (*Hebrews 4:10*; cf. *Revelation 14:13*)? What will this look like? Does the prospect of this rest encourage you to trust and obey God?

6. How is God’s spoken word (the Bible) described in *Hebrews 4:12* (cf. *1 Peter 1:23*)? How is God described in *Hebrews 4:13* (cf. *Psalms 33:13-15*)? How do these descriptions encourage and challenge us towards a life of fuller obedience?

7. We know that salvation is never on the basis of our works (*Ephesians 2:8-9*; *Titus 3:5*). Still, our works indicate that we are abiding/remaining in Christ (*John 15:5*). How can you, by God’s grace, demonstrate your faith by your works this week (*James 2:17*)?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 4:9 – “So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.” (ESV)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 5 | Hebrews 4:14-5:14

Jesus Christ is the great and perfect High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. Because of what He has done, we can approach God with humble confidence!

1. How is Jesus different from other high priests (*Hebrews 4:14*)? Do you believe that Jesus sympathizes with your weaknesses when you are tempted (*Hebrews 4:15; 2:18*)? What difference does this make (*Hebrews 4:16; 10:19; Ephesians 4:12; 1 John 2:28*)?
2. Read *Hebrews 5:1-3*. Note some more differences as well as some similarities between Jesus and other high priests (*Leviticus 9:7; 16:6; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 2:1-2*).
3. How do you define “humility?” Why is humility important when we serve God (*Hebrews 5:4-5*)? How did Jesus model this humility (*Philippians 2:5-8*)? Is God calling you to grow in humility (*Isaiah 66:2; Ephesians 4:2; Philippians 2:3*)?
4. *Hebrews 5:5* quotes *Psalms 2:7*. In what way did God “become” the Father of Jesus the Son? If the mysterious man Melchizedek was a priest and king (*Genesis 14:18-20*), how is he similar to Jesus Christ (*Psalms 110:4; Revelation 19:16*)?

5. How did Jesus “learn obedience” through His suffering (*Hebrews 5:8; Philippians 2:8*)? Have you ever learned obedience through your suffering? What did Christ’s suffering accomplish for Himself (*Hebrews 5:9*) and for us (*2 Corinthians 8:9*)?

6. Why were the Hebrews “dull of hearing/slow to learn” (*Hebrews 5:11*)? What is the author referring to when he writes about “milk” versus “solid food” (*Hebrews 5:12*; see other authors’ uses of these terms in *1 Corinthians 3:2; 1 Peter 2:2*)?

7. How are mature people “trained” in *Hebrews 5:14*? What role do “practice” (obedience) and self discipline play in this “training” (*1 Timothy 4:8*) and what is the result of it (*Philippians 1:9-10*)? How can you “train” this week and digest solid food?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 4:16 – “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.” (ESV)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 6 | Hebrews 6:1-12

The author challenges his readers to pursue maturity in the faith and warns them not to “fall away.” May we all be exhorted to remain diligent in the pursuit of Christ!

1. What are the “elementary teachings” about Christ and why were the readers stuck in them (*Hebrews 6:1-2; 5:12; cf. 1 Corinthians 3:2*)? How might “head knowledge” of the Bible keep us stuck in these elementary teachings?
2. Who is the author describing in *Hebrews 6:4-5*? Are these individuals saved or unsaved? What leads you to your conclusion? Do you believe that someone can lose their salvation (*John 6:39; 10:27-28; Ephesians 1:13-14*)? Why or why not?
3. What have these individuals done to “fall away” or commit “apostasy” (*Hebrews 6:6; 2:1; 3:12*)? What does “renewing to repentance” mean? How are these people re-crucifying Jesus Christ and shaming Him?
4. What message is the author of Hebrews communicating through his illustration of the flourishing crop (*Hebrews 6:7*)? Who gives the blessing of this crop? Who receives it (*Luke 8:15; Proverbs 11:30*)?

5. Contrast the previous illustration to that given in *Hebrews 6:8*. What are the thorns and thistles (cf. *Luke 8:13-14*)? What is the relationship between these two kinds of plants and obedience (or disobedience) to God's teachings?

6. What "better things" was the author referring to and how do they relate to what he previously wrote (*Hebrews 6:9; Philippians 1:6*)? What was the author encouraging his readers to continue doing (*Hebrews 6:10; 1 John 2:10*)?

7. Do you struggle to remain diligent in your Christian faith? Why is it important to remain so (*Hebrews 6:11; Galatians 6:9*)? How can you avoid becoming lazy in your faith (*Hebrews 6:12*)? Who can you look to as a model of diligence (*Hebrews 13:7; 1 John 2:6*)?

