

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

The Son Superior to Angels Hebrews 1–2:4

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Day 1: Read Hebrews 1–2:4.

1. As you read the passage, jot down your impressions along with words and phrases that stand out. What is the theme of these verses?
2. In which verses is Jesus identified as God?
3. Look just at verses 1–4. What details do we learn about Jesus? What words are used to describe the relationship between God and his son, Jesus?

Day 2: Read Hebrews 1:1–14.

4. What do the words “he...sat down” (verse 3) tell us about Christ’s work as Redeemer?
5. Optional: List the Old Testament quotations that appear in this passage.
6. From the author’s use of the Old Testament, who do you think is the book’s intended audience?

Day 3: Read Hebrews 1:5–14.

7. List the questions asked in these verses.
8. Notice how often angels are mentioned in this chapter. What did the Jewish Christians to whom Hebrews was written know about angels? See 2 Samuel 14:20; 2 Kings 19:35; Psalm 68:17; 103:20; 104:4.

9. Try to find the specific comparisons between the angels and Christ in the following verses:

A. 1:4, 5

B. 1:6

C. 1:7–12

D. 1:13, 14

10. Why do you think the writer of Hebrews compares what God has said about angels with what God has said about his son Jesus? (Look ahead to 2:2, 3)

Day 4: Read Hebrews 2:1–4.

11. What is the tone of these verses? What is the writer's main point?

12. What have "we...heard"? (Review 1:1, 2) What's the lesson here?

13. From these verses can you infer what may have been some of the spiritual struggles of the people to whom this letter was written?

14. Jot down a few things that you don't pay careful attention to. What might it mean for you to "pay more careful attention to what you have heard"?

Day 5: Read Hebrews 2:1–4; 10:26–31.

15. If you ever had an experience drifting (at the beach, for example) share it with your group. What was your state of mind before you realized you were drifting? After?

16. What was the message "spoken by angels"? (See Galatians 3:19b and Hebrews 10:28) What is the message to us in Christ?

17. Read Hebrews 2:3 with 10:29. What does it mean to ignore such a great salvation?

18. Who has witnessed this "great salvation"? (Heb. 2:3, 4) Have you personally experienced it?

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Jesus Made Like His Brothers Hebrews 2:5–18

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Day 1: Read Hebrews 2:5–18 and Psalm 8.

1. Chapter 1 heaps up Old Testament citations to prove that Jesus is not just some angel, but God himself. In a radical shift, what does chapter 2 emphasize about Jesus? (Skim 2:5–18)

2. Read Psalm 8.
 - A. Are verses 4–6 originally written about man or about Jesus?
 - B. What does this show about the high dignity God bestowed on man?

3. In quoting Psalm 8:4–6, the Hebrews author seems to suddenly switch over in mid-quotation...
 - A. To whom?
 - B. What does this switch in reference suggest about the relationship between Jesus and man?
 - C. Find other language in this week’s passage that emphasizes this intimate kinship—and the intertwining of the destinies of Jesus and man. (vss. 10–14, 17)

Day 2: Read 1 Corinthians 15:45–49 and Romans 5:12 ff; 6:11–14.

4. The Bible teaches that there were two “Adams” in history—two representational heads of the human race (1 Cor. 15:45–49; Rom. 5:12 ff)...
 - A. What was our legacy from the first Adam (Eve’s hubby), under whom we were all born? (Rom. 5:12,14)
 - B. What is the legacy for us who by faith have been transferred to representation under the second .
 - C. Does this “reigning in life” (Rom. 5:17) begin now or only when you leave this world? (Rom. 6:11–14)

5. Why was it absolutely necessary for your salvation that Jesus be both God (Heb. 1) and man (Heb. 2)?

Day 3: Read Hebrews 2:8, 9.

6. According to Hebrews 2:8, how much did God put under the risen Christ's authority? Would you say that's big enough to include your life and problems?
7. "At present we do not see everything subject to him" (vs. 8). What does this mean—and when will we see it? (1 Cor. 15:24, 25)

Day 4: Read Hebrews 2:9–18

8. Verse 9 says that Jesus was "crowned...because he suffered." Verse 10 adds that he was made "perfect through suffering." Does that principle apply only to Jesus or does it have anything to do with your own progress in perfection? (Acts 14:22; Philippians 1:29)
9. In what ways was Jesus made like man? (vs. 17)
10. Jesus made Himself like us—and suffered like us—so that he could be "merciful" and could "help" us (vss. 17, 18). Do you find that when you experience and overcome temptations of various kinds, it helps you to be merciful and helpful to others?

