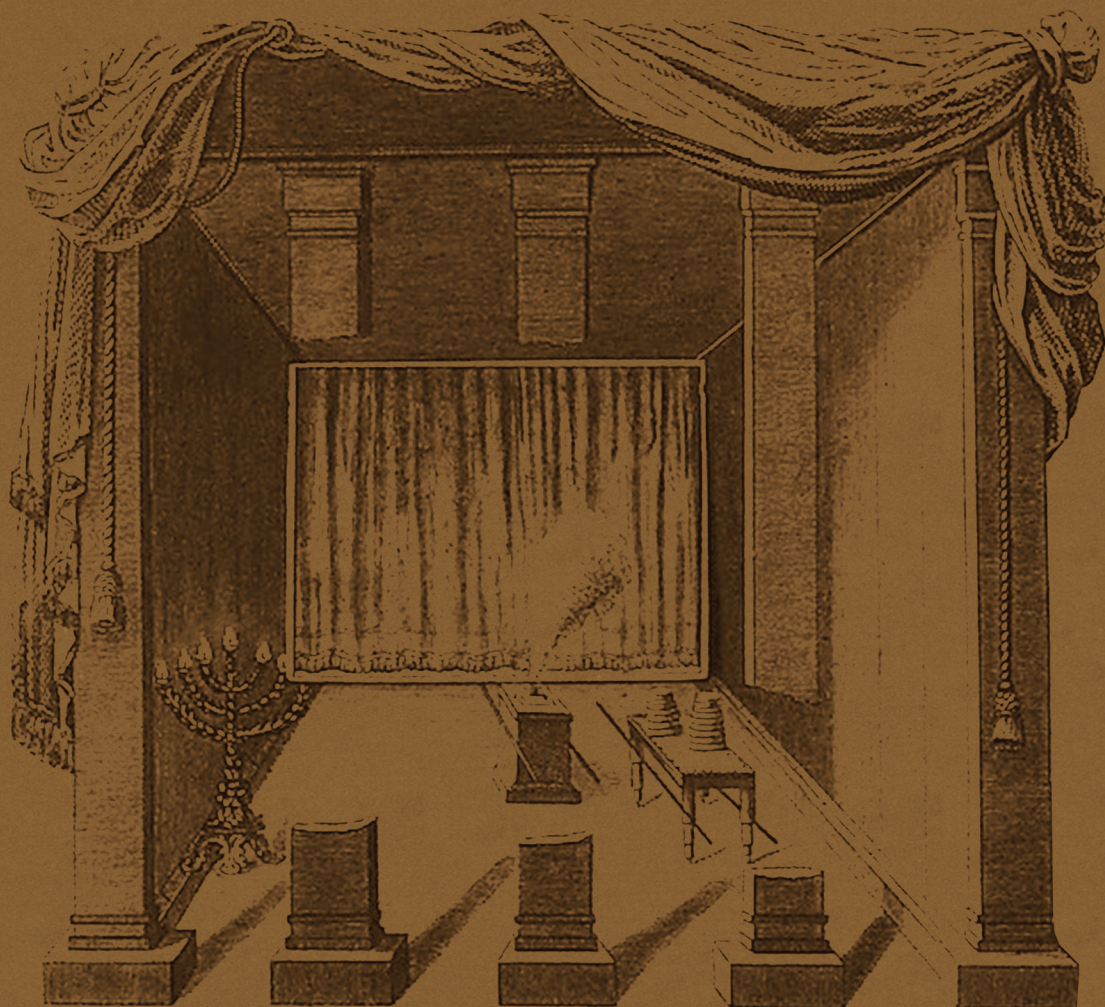


Hebrews

PARTICIPANT GUIDE



SMALL GROUPS

Table of Contents

WEEK 1: Overview of Hebrews

WEEK 2: Jesus is God's Living Word

WEEK 3: Jesus is our Living Hope

WEEK 4: Jesus is our Eternal Priest

WEEK 5: Jesus is our Perfect Sacrifice

WEEK 6: A Call to Persevere

WEEK 7: Living by Faith

WEEK 8: The Reward of Endurance

HEBREWS

Welcome!

Welcome to this 8-week small group study on the book of Hebrews! We're excited to journey through this powerful book of the Bible together. Hebrews encourages us to stay strong in our faith by reminding us that Jesus is greater than anything that came before—He is our perfect priest, the ultimate sacrifice, and the one who brings us closer to God. Whether you're new to studying the Bible or have been walking with Jesus for years, this study will help you grow in your faith, trust God more deeply, and live with confidence in His promises. Let's discover together what it means to follow Jesus wholeheartedly.



Week 1



Video

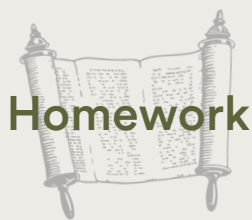
In this week's video, Patrick Curry shares with us an overview of the Book of Hebrews and why the letter was written to believers.

Discussion

- What stood out to you most from today's message? Why?
- Have you ever faced a situation where you wanted to give up on your faith? What kept you going?
- What are some practical ways we can build up our faith in Jesus, especially during times of difficult circumstances or spiritual doubts?
- How can we support and encourage one another as a small group when someone is struggling or feeling like giving up?

Key Take Aways

- The book of Hebrews was written to Christians facing severe persecution, encouraging them not to give up on their faith.
- Remembering who Jesus is and what He has done creates faith in our hearts.
- Hope is crucial for spiritual endurance.
- Trials and persecution are part of the Christian life, but we can find strength to persevere through Jesus.