Memory Verses:

Hebrews 6:11-12 – "And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, (12) so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises." (NASB)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 7 | Hebrews 6:13-20

The author illustrates God's faithfulness through the story of Abraham. God was faithful to Abraham and, through Jesus Christ, God will also be faithful to us, which gives us hope!

1. What promise did God make to Abraham (*Hebrews 6:13; Genesis 22:17; cf. 12:1-3; 13:15-16; 18:18*)? Why were these promises significant to Abraham (*Genesis 12:4; 17:1; 21:5*)? Why are they significant to us (*Galatians 3:29; 4:28*)?
2. Why did God swear by Himself (*Hebrews 6:13-14; Genesis 22:16-17*)? How did this offer Abraham assurance of God's promise (*Galatians 3:18*)? Has God made certain promises to you that encourage you (cf. *Acts 18:10; Ephesians 1:7-8*)?
3. If God promises something, won't He fulfill His promise (*Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2*)? Why then is Abraham's perseverance emphasized (*Hebrews 6:15; cf. Genesis 22:10-12*)? What are we to take away from Abraham's example (*Hebrews 6:12*)?
4. Why did God swear and oath and to whom did He swear it (*Hebrews 6:16-17*)? Is this the same as God swearing by Himself? How have we benefitted from this oath (*Romans 4:16; Galatians 3:9*)?

5. Are you encouraged by God's oath to Abraham (*Hebrews 6:18*)? Why should this oath help us to hold fast to our hope in Jesus Christ (*Hebrews 3:6; Romans 5:5; 8:24-25; 15:4*)? What can cause us to waver in our hope (*1 Peter 5:8-9*)?

6. What did Jesus do in order to give us hope as an "anchor for our souls" (*Hebrews 6:19; Romans 5:8-11*)? What is the curtain and how does this curtain pertain to Jesus (*Hebrews 6:20; Leviticus 16:2; Mark 15:37-38*)?

7. We will look at the figure of Melchizedek over the next several studies. Thus, meditate on the role of Jesus as a priest (*Hebrews 6:20; 2:17; 4:14; 9:11-12*). What practical difference does Jesus' role as our High Priest make in your daily living? Does He give you hope?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 6:19 – "We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain." (ESV)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 8 | Hebrews 7:1-10

The author begins to build the case for Christ's superiority by likening Jesus to the priest-king Melchizedek, who encountered Abraham in the Old Testament.

1. Let's think about this mysterious Melchizedek character (*Hebrews 7:1; Genesis 14:18*). Where was Salem (cf. *Psalms 76:1-2*)? How could he be a priest of God if Aaron and his priestly descendants had not yet been born (*Exodus 27:21; 28:41*)?
2. What is significant about Melchizedek blessing Abraham (*Hebrews 7:1, 7; Genesis 14:19-20*)? What is significant about Abraham giving Melchizedek a tenth of his plunder (*Hebrews 7:2, 4; cf. Deuteronomy 14:22*)?
3. What does "Melchizedek" mean (*Hebrews 7:2*)? What does "Salem" mean? Why are these terms significant when thinking about Jesus Christ and Melchizedek (*Romans 8:10; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 9:6; Luke 2:12-14; Romans 5:1*)?
4. Based on *Hebrews 7:3*, some scholars believe that Melchizedek was an appearance of Christ in the Old Testament (cf. *John 1:1*). What do you think? How might this verse be more illustrative than anything else?

5. Who received the tithes (or “tenth”) according to the Old/Mosaic Law (*Hebrews 7:5; Numbers 18:21; 2 Chronicles 31:4*)? What was different about Melchizedek receiving a tithe from Abraham (*Hebrews 7:6*)?

6. In what sense does Melchizedek “live on” (*Hebrews 7:8*)? Does this mean living physically or something else (*Psalms 110:4; Hebrews 5:6*)? In what sense did Levi “pay tithes” when Abraham paid Melchizedek (*Hebrews 7:9-10; cf. Numbers 18:26*)?

7. While this discussion about Melchizedek, Abraham, and Levi can get quite confusing, keep in mind the following questions: Whose priesthood is greater – Melchizedek’s or Aaron’s (i.e. Levi’s). Who is Jesus likened to (*Hebrews 6:20*)? What does this say about Jesus?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 7:3 – “He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.” (ESV)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 9 | Hebrews 7:11-28

We take a deeper look at the priesthood of Jesus Christ, using Melchizedek as a backdrop. Unlike Aaron's Levitical priesthood, Jesus' is an eternal one!