Day 5: (See verses below).

11. The Bible is the story of Paradise possessed (Gen. 1, 2), then lost (Gen. 2 ff), then regained (Rev. 19–22; Heb. 2:5) through Jesus Christ. Can it be—is it too good to be true!—that in the "world to come" (Heb. 2:5), in the "new heaven and new earth" (Rev. 21:1), that God intends to restore to the sons of the second Adam the dominion over creation (Gen. 1:26–28) that they forfeited under the first Adam? (Heb. 2:5; 1 Cor. 6:2, 3)

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Jesus Greater Than Moses

Hebrews 3:1–6

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Day 1: Read Hebrews 3:1–6.

1. Read this section as a whole. What two appeals for faithful living surround this teaching about Jesus?
 - A. (vs. 1)
 - B. (vs. 6)
2. This section begins with the word “therefore”; what were we told about Jesus in Hebrews 1 and 2 that becomes the basis for the appeals in this section?
3. What does it mean to “fix your thoughts” on something? Give an example of how you do this in your everyday life (home, work, hobbies, etc.). How is meditating on Jesus similar and/or different from your example?
4. To whom is this exhortation written? (vs. 1) Who is included in this term? (see John 1:12, 13; Hebrews 2:11–13) (Note: The Greek word for brother, *adelphos*, means “brothers **and sisters**” in the plural.)

Day 2: Read Hebrews 3:1.

5. What two words are used to describe Jesus in verse 1b?
6. *Apostle* can mean both “messenger” and “one who is sent.” In what sense is Jesus an apostle? How is he different from the other apostles (who are also called disciples)? (Compare John 1:1, 2 with Matthew 10:1–7)

7. In the Old Testament, the high priest represented the people before God. Why is Jesus called a high priest here? (Heb. 2:17 and 5:1)

Day 3: Read Hebrews 3:2–6.

8. In what ways is Jesus like Moses? (vss. 2, 5) Share other similarities that occur to you based on previous studies. (For example, see Heb. 2:15 and Ex. 3:7–10)
9. In what ways is Jesus “worthy of greater honor” than Moses? (vss. 3, 6) What do you think the impact of this comparison would be on a Hebrew Christian?
10. Compare the state of being a beloved son with that of an honored servant in the same household. (See Luke 15:11–32 for an example from Hebrew culture)

Day 4: Read Hebrews 3:3–6.

11. Jesus is compared to the builder of a house, while Moses is likened to the house itself. What is this teaching us about Jesus?
12. Who else is compared to a house? (vs. 6) Why is this significant?
13. Can you substitute another word for “house” that preserves the meaning of the passage?

Day 5: Read Hebrews 3:1–6.

14. What did Moses do that earned him the description “faithful”? (vs. 5; see also Ex. 40:16)
15. How is Christ faithful as a son? (John 3:16; 2 Peter 1:17)
16. What is a mark of a faithful Christian? (vs. 6) What form does this “holding on” (perseverance) take in your life?

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Warning Against Unbelief**Hebrews 3:7–19**

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Day 1: Read Hebrews 3:7–19.

1. What is the main warning of this portion of Scripture?
2. What are some of the words or phrases that are repeated throughout this section?
3. What do you think is the purpose for the repetition?

Day 2: Read Psalm 95.

4. How does Psalm 95 begin?
5. What is the call of Psalm 95:6?
6. How do the first six verses of Psalm 95 give a foundation for the last part of the psalm?

Day 3: Read Hebrews 3: 7–11, Psalm 95.

7. What happened at Meribah and Massah? (Psalm 95:8; Exodus 17:1–7; Numbers 20:1–13)
8. What did the people do to cause God's anger? (Numbers 13:26—14:45)
9. What was the end result of their behavior?

Day 3: Read Hebrews 3.

10. What is the call of Hebrews 3:1–6?
11. Why is Hebrews 3:1–6 an important foundation for Hebrews 3:7–19?
12. How is Hebrews 3:7–11 different from Psalm 95:7b–11?
13. How does vs. 10 relate to hardening your heart? (Psalm 119:1–11, 105; Psalm 1)

Day 4: Read Hebrews 3:12–15.

14. What does it mean to turn away from the living God?
15. What behavior does vs. 13 exhort the Christian community to adopt? When and why?
16. What is the result of remaining faithful?