Homework

- Read and apply Practical Applications from this week's lesson
- Answer questions for homework
- Read chapters 1 & 2 of Hebrews

Notes

Practical Applications



This week, set aside time each day to "wait on the Lord" through prayer, meditation, or Bible reading. Journal about how this impacts your faith and hope.

Identify one area in your life where you're tempted to give up. Write down three truths about Jesus that can encourage you to persevere in this area.

Reach out to someone in the group or your church who might be struggling. Offer encouragement and support, sharing what you've learned from this study.

Memorize Hebrews 10:23 this week. Recite it to yourself whenever you face challenges or doubts.

Homework



Key Scripture

Hebrews 10:23 NASB

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Questions

In what ways can we practically 'hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm' as mentioned in Hebrews 10:23?

What does it mean to you personally to 'wait for the Lord' as described in Isaiah 40:31, and how might this practice strengthen your faith?

In what areas of your life do you need to persevere, and how can the encouragement found in Hebrews help you?

Responses

Devotion

DAY 1: Remembering Who Jesus Is: Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:14-18

As we begin our journey through Hebrews, we're reminded of the supremacy of Christ. He is the radiance of God's glory, the exact representation of His being. Yet, this exalted Son of God became human like us, experiencing our struggles and temptations. Reflect on the incredible truth that the Creator of the universe chose to enter our world, not as a distant deity, but as one who understands our weaknesses. How does this knowledge of Jesus' dual nature - fully God and fully man - impact your faith today? Consider how His willingness to share in our humanity might give you strength in your current challenges.

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection.

Devotion

DAY 2: Holding Fast to Hope: Hebrews 6:13-20

Hope is the anchor for our souls, steadfast and sure. In a world full of uncertainty, we have a promise from God that cannot be shaken. Abraham waited patiently and received what was promised - how much more should we, who have seen the fulfillment of God's promise in Jesus, hold fast to our hope? Today, identify an area in your life where hope seems distant. Bring it before God, remembering that He who promised is faithful. How might anchoring your hope in God's unchanging character, rather than changing circumstances, transform your perspective?

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection.

Devotion

DAY 3: Faith that Endures: Hebrews 11:1-6, 32-40

The "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11 reminds us that we're part of a long line of believers who have trusted God in the face of adversity. Some saw miraculous deliverances, while others endured great suffering - yet all were commended for their faith. What does this teach us about the nature of true faith? It's not always about seeing immediate results, but about trusting God's character and promises even when the path is difficult. Reflect on a time when your faith was tested. How did that experience shape your understanding of God? Ask the Lord to strengthen your faith today, preparing you for both victories and challenges ahead.

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection.

Devotion

DAY 4: Jesus, Our Great High Priest: Hebrews 4:14-16, 7:23-28

In ancient Israel, the high priest was the mediator between God and the people. But Jesus, our eternal High Priest, offers something far greater. He understands our weaknesses, having been tempted in every way, yet without sin. Because of this, we can approach God's throne with confidence, knowing we'll find grace and mercy. How does the knowledge of Jesus as your High Priest affect your prayer life? Are there areas where you've hesitated to bring your needs before God? Today, practice coming boldly to His throne, trusting in His compassion and power to help in your time of need.

REFLECTION:



Devotion

DAY 5: Persevering in Community: Hebrews 10:19-25, 12:1-3

The Christian life isn't meant to be lived in isolation. We're called to encourage one another, spurring each other on toward love and good deeds. As we run the race set before us, we're surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses - both those who have gone before us and those running alongside us. How can you be an encouragement to a fellow believer today? Consider reaching out to someone who might be struggling, sharing a word of hope or offering practical support. At the same time, reflect on Jesus, who endured the cross for the joy set before Him. How does His example inspire you to persevere in your own journey of faith?

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection.

Week 2



Video

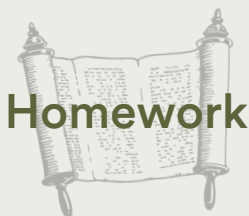
In this week's video, Ps Jackson Champion shares with us how Jesus is the Living Word.

Discussion

- How does the concept of Jesus being 'God speaking' rather than just speaking for God change your perspective on reading the Bible?
- Today's message highlighted the Greek word "laleō" (to keep speaking). How does this ongoing nature of God's communication impact your view of your relationship with Him?
- In what ways can we 'drift' from Jesus without realizing it, and what steps can we take to pay closer attention to His voice?
- How can we as a community help each other stay anchored in God's truth and prevent spiritual drift?

Key Take Aways

- Jesus is the fullest expression of God's Word to humanity.
- Regular engagement with Scripture is transformational, not just inspirational.
- Spiritual drift often happens passively, requiring intentional realignment with God's truth.



Homework

- Read and apply Practical Applications from this week's lesson
- Answer questions for homework
- Read chapters 3 - 4:13 of Hebrews

Notes

Practical Applications



Recognize Areas of Misalignment: Take time this week to honestly assess areas in your life where you might be drifting from God's truth.

Realign with the Word: Choose a specific way to intentionally engage with Scripture daily this week (e.g., a reading plan, memorization, or in-depth study of a passage).

Posture Yourself in Truth: Identify one practical step you can take to "anchor" yourself in God's Word (e.g., joining a Bible study, finding an accountability partner, or creating a dedicated quiet time).

Homework



Key Scripture

Hebrews 1:1-2 NASB

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

Questions

What distractions or 'noise' in your life might be preventing you from hearing God's voice clearly?