1. Was the Mosaic Law intended to bring perfection (*Hebrews 7:11*; cf. *Galatians 3:24*)? What has happened to the law now that Jesus has come (*Hebrews 7:12*; *Galatians 3:25*; cf. *Matthew 5:17*; *John 1:17*)?
2. Why does the author mention Jesus being of the tribe of Judah (*Hebrews 7:13-14*; *Genesis 49:10*)? Were those from Judah priests? If not, then how could Jesus be a priest if He was not from the lineage of Levi like Aaron was (*Numbers 18:1-2*)?
3. According to *Hebrews 7:16*, what distinguishes Jesus' priesthood from all others? What is an "indestructible life" (cf. *Colossians 1:17-18*; *Psalms 102:12*)? How does this indestructible life relate to Melchizedek (*Hebrews 7:17*; *7:3*)?
4. Why was the Mosaic Law "weak" (*Hebrews 7:18*; *Romans 8:3*; *Acts 13:39*)? What does Jesus offer us (*Hebrews 7:19*; *4:16*; *1 Peter 1:3*)? Do you share this same hope? If not, what holds you back?

5. Did Jesus actually swear an oath (*Hebrews 7:20-21*)? Why do you think that the author of *Hebrews* quotes *Psalms 110:4* so frequently? What is the “better covenant” and how did Jesus guarantee it (*Hebrews 7:22; 8:6; Luke 22:20*)?

6. According to *Hebrews 7:23-24*, what distinguishes Jesus’ priesthood from all others? What does the permanence of Jesus’ priesthood allow Him to do (*Hebrews 7:25; cf. Romans 8:34; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 1 John 2:1*)?

7. Praise God for our exalted High Priest, Jesus (*Hebrews 7:26*)! His perfect sacrifice for sins (*Hebrews 7:27; 2:17; 1 Peter 3:18*) and perpetual priesthood (*Hebrews 7:28*) should move us to worship and thanksgiving (cf. *Revelation 5:12-13*). Take some time and do that now.

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 7:25 – “Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” (NASB)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 10 | Hebrews 8:1-13

The discussion of Jesus as the great High Priest now turns its focus to the New Covenant, of which Jesus is the mediator. This is a superior covenant founded on better promise!

1. What is the main point that the author is getting at in *Hebrews 8:1*? Where did Jesus go after His ascension and why is this significant (*Acts 2:33; Romans 8:34; Mark 16:19; cf. Psalm 110:1*)?
2. Where exactly does Jesus serve or minister (*Hebrews 8:2; 9:11*)? Who set up this tabernacle and why is this significant? What did Jesus, as our High Priest, have to offer (*Hebrews 8:3; 9:14; Ephesians 5:2*)?
3. If Jesus is not an earthly priest, what kind of priest is He (*Hebrews 8:4; 7:26*)? How does the earthly tabernacle relate to the place where Jesus ministers (*Hebrews 8:5; 9:23; 10:1; cf. Colossians 2:17*)?
4. Why does the author mention Moses (*Hebrews 8:5; Exodus 25:9, 40*)? Why is Jesus' ministry superior to that of Moses or Aaron (*Hebrews 8:6*)? What covenant does He mediate and what are its promises (*Luke 22:20; 2 Corinthians 3:6*)?

5. Why was the first (or Mosaic) covenant flawed (*Hebrews 8:7; 7:18; Acts 13:38-39*)? What if God had never instituted a new covenant? Are you thankful for the New Covenant that He has put in place?

6. *Hebrews 8:9-12* is a quotation of *Jeremiah 31:31-34*, one of the most famous New Covenant passages in the Old Testament. To whom was this covenant given and how will it be different (*Hebrews 8:8; 10; Ezekiel 36:26-28; Romans 11:27; Revelation 21:3*)

7. Do you think this New Covenant is taking place right now? Is it taking place in some ways, but not others (*Hebrews 8:11-12*)? As Christians, do we participate in this covenant or is it solely for the Jews (cf. *Romans 11:17; 2 Corinthians 3:3*)?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 8:6 – “But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.”

Community Groups | TBC

Study 11 | Hebrews 9:1-14

The supremacy of Jesus Christ (as the great High Priest) is illustrated by contrasting the earthly tabernacle and the heavenly (and more perfect) tabernacle that Christ entered!