Day 5: Reflection

17. Each person who knows Christ has had an exodus from a life separated from God to an intimacy with the living God and experiences “true” life. Our promised land is heaven. Think of this as you reread this portion of Scripture. How has the Holy Spirit spoken to you?
18. How are you able to have a teachable, believing heart and remain in relationship with God? (Hebrews 3:1)

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A Sabbath-Rest for the People of God Hebrews 4:1–13

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Day 1: Read Hebrews 4:1, 2.

1. For review, read again Heb. 3:16–19 together with this week’s passage. What idea is being completed by the “therefore” that begins chapter 4?
2. Explain the phrase “the promise of entering his rest still stands.”
3. What is the gospel that we have heard, or, to put it another way, what do we have to believe to enter God’s rest?
4. Who is the “they” in verse 2? What was the “gospel” they had preached to them? (See Heb. 3:7, 8; Ex. 19:3–6; 23:20–33.)
5. Why was the message they heard of no value to them? How can the message we hear be of no value to us?

Day 2: Read Hebrews 4:1–13.

6. How many times does the word “rest” appear in verses 1–13? Whose rest is this?
7. When did God rest? (vss. 3 and 4)
8. What form does the disobedience take that is mentioned in verses 2, 6 and 11?
9. When is the “Today” that is spoken of in verse 7? What does this mean for you?

Day 3: Read Hebrews 4:8–13; skim Hebrews 11.

10. Joshua had led his people into Canaan, the promised land, the land of rest, but later on, in David's time, God promised an even better rest. When was this better rest to come? (2 Thess. 1:6, 7; Rev. 21:3, 4)
11. What is the difference between Joshua's rest and God's rest? (vss. 8–10)
12. Describe a "Sabbath-rest." (Lev. 23:3) What do our Sunday worship services have to do with the Sabbath-rest?
13. Keeping Heb. 4:2, 9 and 10 in mind, skim Heb. 11. Why could all of these people enter into God's rest?

Day 4: Read Hebrews 4:8–13; Isaiah 30:15; Jeremiah 6:16.

14. How can we enter into God's rest? What prevents us from entering? (4:2, 6, 11)
15. What rest do we have as believers here on earth? (vs. 10) (See also Isaiah 30:15 and Jeremiah 6:16.)
16. What does the author mean by "make every effort to enter that rest?" (vs. 11) Verse 10 speaks of resting from our own work, but verse 11 speaks of making every effort. Is this a contradiction? Explain your answer.

Day 5: Read Hebrews 4:11–13.

17. What are the two possible interpretations of "word of God" in verse 12? (See Psalm 119:11, 105; John 1:1, 14; Rev. 19:13)
18. In verse 12, what words are used to describe the word of God? How does this description fit...
- A. the word, meaning the Bible?
 - B. the word, meaning Jesus Christ?
19. How well does God know you? What impact does this have on how you live "Today"?

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Jesus the Great High Priest Hebrews 4:14—5:10

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Day 1: Read Hebrews 4:14,15.

1. Find the words in verse 14 that are virtually repeated in 3:6, 3:14, and 10:23.
 - A. What do you surmise was the danger in the Roman church that prompted the writing of this letter?
 - B. Is that a problem for you too?
2. Verse 14 has two parts to it: one statement about who Jesus is, and one thing for us to do. What are they, and how do they relate to each other?
3. Verse 14 also describes something Jesus did that no high priest before him can claim to have done. What is it?

Day 2: Read Hebrews 4:15.

4. Jesus is able to “sympathize.” How is his sympathy for you better than the sympathy of anyone else you know?
5. Writing about Jesus’ temptations compared to ours, one commentator observes: “...none of us has ever felt the full force of temptation,...we have always surrendered before the limit was reached.”
 - A. How was Jesus different from us when tempted?
 - B. Have you ever wrestled with a megaforce temptation and “held on” without giving in (like Jesus)? How did it feel?

Day 3: Read Hebrews 4:16.

6. In everyday English, what does the author mean by “approach the throne of grace”?
7. What idea might “approach the throne” conjure in the Old Testament mind? (See Esther 4:11) How does that make the invitation in Hebrews 4:16 so amazing?

8. What would you think of a person who had a million dollars in the bank and yet was starving because she never bothered to go and get it? How is that like the Christian who neglects to regularly “approach the throne of grace”?
9. What two things do you get at the throne of grace? (vs. 16b)
10. What does approaching “with confidence” mean? (See Jeremiah 12:1; Jonah 4:2,3; and 1 Kings 19:4b for some audacious private prayers!)