In what ways can you practically 'posture yourself' in God's truth daily, especially during challenging times or spiritual storms?

What areas of your life might be out of alignment with God's truth, and how can you begin the process of realignment?

Responses

Devotion

DAY 1: Jesus as the Living Word: John 1:1-14, Hebrews 1:1-3

As we begin this journey, let's reflect on Jesus as the Living Word. In John's Gospel, we're introduced to Jesus as the Word made flesh, while Hebrews reminds us that God now speaks to us through His Son. Consider how Jesus embodies God's message to humanity. Unlike a text message that can be misinterpreted, Jesus provides perfect clarity about God's nature and will. How has Jesus, as the Living Word, brought clarity to your understanding of God? In what areas of your life do you need to hear God's voice more clearly?

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection. The box is light gray and occupies the lower half of the page.

Devotion

DAY 2: Paying Attention to God's Voice: Hebrews 2:1-4,
Psalm 119:105-112

Today's reading warns us against drifting away from what we've heard. In our noisy world, it's easy to become distracted and lose focus on God's voice. The Psalmist describes God's word as a lamp to our feet, guiding our path. Consider the areas in your life where you might be drifting. Are there distractions pulling you away from God's truth? Remember, drifting often happens passively. We must actively choose to stay anchored in God's Word. What practical steps can you take to pay closer attention to God's voice in your daily life? How can you make God's Word a "lamp to your feet"?

REFLECTION:



Devotion

DAY 3: The Transformative Power of God's Word: Romans 12:1-2,
James 1:22-25

The sermon mentioned powerful statistics about how regular Bible reading can positively impact our lives. Today's passages remind us that God's Word has the power to transform us from the inside out. It's not just about information, but transformation. Paul urges us to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, while James emphasizes the importance of not just hearing the Word, but doing what it says. This active engagement with Scripture is what leads to real change in our lives. In what areas of your life do you need transformation? How can you move from being a hearer of the Word to a doer?

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection.

Devotion

DAY 4: Realignment with God's Truth Reading: Psalm 51:10-12,
Ephesians 4:22-24

Just as a misaligned spine can affect hearing, spiritual misalignment can affect our ability to hear God. Today's readings speak of renewal and putting on our new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Realignment isn't always comfortable, but it's necessary for spiritual health. It involves recognizing where we're out of sync with God's will, repenting, and actively realigning ourselves with His truth. Where in your life do you sense misalignment with God's will? What steps can you take today to begin the process of realignment?

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection. The box is light gray and occupies the lower half of the page.

Devotion

DAY 5: Anchored in Christ Reading: Hebrews 6:13-20, Colossians 2:6-7

Our final reading reminds us that hope in Christ is an anchor for the soul. In a world of constant change and uncertainty, we need something steady and unchanging to hold onto. Jesus is that anchor. Paul encourages us to continue to live in Christ, rooted and built up in him. This imagery of being rooted suggests stability, nourishment, and growth. When we're anchored in Christ, we can weather any storm. How has Christ been an anchor in your life? In what areas do you need to deepen your roots in Him?

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection.

Week 3



Video

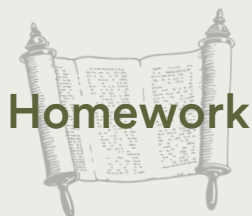
In this week's video, Ps Todd Mears shares with us how Jesus is our living hope.

Discussion

- Today's message compares our faith journey to the Israelites' journey to the Promised Land. In what ways can you relate to their struggles and doubts?
- How do you understand the concept of God's rest as described in today's message? How is it different from our typical idea of rest?
- The author of Hebrews warns against hardening our hearts. Can you think of a time when you've been tempted to ignore God's voice or leading? What were the consequences?
- What practical steps can we take to ensure we're 'holding firmly' to our faith, especially during difficult times?

Key Take Aways

- Jesus is superior to Moses and the old covenant.
- We must remain faithful to reach our eternal destination in Christ.
- God's rest is about having full trust and peace in Him.



Homework

- Read and apply Practical Applications from this week's lesson
- Answer questions for homework
- Read chapters 4:14 - 7 of Hebrews

Notes

Practical Applications



Daily Check-in: Set aside time each day this week to "check your spiritual GPS." Are you following God's direction or veering off course?

Trust Exercise: Identify one area in your life where you're struggling to trust God fully. Commit to praying about this daily and taking one small step of faith.

Rest Reflection: Write down what "entering God's rest" might look like in your daily life. Share with the group next week how you pursued this.

Scripture Memorization: Commit to memorizing Hebrews 3:13 this week: "But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'Today,' so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

Homework



Key Scripture

Hebrews 3:6 NIV

But Christ is faithful as the Son over God's house.
And we are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our
confidence and the hope in which we glory.

Questions

How might our journey of faith mirror the Israelites' journey to the Promised Land, and what lessons can we learn from their mistakes?

Hebrews 3:6 says, "We are his house, if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory." What does it mean to you to "hold firmly" to your faith? What challenges do you face in doing this?

How can you actively pursue and maintain our 'confidence and hope' in Christ, as mentioned in Hebrews 3:6?

Responses

Devotion

DAY 1: The Superiority of Christ: Hebrews 1:1-4

As we begin our journey through Hebrews, we're immediately confronted with the magnificence of Jesus Christ. He is described as the "radiance of God's glory" and the "exact imprint of God's nature." These powerful words remind us that Jesus is not just another prophet or teacher, but God Himself made flesh. Reflect on how Jesus sustains the universe by His powerful word. This same Jesus who holds all things together is intimately involved in your life. How does this realization change your perspective on your daily challenges? Take a moment to surrender your worries to the One who controls all things.