1. How is worship described under the first covenant (*Hebrews 9:1*)? What was the tent/tabernacle (*Exodus 25:8; 36:1*) and what was the purpose of the “Holy Place” (*Hebrews 9:2; Leviticus 14:13; 16:24*)?
2. What was the purpose of the “Most Holy Place” or “Holy of Holies” (*Hebrews 9:3; Exodus 26:33; 25:22*)? What was inside the ark of the covenant and why were these articles significant (*Hebrews 9:4; Exodus 16:33-34; 31:18; Numbers 17:8-10*)?
3. What distinguished the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place (*Hebrews 9:6-7*)? How often did the High Priest enter the Most Holy Place (*Exodus 30:10; Leviticus 16:34*)? Why did he offer sacrifices there (*Hebrews 5:3; Leviticus 16:6; Numbers 15:25*)?
4. What were the limitations of the sacrificial system under the Mosaic Covenant; (*Hebrews 9:8-9; 10:4*)? Why would God establish this old system if it was ultimately imperfect and destined to pass away (*Hebrews 9:10; 8:13; Ephesians 1:9; 3:8-10*)?

5. How does the ministry of Jesus Christ differ from the old system (*Hebrews 9:11; 7:26; 8:6*)? What kind of tent (or tabernacle) did Christ enter (cf. *Acts 17:24; Hebrews 8:1-2*)?

6. Does anything astound you about Christ's sacrifice (*Hebrews 9:12*)? How was He able to "enter" the Most Holy Place (*Mark 16:19; Hebrews 1:3; 4:14*)? How did His sacrifice differ from all others that came before (*Hebrews 7:27; Romans 3:25*)?

7. What did the blood of animals purify or sanctify (*Hebrews 9:13; Leviticus 16:15-16; Numbers 19:9*)? What did the blood of Christ purify (*Hebrews 9:14; cf. Revelation 5:9; 1 John 4:10*)? In light of Christ's vastly superior sacrifice, how are we to respond?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 9:12 – "he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption." (ESV)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 12 | Hebrews 9:15-28

Jesus Christ has secured out eternal inheritance through His death. He did not die over and over, but once for all to bring us great salvation and great hope!

1. What does it mean for Jesus to be the “mediator” of the New Covenant (*Hebrews 9:15; 8:6; 1 Timothy 2:5*)? How did He accomplish this role as mediator (*Matthew 26:28; cf. 1 Corinthians 15:3*)? What is the result for us (*1 Peter 1:3-5*)?
2. Why is it necessary for one to die in order for a covenant (or will) to go into effect (*Hebrews 9:16-17*)? How was the first covenant inaugurated or put into effect (*Hebrews 9:18; Exodus 24:4-6*)?
3. Why did Moses sprinkle the book of the law and the people of Israel with blood (*Hebrew 9:19*)? What did this act signify (*Hebrews 9:20; Exodus 24:7-8*)? Would you have been offended if you had been sprinkled with an animal’s blood?
4. What else did Moses sprinkle with blood (*Hebrews 9:21*)? Why was it necessary for Moses to do this (*Hebrews 9:22; Leviticus 8:15; 17:11*)? Does blood seem like an odd “cleansing agent” to you?

5. Why did the heavenly tabernacle need to be “cleansed” (*Hebrews 9:23-24*)? Was it actually defiled or is the author communicating something else (*Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18; cf. Hebrews 9:12*)?

6. How did Christ’s sacrifice differ from all others that came before (*Hebrews 9:25, 9:14; cf. 2 Corinthians 5:21*)? Why does the author continue to remind his readers of this? Does the finality of Christ’s sacrifice give you confidence and hope (*Hebrews 9:26; 4:16; Ephesians 3:12*)?

7. What is man destined to experience upon death (*Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10*)? Christ also died once, but how is His death different than man’s (*Hebrews 9:28; Isaiah 53:12; 1 Peter 2:24*)? Are you eager for His return (*Philippians 3:20*)?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 9:28 – “so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.” (ESV)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 13 | Hebrews 10:1-18

The author concludes his argument for the superiority of Jesus Christ by proclaiming once more the permanence of Christ's sacrifice for us. We are truly forgiven!

1. What was the (Mosaic) law unable to do (*Hebrews 10:1; 9:23; 7:19; cf. Acts 13:38-39; Romans 3:20*)? What is the significance of “perfecting” those who worship? Is “perfecting” related to cleansing the conscience from sin (*Hebrews 10:2; 9:9*)?
2. How did the sacrifices function for the worshipper (*Hebrews 10:3; cf. Leviticus 16:34*)? What should we remember instead (*1 Corinthians 11:24-26*)? If the first covenant was ineffective, why did God establish it (*Hebrews 10:4; 9:13*)?
3. Did Jesus say the words of *Hebrews 10:5-7 (Psalm 40:6-8)*? If not, who originally said (or wrote) them and why does the author attribute these words to Christ? What do these words ultimately tell us (*Hebrews 10:10; 9:28; 1 Peter 2:24*)?
4. What is the main difference between Christ's sacrifice and those done under the Mosaic Law (*Hebrews 10:11-12; 7:27; 9:12, 26*)? Is there significance to Jesus “sitting” verses their “standing” (cf. *Hebrews 1:3*)?