Day 4: Read Hebrews 5:1–3.

11. What is the high priest’s job description, according to verse 1?
12. Can you think of any “matters” (verse 1) that are not “related to God”?
13. Why did the high priests offer sacrifices for themselves as well as for their people? (vss. 2,3)
14. Why should we modern “priests” (see 1 Peter 2:5), no less than those ancient priests, “deal gently with those (whom we have to do with) who are going astray”?

Day 5: Read Hebrews 5:4-10.

15. The author emphasizes that Jesus, like the high priests who preceded him, did not take the honor of priesthood upon himself but was given it. What two words in verse 7 — and what phrases in Philippians 2:5–8 — show this same characteristic or attitude in Jesus?
16. Melchizedek (vss. 6,10), a man of mysterious origin, combined in his person both the offices of King and High Priest (whereas Aaron and his descendants had only priestly duties). Knowing that, what might you guess is the significance of Christ’s being from the “order of Melchizedek” rather than from the “order of Aaron”?
17. “During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears...” Why was Jesus heard?
 - A. How does that teach us to pray? (Matt. 6:10)
18. How did Jesus learn obedience? (vs. 8)
 - A. What was the result of Jesus learning obedience? (vs. 9)

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Warning Against Falling Away Hebrews 5:11—6:12

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Day 1: Read Hebrews 5:11—6:12.

1. Read the entire passage for this week and then focus on the first paragraph. What is the author's main point in verses 5:11–14?
2. What particular incident or idea provokes the rebuke in verse 11; i.e., what does the word “this” refer to? (see 5:1–10)
3. By using the metaphor of milk and solid food, what does the author imply about the Hebrews?
4. What is one way that young Christians become mature? (v.14) What other ways does God use to bring us to maturity? Share an example from scripture or your own experience—OR—write a description of a mature Christian.

Day 2: Read Hebrews 6:1–3.

5. After upbraiding the Hebrews for their spiritual laziness, the author delivers an exhortation to action. What is it?
6. Look at the list of “elementary teachings.” What things are included and why would these be considered elementary? (vss. 1,2)
7. Consider a time when you were convicted of sin. How did you respond? What effect would a call to action (like vs. 1) so soon after a failure (5:11–14) have had on you? What does this show us about how God views our sin?
8. Verse 3 begins with a common expression of the time (“God permitting” or “Lord willing”) which is still used today. What does this expression mean? Why is it appropriate here?

Day 3: Read Hebrews 6:4–6; Matthew 13:18–23.

9. Read Hebrews 6:4–6 in light of the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13. Which “seed” is the person described in Hebrews most like?
10. Have you known people who have responded to the gospel and then fallen away? What reasons does Jesus give for this? How are “true believers” recognized? (Matt. 13:23)
11. What does the author of Hebrews say about the future repentance of people who fell away? What does this have to do with the author’s concern for the Hebrews?
12. Read other passages which use the word “impossible”:
Matthew 17:20
Matthew 19:26
What light do these shed on this passage?

Day 4: Read Hebrews 6:7,8.

13. Here is another agricultural example. List some things that “rain” symbolizes in this passage. What are “thorns and thistles” the opposite of? Who do the two types of land stand for?
14. What are the rewards that the two types of land receive?
15. To whom is this warning directed? (look ahead to vs. 9)

Day 5: Read Hebrews 6:9–12

16. Although the author has called the Hebrews to account for laziness, what encouragement is expressed here?
17. List the examples of faithfulness that the Hebrew Christians have shown.
18. Why do Christians need to be exhorted to persevere? (vss. 11,12 and Galatians 6:9) What is their source of strength? (Matt. 11:28)
19. Meditate on this call to persevere and apply it to your own life. Do you sometimes tire of prayer or Bible study, or find it hard to forgive someone? Whatever it is, confess it to Jesus and receive His forgiveness; read Philippians 1:6 and savor this promise.

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The Certainty of God's Promise**Hebrews 6:13–20**

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Day One: Read Hebrews 6:13–20.

1. Note three facts about God which are used in this passage.
2. How can these facts about God deepen your faith?
3. Choose a verse which could be used as a theme for this section of Hebrews.

Day Two: Read Hebrews 6:13,14; Galatians 3:6–9.