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection.

Devotion

DAY 2: Faithful in God's House: Hebrews 3:1-6

Today's passage compares Jesus to Moses, showing that while Moses was faithful as a servant in God's house, Jesus is faithful as the Son over God's house. This comparison isn't meant to diminish Moses, but to elevate our understanding of Christ's authority and position. The author tells us that "we are His house if indeed we hold firmly to our confidence and the hope in which we glory." This statement challenges us to examine our faith. Are we holding firmly to our confidence in Christ? Or are we allowing doubts and fears to shake our foundation? Consider areas in your life where your confidence in Christ might be wavering. Pray for renewed strength and commitment to hold firmly to your faith, remembering that you are part of God's house - His dwelling place on earth.

REFLECTION:



Devotion

DAY 3: The Danger of Hardened Hearts: Hebrews 3:7-19

The warning in this passage is clear: "See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God." The Israelites' example serves as a cautionary tale for us. Despite witnessing God's miracles, they allowed unbelief to harden their hearts. In our own lives, we may not see parted seas or manna from heaven, but God's faithfulness is constantly on display. Yet, how often do we, like the Israelites, grumble, doubt, or turn away from God when things get difficult? Today, take time to recall specific instances of God's faithfulness in your life. Write them down as a memorial. When you face challenges, return to this list as a reminder to keep your heart soft and receptive to God's voice.

REFLECTION:



Devotion

DAY 4: Entering God's Rest: Hebrews 4:1-11

The concept of God's rest goes beyond mere physical relaxation. It speaks of a deep, abiding trust in God's promises and provision. This rest is available to us now, not just in the afterlife. The passage urges us to "make every effort to enter that rest." This might seem paradoxical - how do we strive to rest? The key lies in actively trusting God, letting go of our need to control, and allowing His peace to permeate our lives. Reflect on areas where you're striving in your own strength rather than resting in God's provision. What would it look like to truly rest in God in these situations? Practice entering God's rest today by intentionally pausing throughout the day to acknowledge His presence and surrender your concerns to Him.

REFLECTION:



Devotion

DAY 5: The Living Word: Hebrews 4:12-16

Our journey concludes with a powerful description of God's Word as "living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword." This reminds us that Scripture is not just ancient text, but a dynamic, transformative force in our lives. The passage also presents Jesus as our great high priest who sympathizes with our weaknesses. This combination of the penetrating Word and the compassionate Savior invites us into a profound intimacy with God. As you reflect on this week's readings, consider how God's Word has been at work in your heart. Has it convicted you of sin? Encouraged you in weakness? Guided you in decisions? Thank God for the gift of His Word and for Jesus, our compassionate high priest.

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection.

Week 4



Video

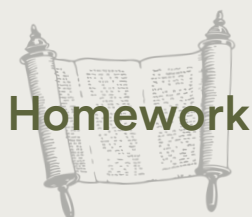
In this week's video, Ps Jim Kuykendall shares with us how Jesus is our perfect High Priest

Discussion

- Today's message emphasized Jesus as our companion. How can we cultivate a more consistent awareness of Jesus' presence in our daily lives?
- How does understanding that Jesus faced the same temptations we do, yet without sin, impact your view of Him and your own struggles with temptation?
- Reflect on Dallas Willard's definition of prayer as 'a conversation with Jesus about what we are doing, together.' How might this change your approach to prayer?
- How does the knowledge that Jesus is continually interceding for you impact your faith and daily walk with God?

Key Take Aways

- Jesus is our Perfect High Priest, superior to the old system of animal sacrifices and human priests.
- As believers, we are seated with Christ in heavenly realms and are called to be His companions.
- Jesus understands our weaknesses because He faced the same temptations we do, yet without sin.
- We now have direct access to God's throne room because of Jesus' sacrifice and role as our High Priest.



Homework

- Read and apply Practical Applications from this week's lesson
- Answer questions for homework
- Read chapters 8 - 10:18 of Hebrews

Notes

Practical Applications



This week, try to approach your prayer time as a conversation with Jesus about your shared activities. Journal about how this changes your prayer experience.

Choose one area of your life where you struggle to live as Jesus would. Commit to consciously asking yourself "What would Jesus do if He were me?" in that area this week.

Memorize Hebrews 4:16. Whenever you face a challenge this week, recite this verse and approach God's throne with confidence.

Spend some time reflecting on your identity as someone "seated with Christ in heavenly realms" (Ephesians 2:6). How might this truth impact your daily life and decisions?

Homework



Key Scripture

Hebrew 4:14 NIV

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

Questions

Read Hebrews 4:14-16. What stands out to you in this passage? How does it change your perspective on approaching God?

How does the concept of having 'boldness' to approach God's throne because of Jesus' role as High Priest affect your relationship with God?

Reflect on the quote from Dallas Willard: "To be a disciple of Jesus, we live our lives as though He were us." What would change in your life if you truly lived this way?

Responses

Devotion

DAY 1: Our Perfect High Priest: Hebrews 4:14-16

Jesus, our Perfect High Priest, bridges the gap between humanity and God. Unlike the high priests of old who had to offer sacrifices for their own sins before approaching God, Jesus is sinless and eternally worthy. He understands our weaknesses because He experienced life as we do, yet without sin. Today, reflect on how Jesus' role as High Priest impacts your relationship with God. How does knowing that Jesus understands your struggles change the way you approach Him in prayer? Take time to "come boldly to the throne of grace" today, trusting in Christ's perfect mediation on your behalf.