5. What is Jesus doing right now (*Hebrews 10:13*; cf. *1 Corinthians 15:25-26*; *Psalms 110:1*)? Do you believe that you are “perfected” and “being made holy” (*Hebrews 10:14*; *Philippians 1:6*)? How might believing these truths change how you live (cf. *Romans 6:11-12*)?

6. What does the Holy Spirit say (*Hebrews 10:15-17*; *Jeremiah 31:33-34*)? How does the New Covenant tie into what Jesus has accomplished for us (*Hebrews 9:15*; *Luke 22:20*)? How does the forgiveness of sins impact sacrifices (*Hebrews 10:18*)?

7. Take some time and reflect on the realities we have just studied: Christ died for sins once for all (*1 Peter 3:18*) ... We are perfected and being made holy/sanctified (*Hebrews 10:10, 14*). Spend some time in prayer responding to these truths.

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 10:10 – “And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (ESV)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 14 | Hebrews 10:19-31

The author shifts his focus from right doctrine (about Jesus Christ) to exhort the Hebrews (and us) to right living and perseverance because of what Christ has accomplished.

1. Do you have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus (*Hebrews 10:19; 4:16; Ephesians 3:12*)? How did Jesus provide a “new and living way” for us (*Hebrews 10:20; 6:19-20; Mark 15:37-38; cf. John 14:6*)?
2. Do you struggle to “draw near” to God (*Hebrews 10:22; James 4:8*)? What does “drawing near” to Him look like? What makes “drawing near” to God possible (*Ephesians 2:17-19; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Hebrews 9:14; Titus 3:5*)?
3. Does the trustworthy promise of Jesus Christ help you hold fast to your confession of Him (*Hebrews 10:23; 4:14; 1 Corinthians 1:8-9*)? What else should the person and work of Christ motivate us to do (*Hebrews 10:24; cf. Ephesians 2:10*)?
4. What are the dangers of failing to continue meeting together with other Christians (*Hebrews 10:25; 3:13; Acts 2:42; cf. Proverbs 15:22; 20:18*)? Who are the people in your life who can encourage you as you await the return of Christ?

5. What does it mean to “sin deliberately” (*Hebrews 10:26*; cf. *Numbers 15:30*; *Psalms 19:13*)? What is the result of this kind of sin (*Hebrews 10:27*; *Isaiah 26:11*)? Are Christians capable of sinning in this way or is the author talking about something else (cf. *John 10:27-29*; *Ephesians 1:13-14*)?

6. What happened with someone rejected the Mosaic Law to follow other gods (*Hebrews 10:28*; *Deuteronomy 13:6-8*; *17:2, 6*)? Do you see the connection between rejecting God’s truth (or apostasy) and “sinning deliberately” (*Hebrews 10:29*; *6:6*; cf. *Mark 3:29*)?

7. Do you often think of God as a God of vengeance (*Hebrews 10:30*; *Deuteronomy 32:35-36*; *Psalms 94:1*; *Romans 12:19*)? Why or why not? While our salvation is secure, how might the prospect of God’s judgment motivate us to remain faithful to Him (*Hebrews 10:31*)?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 10:23 – “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.” (ESV)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 15 | [Hebrews 10:32-11:7](#)

After one final exhortation to remain faithful and persevere, the author begins to take us on a tour of one of the most inspiring chapters of the Bible: the “Hall of Faith.”

1. What sort of suffering do you think the Hebrew Christians had experienced (*Hebrews 10:32; Philippians 1:29; 1 Peter 4:16*)? Have you ever experienced public insult for your faith (*Hebrews 10:33; cf. Acts 5:41; 1 Timothy 3:12*)?

2. How did the Hebrews respond to their brethren’s imprisonment (*Hebrews 10:34; Acts 12:5*)? How did they respond to the confiscation of their property? What helped them respond in this way (*cf. 1 Peter 1:3-4; Philippians 3:20*)?

3. Can a Christian “throw away” his confidence (*Hebrews 10:35*)? What does this mean? What is the alternative to throwing our confidence away and what is required to avoid doing so (*Hebrews 10:36; 12:1; James 1:4*)?

4. Endurance (or perseverance) in the faith proves that we are not those who shrink back (*Hebrews 10:38-39; 6:12; Colossians 1:11-12; Romans 2:7*). How can you live by faith in what God has promised (*Hebrews 11:1; Romans 8:25-26; 2 Corinthians 4:18; 5:7*)?