4. Verse 12 encouraged the believer “to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.” In verse 13, Abraham is given as an example of someone to imitate. What might have been reasons that the writer of Hebrews chose Abraham? (Genesis 15:6; Galatians 3:6–9)
5. What was the promise which God gave to Abraham? (vs. 14; Genesis 12:2,3; Genesis 22:15–18) Does this promise affect us today? (Romans 4:16) How or how not?

Day Three: Read Hebrews 6:15.

6. What did it mean for Abraham to “wait patiently”? (Romans 4:18–21)
7. Was Abraham sinless in his patience? (Genesis 16:1–4)
8. Abraham waited twenty five years for God’s promise to be fulfilled. From what you know of Abraham’s life, do you think that he simply “endured” that twenty five years? (For reference: Genesis 12—25) Is your faith based upon mere “endurance” or life giving patience in the unchangeable character of God? What is the difference?

Day 4: Read Hebrews 6:16–18.

9. Why did God swear by Himself? What was the importance of God doing this?
10. Why do men swear by someone greater than themselves? How is God different than man in this aspect? (Numbers 23:19)
11. How did God make His purpose very clear to the heirs of the promise? Why did God choose to do this?
12. From what do we flee and to whom do we flee?

Day 5: Read Hebrews 6:19,20.

13. What is “this hope” for our soul? (Psalm 146:3–6; Jeremiah 29:11; Romans 15:13; Thessalonians 1:3) 1
14. How does this hope function as an anchor?
15. In the Temple , the High Priest was the only one allowed behind the curtain into the Most Holy Place. (Hebrews 9:6) This curtain was ripped open at the hour of Christ’s death.
 - A. Where did Jesus enter on our behalf?
 - B. Why is it important that Christ became our High Priest?
16. The Scripture for this week deals with the certainty of God’s promise to Abraham. Throughout the scriptures God has made many promises to us as His children. Are you able to believe these promises of God which give us hope?
 - A. What promises are easy for you to believe?
 - B. What promises are hard for you to believe? Perhaps you would ask people in your group to pray for you in both of these areas.

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Melchizedek the Priest**Hebrews 7:1–10**

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Day 1: Read Hebrews 7:1,2; Genesis 14:17–20.

1. Melchizedek was a contemporary of Abraham (Abram, before God renamed him). Read about Abraham's encounter with Melchizedek in Genesis 14:17–20. What do we learn about Melchizedek from these verses and from Hebrews 7:1,2?

2. Thinking of Melchizedek....
 - A. What are his two roles? (Heb. 1:1)

 - B. What are his two titles? (Heb. 1:2)

3. How do Melchizedek's roles and titles foreshadow Christ? See Psalm 110:2,4; Isaiah 9:6,7; 1 John 2:1; Ephesians 2:14.

Day 2: Read Hebrews 7:1–6.

4. How does a priest become a priest? (Recall Heb. 5:4–6.)

5. We know some things about Melchizedek; but perhaps more important, what don't we know? (verse 3)

6. How does what we don't know about Melchizedek make him different from Israel's priests? (vss. 5,6; Numbers 18:1,2, 6,7)

Day 3: Read Hebrews 7:4–10.

7. In his encounter with Melchizedek, what did Abraham do that showed Melchizedek's superiority?
8. What was the purpose of the tenth (the tithe) in Old Testament Israel? (vs. 5; Numbers 18:21)
9. How was Levi, the ancestor of Israel's priests, related to Abraham? (See 1 Chronicles 1:34 and 2:1.) How did the Hebrews view Abraham? (vs. 4; Gal. 3:6)

Day 4: Read Hebrews 7:4–10.

10. How is Abraham described in the last phrase of verse 6?
11. Since Abraham is described this way, because of God's words to him in Genesis 12:3, "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you," would you think that Abraham would be giving or receiving blessings from Melchizedek?
12. In fact, who blessed who in the encounter between Abraham and Melchizedek? Who does verse 7 say was greater, Abraham or Melchizedek?

Day 5: Read Hebrews 7:1–10.

13. Explain how the whole Levitical priesthood can be said to have paid a tithe to Melchizedek.
14. If Melchizedek is greater than Abraham, how does his priesthood compare with the priesthood that descended from Abraham?
15. Explain what it means for Christ to be a high priest in the order of Melchizedek. What does this mean for you?

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Jesus Like Melchizedek Hebrews 7:11–28

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Day 1: Read Hebrews 7:11–19.