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection.

Devotion

DAY 2: Seated with Christ in Heavenly Places: Ephesians 2:4-6

As believers, we are spiritually united with Christ and "seated with him in the heavenly realms." This profound truth speaks to our new identity and position in Christ. While we still live on earth, our spirits are already connected to the divine realm. How might this heavenly perspective change the way you view your daily challenges and opportunities? Today, practice seeing your life through this heavenly lens. When faced with decisions or difficulties, pause and ask, "How would my seated-with-Christ self respond to this situation?" Let this eternal perspective guide your earthly actions.

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection.

Devotion

DAY 3: Learning Obedience Through Suffering: Hebrews 5:7-9

Even Jesus, the Son of God, "learned obedience from what he suffered." This doesn't mean Jesus was ever disobedient, but rather that He experienced the full weight of human obedience through suffering. His perfect obedience qualifies Him as our High Priest and the source of our salvation. Reflect on times when suffering has deepened your obedience to God. How has adversity shaped your faith? Today, if you're facing a difficult situation, view it as an opportunity to grow in obedience and Christlikeness. Ask God for the strength to remain faithful, knowing that Jesus understands and intercedes for you.

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection.

Devotion

DAY 4: Living as Christ's Companions: Colossians 1:15-20

Paul's magnificent description of Christ reminds us of His supremacy over all creation. Yet this supreme Lord invites us to be His companions. How often do you think of your relationship with Jesus in these terms? Today, approach your activities as if Jesus were physically walking beside you as a close companion. How would this change your interactions, decisions, and priorities? Practice an ongoing conversation with Jesus throughout the day, discussing what you're doing together. Let this awareness of His constant presence transform your daily life.

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection. The box is light gray and occupies the lower half of the page.

Devotion

DAY 5: Growing in Spiritual Maturity: Hebrews 5:11-14, 6:1-3

The author of Hebrews challenges believers to move beyond spiritual infancy towards maturity. This growth involves a deeper understanding of God's word and the ability to discern good from evil. Assess your own spiritual journey - are you still needing "milk," or are you ready for "solid food"? What steps can you take to deepen your understanding of God's truth? Today, commit to a specific action that will help you grow spiritually, whether it's deeper Bible study, seeking mentorship, or putting your faith into practice in a new way. Remember, spiritual maturity is a lifelong journey with Christ as our perfect guide and High Priest.

REFLECTION:



Week 5



Video

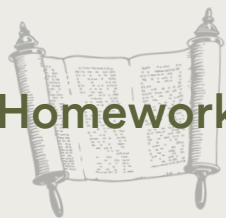
In this week's video, Sophia Garcia shares with us how Jesus was the perfect sacrifice.

Discussion

- What stood out to you most from the sermon about the differences between the Old and New Covenants?
- In what areas of your life do you find yourself still trying to 'earn' God's favor or forgiveness? How can you shift towards fully embracing the grace offered through the New Covenant?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus' sacrifice was "once and for all"? How does this impact your daily life and faith?
- How do we balance living in God's grace with the call to holy living?

Key Take Aways

- The Old Covenant required repeated animal sacrifices, which were only temporary solutions for sin.
- Jesus' sacrifice established the New Covenant, which is perfect, once-for-all, and transformative.
- Through the New Covenant, we receive true forgiveness, righteousness, and a transformed relationship with God.



Homework

- Read and apply Practical Applications from this week's lesson
- Answer questions for homework
- Read chapter 10:19 - 10:39 of Hebrews

Notes

Practical Applications



This week, whenever you feel tempted to "earn" God's favor or others' approval, pause and remind yourself of your identity in Christ through the New Covenant.

Choose a verse from Romans 5-6 to memorize as a reminder of your freedom from sin's power.

Practice "drawing near to God with confidence" by setting aside time each day for prayer and reflection on God's Word.

Identify an area where you struggle with guilt. Write a prayer surrendering this to God and embracing His complete forgiveness.

Homework



Key Scripture

Hebrews 10:16-18 NIV

“This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds. 17 Then he adds: Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” 18 And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

Questions

How does understanding the concept of the New Covenant change your perspective on your relationship with God? In what ways does it impact your daily walk with Christ?

Considering James 4:7-10, how does humbling ourselves before God relate to fully embracing the New Covenant? What might this look like in your life?

The messages emphasized that we can 'draw near to God with confidence'. What practical steps can you take to cultivate this confidence in your relationship with God?

Responses

Devotion

DAY 1: The Perfect Covenant: Hebrews 9:11-15, 2 Corinthians 5:21

Today, we reflect on the perfection of Christ's sacrifice. Unlike the repeated animal sacrifices of the Old Covenant, Jesus offered Himself once, perfectly and completely. His sinless life and sacrificial death bridge the gap between our imperfection and God's holiness. As you read, consider the depth of God's love that motivated such a sacrifice. How does knowing you're viewed as righteous in Christ change your self-perception and daily walk? Take a moment to thank God for this perfect covenant and ask Him to help you live in light of this transformative truth.

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection. The box is light gray and occupies the lower half of the page.

Devotion

DAY 2: Once and For All: Hebrews 9:24-28, Romans 6:5-11

The phrase "once and for all" carries immense power. Christ's sacrifice wasn't just a temporary fix, but an eternal solution. As you read, meditate on the finality and sufficiency of Jesus' work. How might this truth free you from cycles of guilt or attempts to earn God's favor? Consider areas in your life where you might still be trying to "prove" yourself to God or others. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you fully embrace the freedom Christ has secured for you, letting go of the need to repeatedly earn acceptance or forgiveness.