5. What did heroes of faith from the Old Testament receive from God (*Hebrews 11:2, 39*)? How does our view of creation demonstrate our faith (*Hebrews 11:3*; cf. *Psalm 33:6*; *John 1:3*; *2 Peter 3:5*)?

6. How did Abel demonstrate his faith and what was his reward (*Hebrews 11:4*; *Genesis 4:4*)? How did Enoch (*Hebrews 11:5*; *Genesis 5:24*) and Noah (*Hebrews 11:7*; *Genesis 6:9, 22*) demonstrate their faith? How were they rewarded?

7. Why can we not please God without faith (*Hebrews 11:6*)? Do we simply need to believe that He exists or is there more involved? What is the connection between faith and reward? How will we be rewarded for our faith (*Romans 8:17*; *1 Peter 4:13*)?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 11:6 – “And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.” (ESV)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 16 | Hebrews 11:8-11:22

Today we look to Abraham as the marquis example of faith. Just as Abraham and his descendants did, we too should live by faith with our eye towards heaven.

1. How did Abraham step out in faith (*Hebrews 11:8; Genesis 12:1-5*)? Even though God promised Abraham the Land, why did he and his family live as if they were foreigners there (*Hebrews 11:9; Genesis 12:8; Acts 7:4-5*)?
2. Where was Abraham ultimately looking forward to going (*Hebrews 11:10; 13:14; cf. 2 Corinthians 5:1*)? Could this be said of you and your focus in life? What (or Who) should be the source of our hope (*Philippians 3:20*)?
3. How did God reward Abraham's faith (*Hebrews 11:11-12; Genesis 21:2-3; Romans 4:18-21*)? What did Abraham believe about God's character? Do you believe God is trustworthy or faithful (*1 Thessalonians 5:24; Hebrews 10:23*)? Why or why not?
4. How did Abraham and those like him see God's promises in the distance (*Hebrews 11:13; cf. John 8:56*)? How can hope in a heavenly "homeland" give us perspective in the here and now (*Hebrews 11:14, 16; 1 Peter 2:11*)?

5. How was Abraham tested (*Hebrews 11:17-18; Genesis 22:9-10*)? Why would God do this (*Genesis 22:12, 16-17*)? What did Abraham expect God could do and why was this a radical idea (*Hebrews 11:19*)?

6. What is the connection between faith and blessing (*Hebrews 11:20-21; Genesis 27:27-29, 38-40; 48:1, 9*)? How are Joseph's words concerning the exodus and his bones connected to his faith (*Hebrews 11:22; Genesis 50:24-25; Exodus 13:19*)?

7. As you look at your own life, would you describe yourself as a person of faith (*Hebrews 11:1, 6*)? Why or why not? Have you lost your focus on your heavenly "homeland" (*John 14:1-2; Revelation 21:2-3*)?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 11:10 – "For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God." (ESV)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 17 | [Hebrews 11:23-11:40](#)

Our final stop on our tour of the “Hall of Faith” includes a look at the life of Moses and other saints who have experienced extreme suffering for their faith.

1. What might have happened if Moses’ parents had not stepped out in faith (*Hebrews 11:23; Exodus 1:16; 2:2*)? How did Moses himself step out “by faith” (*Hebrews 11:24-25; cf. Luke 16:13*)? Would you have done the same?
2. What motivated Moses to step out “by faith” (*Hebrews 11:26; 10:35-36; 1 Peter 1:3-4*)? How did he suffer abuse for Christ if Christ wasn’t born yet (cf. *Philippians 3:7*)? Are your eyes fixed on your reward?
3. Think of the miraculous events that Moses experienced: the exodus from Egypt, the Passover, the parting of the red Sea (*Hebrews 11:27-29*). How did God provide (*Exodus 3:20; 13:3*)? Do you believe that God can also provide for you (cf. *Luke 12:31*)?
4. Consider the examples of Joshua and the Israelites as well as Rahab (*Hebrews 11:30-31; Joshua 6:20-23*). How did their obedience relate to their faith? How does your obedience to God’s commands demonstrate your own faith (cf. *James 2:17, 25-26*)?

5. *Hebrews 11:32-34* lists out additional Old Testament heroes of faith and what they accomplished through faith. Do their stories inspire you in any way (*Luke 1:37; John 14:12-13; Ephesians 3:20-21*)? If so, how?

6. How can hope in the resurrection provide us with strength to endure the most awful of situations (*Hebrews 11:35-38; Romans 8:18, 23-24*)? If we are promised a life of suffering for our testimony, why do we not experience more persecution (*2 Timothy 3:12*)?