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection. The box is light gray and occupies the lower half of the page.

Devotion

DAY 3: Transformative Power: Hebrews 10:15-18, 2 Corinthians 5:17

The New Covenant doesn't just change our status; it transforms our very being. God promises to write His laws on our hearts and minds, fundamentally altering our desires and thought patterns. As you read, reflect on how you've experienced this internal transformation. What areas of your life still need surrendering to God's transformative work? Pray for a deeper awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence, asking Him to continue shaping you into Christ's likeness. Consider journaling about one specific way you'd like to see God's transformative power at work in your life this week.

REFLECTION:



Devotion

DAY 4: Drawing Near with Confidence: Hebrews 10:19-25, James 4:7-10

Because of Christ's sacrifice, we can approach God with confidence. This doesn't mean arrogance, but a humble assurance grounded in what Jesus has done. As you read, ponder the incredible privilege of having direct access to the Creator of the universe. How might this change your prayer life? Your worship? Your daily interactions with God? Take time to "draw near" to God in prayer, expressing gratitude for this access and asking Him to deepen your intimacy with Him. Consider ways you can encourage fellow believers to embrace this confidence in approaching God.

REFLECTION:



Devotion

DAY 5: Living in Freedom: Romans 6:12-14, Galatians 5:1, 13-15

The New Covenant brings true freedom – not a license to sin, but the power to live righteously. We're no longer slaves to sin but empowered to serve God and others in love. As you read, reflect on what true freedom in Christ means. How does it differ from the world's definition of freedom? Ask God to show you any areas where you might be misusing your freedom or where you're still living as if bound by sin. Pray for the courage to fully embrace the freedom Christ offers, and for wisdom to use that freedom to love and serve others. Consider one practical way you can exercise your freedom in Christ to bless someone else today.

REFLECTION:



Week 6



Video

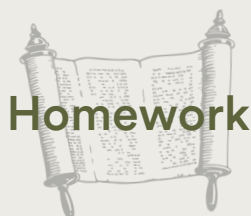
In this week's video, Ps. Celeste Gonzales shares how confidence in Christ empowers us to persevere.

Discussion

- What are some reasons people might lose their confidence in their walk with God? How can we guard against that?
- Hebrews 10:35 promises that confidence will be “richly rewarded.” What do you think that reward looks like — both now and in eternity?
- How does having confidence in God's promises give us the strength to persevere when challenges make it tempting to give up?
- Where is God inviting you right now to hold onto confidence and keep persevering?

Key Take Aways

- Biblical confidence is rooted in transparency and trust in God, not in our own abilities.
- God uniquely designed each of us for His glory; criticizing ourselves insults His creation.
- Bringing hidden things into the light in a safe environment can lead to freedom and confidence.
- Our confidence should be based on our identity in Christ, and His faithfulness, not on our past or present circumstances.
- God fulfills His purpose for us; we can be confident in His control over the outcome.



Homework

- Read and apply Practical Applications from this week's lesson
- Answer questions for homework
- Read chapter 11 - 12:3 of Hebrews

Notes

Practical Applications



Scripture Memorization: Commit to memorizing Hebrews 10:35 this week.

Daily Confidence Reminder: Each morning, spend a few minutes reminding yourself of God's promises — maybe by writing one down or speaking it out loud. This practice can help build and protect your confidence in God's faithfulness, especially when difficulties arise.

Set a Perseverance Goal: Identify one area of your life where you're tempted to give up — whether it's a relationship, a calling, or a personal discipline — and commit to taking one faithful step each day toward staying obedient, trusting that God will fulfill His promise in His timing.

Homework



Key Scripture

Hebrews 10:35-36 NIV

35 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. 36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.

Questions

According to Hebrews 10:35-36, What role does perseverance play in fulfilling the will of God?

What are some promises of God that you can cling to when perseverance feels difficult?

In what specific areas of your life do you sense God calling you to greater perseverance right now? How can you respond in faith?

Responses

Devotion

DAY 1: Embracing Your God-Given Identity: Psalm 139:13-18

Today, we focus on the incredible truth that God uniquely handcrafted each of us for His glory. In Psalm 139, David marvels at God's intricate knowledge and design of his being. Like David, we are "fearfully and wonderfully made." When we criticize ourselves or wish we were someone else, we're actually insulting God's masterpiece. Take a moment to reflect on your unique qualities. How might God want to use these traits for His purposes? Remember, He doesn't want you to be anyone else - He wants you to be the best version of yourself. Today, choose to see yourself through God's eyes and embrace the confidence that comes from knowing you are His beloved creation.

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection.

Devotion

DAY 2: Freedom in Christ Galatians 5:1-6

Christ has set us free, yet how often do we burden ourselves again with insecurity, doubt, and fear? Paul reminds the Galatians - and us - that we are called to freedom. This freedom isn't just about being released from the law, but also from the bondage of insecurity and people-pleasing. Reflect on areas where you might be living as though you're still in chains. Are you constantly seeking approval from others? Are you paralyzed by the fear of failure? Remember, your confidence is not in your own abilities, but in Christ who lives in you. Today, practice walking in the freedom Christ has given you. Make choices based on God's approval rather than others', and trust that His power is made perfect in your weakness.

REFLECTION:



Devotion

DAY 3: The Power of Vulnerability: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Our world often equates confidence with having all the answers and never showing weakness. But God's way is different. Paul boasts in his weaknesses, knowing that it's through these that God's power is perfectly displayed. True biblical confidence isn't about hiding our flaws or pretending to have it all together. It's about being open and transparent, trusting that God's grace is sufficient. Think about an area of weakness or struggle in your life. How might God want to use this to display His strength? Today, challenge yourself to be vulnerable with a trusted friend or in your prayer time with God. Remember, where nothing is hidden, we can feel truly safe and confident in God's love and power.

REFLECTION:



Devotion

DAY 4: Overcoming Insecurity with God's Truth: Jeremiah 1:4-10

When God called Jeremiah, the prophet's immediate response was insecurity: "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." How often do we respond to God's call with similar excuses? But God's response to Jeremiah is His response to us: "Do not say 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you." God's call on our lives isn't dependent on our abilities, but on His power working through us. What excuses have you been making that are rooted in insecurity? Today, identify one area where you've been holding back due to fear or feelings of inadequacy. Write down God's truths that counter these insecurities, and take one small step of faith in that area.

REFLECTION:



Devotion

DAY 5: Confidence in God's Purpose: Philippians 1:3-6

Paul expresses complete confidence that God, who began a good work in the Philippians, would carry it on to completion. This same promise applies to us. Our confidence isn't in our own abilities to finish what we've started, but in God's faithfulness to complete His work in us. This takes the pressure off us to be perfect or to have everything figured out. Instead, we can rest in the assurance that God is at work, even when we can't see it. Reflect on your life journey so far. Where can you see evidence of God's work? Where do you need to trust Him to continue working? Today, write a prayer of thanksgiving for God's faithfulness in your life, and express your trust in His ongoing work in you. Let this fuel your confidence as you step into whatever He has called you to do.

REFLECTION:



Week 7



Video

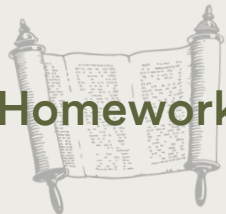
In this week's video, Ashley Self shares how believers are to live a life of faith.

Discussion

- How would you define faith in your own words? How does this compare to the definition of "trusting God, believing Him" that we heard today?
- Today's message mentioned that our confidence is in the character of God. What aspects of God's character give you the most confidence in your faith?
- How does the concept of having 'assurance about what we do not see' apply to your daily life and decision-making as a believer?
- In what ways can we practically 'fix our eyes on Jesus' in a world full of distractions and competing priorities?

Key Take Aways

- Faith is trusting God and believing Him, not just positive thinking or blind optimism.
- Our confidence in faith is anchored in the character of God.
- We have assurance in our faith through God's Word, like a title deed.
- Without faith, it is impossible to please God.
- We are encouraged by a "cloud of witnesses" who have demonstrated faith before us.



Homework

- Read and apply Practical Applications from this week's lesson
- Answer questions for homework
- Read chapter 12:4 - 13 of Hebrews

Notes

Practical Applications



Meditate on the Word: Choose a verse from Hebrews 11 to memorize and reflect on throughout the week.

Pray for greater faith: Spend time each day this week specifically asking God to increase your faith.

Recall past victories: Share with the group a time when God was faithful in your life. Write it down as a reminder.

Act in faith: Identify one area where you can step out in faith this week. Share your intention with the group for accountability.

Homework



Key Scripture

Hebrews 11:1-2 NIV

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.

Questions

Which hero of faith from Hebrews 11 resonates with you the most? Why?

Hebrews 11:6 states that without faith, it's impossible to please God. How does this statement challenge or encourage you in your spiritual walk?

Reflect on the imagery of running a race in Hebrews 12:1-3. What "hinders" or "entangles" you in your spiritual race? How can you "fix your eyes on Jesus" more effectively?

Responses

Devotion

DAY 1: The Substance of Faith: Hebrews 11:1-6

Faith is the cornerstone of our Christian journey. As we read in Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the confidence in what we hope for and the assurance about what we do not see." This powerful definition reminds us that faith is not merely wishful thinking, but a deep-rooted trust in God's character and promises. Today, reflect on what faith means in your life. How does your faith shape your decisions and outlook? Remember, faith is trusting God and believing Him, even when circumstances seem challenging. Like the heroes of faith mentioned in this chapter, we're called to live with unwavering confidence in God's faithfulness.

REFLECTION:



Devotion

DAY 2: The Character of God: Psalm 145:1-21

Our faith is anchored in the unchanging character of God. Psalm 145 beautifully illustrates God's greatness, goodness, and faithfulness. As we read about His compassion, grace, and love, we're reminded of the solid foundation of our faith. Consider verse 8: "The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love." How does this description of God's character impact your faith? When we truly understand who God is, our confidence in Him grows stronger. Today, make a list of God's attributes that you find most comforting or inspiring. Reflect on how these characteristics of God have been evident in your own life experiences.

REFLECTION:



Devotion

DAY 3: Hope in Christ: Romans 5:1-11

Hope is a powerful theme in the Christian life, and it's intricately connected to our faith. In Romans 5, Paul reminds us that our hope is not based on circumstances but on the love of God demonstrated through Christ. Verse 5 tells us, "And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us." This hope is not a vague wish, but a confident expectation based on God's proven love and faithfulness. Reflect on areas in your life where you need renewed hope. How can you anchor that hope in Christ rather than in changing circumstances?

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection. The box is light gray and occupies the lower half of the page.