7. What did these heroes of the faith receive (*Hebrews 11:39, 1-2*)? Do you really believe that God has “something better” in store for you through Christ (*Hebrews 11:40, 16; Ephesians 1:13-14*)? What difference can this make in our lives (cf. *Colossians 3:1-2*)?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 11:40 – “Since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.” (ESV)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 18 | [Hebrews 12:1-13](#)

In light of the faithful Old Testament saints, we are encouraged to persevere in our faith through Christ's example. Note that God's discipline is a marker of His love.

1. In what way are we surrounded by a “great cloud of witnesses” (*Hebrews 12:1*)? What are the hindrances and “entangling” sins in your life and how do they deter you from running the race of faith (*Romans 13:12-14; 1 Corinthians 9:24*)?
2. What does it mean to “fix our eyes on Jesus” and how can this help us (*Hebrews 12:2*; cf. *Matthew 22:36-38*)? Are your eyes currently fixed on Him? What did Jesus endure and what is He doing now (*Hebrews 2:10; 5:8-9; 10:2; Philippians 2:8*)?
3. Does the example of Christ's suffering help you to persevere and not “grow weary” (*Hebrews 12:3*; cf. *Galatians 6:9; Revelation 2:3*)? Why should His example motivate us to pursue the Lord with faithfulness and obedience (*Hebrews 12:4*)?
4. Do you see yourself as a “son” (or daughter) of God (*Hebrews 12:5*)? Why is this concept a life-changing one (*Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6*)? While blessings come to sons, what else should God's children expect (*Hebrews 12:6; Proverbs 3:11-12*)?

5. Should we always see suffering as the result of God's discipline (*Hebrews 12:7*)? If we have never experienced God's discipline, what does that say about our status as sons (*Hebrews 12:8; Revelation 3:19; cf. 1 Peter 5:9*)?

6. Did you ever experience discipline from your earthly father (*Hebrews 12:9; Proverbs 13:24*)? How about from your heavenly Father? How does God's discipline differ from that of our earthly fathers (*Hebrews 12:10-11; James 1:2-4*)?

7. *Hebrews 12:12* quotes from *Isaiah 35:3* and *Proverbs 4:26*. How do these verses exhort us to encourage those we know who may be wavering in their faith (*Hebrews 12:13; 10:24; 1 Thessalonians 5:14*)? Who can you encourage this week?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 12:11 – “For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.” (ESV)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 19 | Hebrews 12:14-29

As the author begins to conclude his “sermon” (in the form of a letter), he gives one final warning against rejecting Jesus Christ by returning to the Jewish faith.

1. With whom should we pursue peace (*Hebrews 12:14; Romans 12:18*)? What do people see when we pursue peace and holiness within the body of Christ (*Matthew 5:16; Hebrews 12:10; Ephesians 5:1-2*)?
2. What is a “root of bitterness” and how does it relate to coming short of God’s grace (*Hebrews 12:15; 3:12; 4:1; Deuteronomy 29:18*)? What did Esau forsake (*Hebrews 12:16-17; Genesis 25:31-33; 27:34-35*)? What are we to learn from his example?
3. What is being referenced in *Hebrews 12:18-20* (*Exodus 19:12-13; 20:18; Deuteronomy 4:11*)? Why did this former mountain (i.e. Mount Sinai) cause such fear in the hearts of Moses and the Israelites (*Hebrews 12:21; Deuteronomy 9:19*)?
4. What is this new mountain and how does it differ from Mount Sinai (*Hebrews 12:22*)? Is it a physical place or something else (cf. *Psalms 2:6; Isaiah 24:23*)? Is it something we experience now or in the future (*Hebrews 11:10, 16; Revelation 21:2*)?

5. Why does the author mention again that Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant (*Hebrews 12:24; 9:15; Luke 22:20*)? How is the blood of Jesus different from the blood of Abel (*1 John 1:7; Genesis 4:9-10; cf. 1 Peter 1:2*)??

6. What are the consequences of rejecting God (*Hebrews 12:25; 10:29*)? What does it mean for God to shake both earth and heaven (*Hebrews 12:26; Haggai 2:6*)? What distinguishes “shaken” things from “unshaken” things (*Hebrews 12:27; 1 John 2:17*)?