Devotion

DAY 4: Enduring Faith: James 1:2-12

The Christian journey often involves trials and challenges. James encourages us to view these difficulties as opportunities for our faith to grow stronger. He writes, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance" (James 1:2-3).

This perspective aligns with what we learned from Hebrews about the heroes of faith who endured great challenges. Their stories remind us that faith is not just for easy times, but is especially vital during hardships. Today, consider a current challenge you're facing. How might God be using this situation to strengthen your faith and develop perseverance in you?

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection.

Devotion

DAY 5: Running the Race of Faith: Hebrews 12:1-3

As we conclude our week, we return to Hebrews, where we're encouraged to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith" (Hebrews 12:1-2). This powerful imagery reminds us that the Christian life is not a sprint, but a marathon. We're surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses" – those faithful believers who have gone before us. Their examples should inspire us to persevere, throwing off anything that hinders our faith journey. Reflect on what might be hindering your spiritual race. What "weights" do you need to cast off? How can you more intentionally fix your eyes on Jesus today and in the coming weeks?

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection.

Week 8



Video

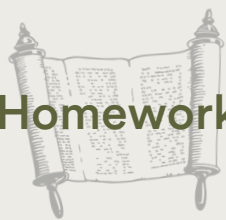
In this week's video, Ps Avery Montgomery shares why enduring hardship is vital to our spiritual growth.

Discussion

- Today's message mentions that some people were abandoning their faith due to hardships. Why do you think difficult times can challenge our faith? How can we stay strong in our beliefs during these periods?
- How has enduring difficult situations in your life strengthened your faith? Can you share an example of a time when you had to 'run with endurance' in your spiritual journey?
- The sermon mentions that discipline is how we become more like Jesus. In what areas of your life do you feel God is currently disciplining or refining you?
- How can our endurance and faith impact others around us? Share an experience where someone else's faith encouraged you.

Key Take Aways

- God calls us to run our race with endurance, even through hardships and challenges.
- Endurance produces character and hope in our lives.
- God's discipline is for our good, helping us become more like Jesus.
- Our endurance and discipline can inspire and strengthen others in their faith journey.



Homework

- Read and apply Practical Applications from this week's lesson
- Answer questions for homework

Notes

Practical Applications



Identify one area in your life where you need more endurance. Create a plan to work on it this week, and share it with the group for accountability.

Practice "keeping your eyes on Jesus" by setting aside 10 minutes each day for focused prayer and reflection on Scripture.

Choose one spiritual discipline (e.g., daily Bible reading, fasting, service) to focus on developing over the next month. Share your progress with the group.

Write an encouragement note to someone you know who is going through a difficult time, reminding them of God's love and the importance of endurance.

Homework



Key Scripture

Hebrews 12:11

No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:7

Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children.

Questions

Reflect on the concept of God's discipline as mentioned in Hebrews 12:7-8. How is it different from punishment? Why is it important for our spiritual growth?

Discipline produces character and hope. Can you recall a difficult season that, in retrospect, developed your character or renewed your hope? What was it?

Today's message draws a parallel between athletic discipline and spiritual discipline. In what areas of your spiritual life do you feel you need more discipline? How can you work on that?

Responses

Devotion

DAY 1: Enduring Faith: Hebrews 12:1-3

As we begin this journey, let's reflect on the "great cloud of witnesses" that surrounds us. These faithful believers who have gone before us serve as powerful examples of endurance in the face of trials. Today, consider what "weights" or sins might be holding you back from fully pursuing Christ. How can you "fix your eyes on Jesus" more intentionally? Remember, Jesus himself endured the cross for the joy set before Him. In your current challenges, what eternal perspective can you adopt to help you persevere?

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection.

Devotion

DAY 2: Divine Discipline: Hebrews 12:7-11

God's discipline in our lives is a sign of His love and our adoption as His children. While discipline is rarely pleasant in the moment, it produces a "harvest of righteousness and peace" in the long run. Reflect on a recent hardship or challenge in your life. How might God be using this to shape your character and draw you closer to Him? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you embrace God's loving discipline, trusting that He is working all things for your good and His glory.

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection. The box is light gray and occupies the lower half of the page.

Devotion

DAY 3: Strengthening the Weak: Hebrews 12:12-13

Our faith journey isn't just about personal growth; it's also about strengthening others. As we endure and grow stronger in our faith, we create a path for others to follow. Think about those in your life who might be struggling in their faith. How can you use your experiences and the strength God has given you to encourage and support them? Consider reaching out to someone today with a word of encouragement or an offer of prayer.

REFLECTION:



Devotion

DAY 4: Listening to God's Voice: Hebrews 12:25-29

In a world full of noise and distractions, it's crucial that we learn to recognize and heed God's voice. He speaks to us through His Word, through prayer, and often through the counsel of other believers. Take some time today to quiet your heart and listen. What might God be saying to you about your current circumstances or decisions you need to make? Ask for the grace to not only hear but also obey His leading, remembering that our God is a "consuming fire" worthy of our reverence and worship.

REFLECTION:

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for reflection. The box is light gray and occupies the lower half of the page.

Devotion

DAY 5: Equipped for God's Will: Hebrews 13:20-21

As we conclude this devotional series, let's focus on God's promise to equip us for His will. The same God who raised Jesus from the dead is at work in our lives, providing everything we need to please Him. Reflect on the areas of your life where you feel inadequate or unprepared. How can you trust God more fully to equip and empower you? Pray for God to produce in you "every good thing that is pleasing to him," and commit to stepping out in faith to do His will, even when you feel unqualified.

REFLECTION:





celebration.church