7. Do you believe that God’s kingdom is unshakable (*Hebrews 12:28; Daniel 2:44*)? What does it mean for God to be a “consuming fire” (*Hebrews 12:29; Deuteronomy 4:24; 9:3; cf. Exodus 24:17*)? How are we encouraged to respond to Him (*cf. Isaiah 6:5*)?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 12:28 – “Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.” (ESV)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 20 | [Hebrews 13:1-14](#)

The author gives a series of final exhortations. He clearly warns his readers not to reject Christ and return to the “camp” of their former Jewish faith.

1. What is “brotherly love” (*Hebrews 13:1; Romans 12:10*)? Why is hospitality important (*Hebrews 13:2; Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9*)? Do you practice it? Do you really believe that we “entertain angels” (cf. *Genesis 18:1-4*)?
2. Why is marriage (and the “marriage bed”) so important to God (*Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:9; Malachi 2:15-16*)? What does it mean to keep it “undefiled/pure?” How can you protect your own “marriage bed” (*1 Corinthians 7:5*)?
3. Why is loving money so dangerous (*Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:10, 17*)? What is the secret to remaining content and not pursuing fleeting riches (*Hebrews 13:6; Deuteronomy 31:6; Psalm 118:6-7; Philippians 4:12-13; Matthew 6:33*)?
4. Do you know of any ministry leaders whose faith you can imitate (*Hebrews 13:7; 6:12; cf. 1 Corinthians 11:1*)? What is admirable about their faith? Are you encouraged by the fact that Jesus never changes (*Hebrews 13:8; cf. Revelation 4:8*)? Why or why not?

5. How can we protect ourselves from being carried away by “strange teachings” (*Hebrews 13:9; Ephesians 4:14*)? What does it mean that we eat from “altar” (*Hebrews 13:10*)? Who is excluded from this “altar” (*Leviticus 7:5-7; Hebrews 8:5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:18*)?

6. Which animals were burned outside of the camp (*Hebrews 13:11; Exodus 29:14; Leviticus 16:27-28*)? Why was this necessary? What connection was the author making between these animals and Jesus Christ (*Hebrews 13:12; John 19:17; 1 John 4:10*)?

7. What are we called to do as those who have trusted in Jesus Christ by faith (*Hebrews 13:13; 11:26; cf. Luke 9:23-24; 14:27*)? What should be our motivation to do so (*Hebrews 13:14; 12:28; 11:10; Philippians 3:20*)?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 13:12 – “So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.” (ESV)

Community Groups | TBC

Study 21 | [Hebrews 13:15-25](#)

The author concludes his sermon/letter, leaving his original readers (and us!) some excellent words of encouragement. May we all be equipped to do His will!

1. What does it mean to offer a “sacrifice of praise to God” through Christ (*Hebrews 13:15; 1 Peter 2:5*)? What does this kind of “sacrifice” look like (*Romans 12:1-2*)? Why do you think God is pleased with these “sacrifices” (*Hebrews 13:16; Philippians 4:18*)?
2. Do you struggle to obey your church leaders and submit to them (*Hebrews 13:17*)? Why is their responsibility extremely important (*Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2-3*)? How can you help their work to be a joy instead of a burden (*Ephesians 4:2-3, 31-32*)?
3. What does the author ask his readers to pray for (*Hebrews 13:18*)? What is the connection between a clear conscience and our conduct (*Acts 24:16; 2 Corinthians 1:12; 2 Timothy 1:3*)? Is your conscience clear? Is your conduct honorable?
4. What great feat did the “God of peace” accomplish (*Hebrews 13:20; Acts 2:24*)? Why was this event significant (*Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:17*)? Is Jesus Christ your “Great Shepherd” (*John 10:11; 1 Peter 2:24-25*)? If not, why?

5. Is God responsible for our spiritual growth or are we (*Hebrews 13:21; Philippians 1:6*)? Do we have any role to play in our own spiritual growth (*Philippians 2:12-13; 1 John 3:23-24*)? How do we reconcile this apparent contradiction (*1 Corinthians 15:10*)?

6. Would you consider the author's letter to be a "brief" one (*Hebrews 13:22; cf. 1 Peter 5:12*)? Why does he refer to his letter in this way? Who was Timothy and what encouragement could he have offered the readers (*Acts 16:1; 1 Corinthians 4:17; 1 Thessalonians 3:2*)?

7. Having studied through the letter to the *Hebrews*, are you encouraged to hold fast to your confession of faith in Jesus Christ (*Hebrews 3:14; 10:23*)? What awaits you when you persevere (*Hebrews 12:28*)? Are there any verses you can commit to memory?

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 13:15 – "Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name." (ESV)

Resources for Hebrews | TBC

For further study of the books of Hebrews, see the following Bible Study Resources:

<http://www.soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/hebrews.pdf>

<http://net.bible.org/bible.php?book=Heb&chapter=1>