1. Like Melchizedek (last week’s lesson), Jesus is an original priest, not descendent from the traditional priestly order.
 - A. Which tribe did the priests (including Aaron) descend from? (Exodus 6:16,19,20; Numbers 18:6)
 - B. Which tribe did Jesus descend from? (Hebrews 7:14; Matthew 1:1–3)
2. Why do you think the author is at pains to prove to Jewish Christians that it’s not heresy to consider a high priest who is not from the 1,500 year old traditional line of Levi?
3. The commentators tell us that “perfection” in verse 11 has the sense (in the original Greek) of completing or fulfilling a goal.
 - A. Why was the Law/Levitical priesthood system inadequate for achieving God’s goal of saving men? (Hebrews 10:4)
 - B. What was the limited goal or usefulness of the Law/Levitical priesthood during its 1,500 year enforcement? (Hebrews 10:3; Galatians 3:19,24)

Day 2: Read Hebrews 7:18–28; Romans 7.

4. Find a phrase in verse 18 that sums up the effectiveness of the old Levitical system in dealing with man’s broken relationship with God.
5. Why is it that “the law made nothing perfect” (vs. 19)? (See also Galatians 3:21,22; Romans 7:14)
6. Looking at your answers to questions 4 and 5, how would you characterize your attempts to be righteous by your own set of values and morality?

7. What were the two big limitations of the priesthood of Aaron and the Levites? (vss. 23,27)
8. How does Jesus' priesthood eliminate these two shortcomings? (vss. 16,24,26)

Day 3: Read Hebrews 7:11–28.

9. Why do you think God ordained that Jesus should not be merely the best in a line of Levitical priests, but should come from a whole other tribe?
10. Did the Mosaic covenant (agreement for approaching God by obeying the Law and performing the rituals) need just minor tinkering, or a radical replacement?
11. The priest Melchizedek, from whose order Jesus' priesthood derives (7:11), lived before the Levitical priesthood, and can only be regarded as a Gentile. What hint does that fact give us, even at this early stage in history, about God's salvation plan?

Day 4: Read Hebrews 7:23–28.

12. Psychologists speak of various human "needs," but what is man's most basic need? (vss. 25,26; Romans 3:22–24)
13. We talk about Jesus' life on earth; we talk about his death and resurrection. But what is Jesus doing now? (vss. 24,25)
14. In verse 25, the Greek behind the word "completely" (NIV version) also connotes "to the uttermost." What does it mean that Christ is able to save you "to the uttermost"? Are there any depths of sinfulness from which he cannot save you?

Day 5: Read Hebrews 7:24–26; John 17:6–26.

15. Reread Hebrews 7:24–26, then do nothing but read John 17:6–26, and rejoice at a peek into Jesus' present prayer life for you.

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

The High Priest of the New Covenant Hebrews 8

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Day 1: Read Hebrews 8:1,2.

1. Verses 1 and 2 refer to the previous section comparing Jesus to the priest Melchizedek. What do we learn here about Jesus and his priesthood?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
2. Being “seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty” symbolizes the finished work of Jesus.
 - A. What was this completed work? (Romans 8:1–4; Hebrews 7:27)
 - B. How is Jesus serving now? (Hebrews 7:25b; Romans 8:34b)

Day 2: Read Hebrews 8:1–6.

3. Compare and contrast the two different sanctuaries that are mentioned in these verses.
4. Why was Moses given such explicit instructions in Exodus for building the first tabernacle?
5. In which tabernacle (or sanctuary) does this passage tell us Jesus is serving? (vss. 1,2) Whose ministry is his superior to? (vs. 6)

Day 3: Read Hebrews 8:6; Exodus 19:3–8; Genesis 17:1–14; Galatians 3:15–25.

6. Jesus is called a mediator in verse 6. What is he a mediator of?
7. Who is the mediator of the covenant given at Mt. Sinai? What were the conditions of this covenant? (Exodus 19:3–8)

8. God has always dealt with his people through covenants. Read about his covenant with Abraham in Genesis 17:1–14. What were the conditions of this covenant?
9. Read Galatians 3:15–25.
 - A. Which covenant (“promise”) does the author say is eternal? (vs. 17)
 - B. Which covenant (“law”) has only a temporary hold? (vss. 24,25)
 - C. How does the new covenant, mediated by Jesus, relate to the covenant given to Abraham? (vs. 22)

Day 4: Read Hebrews 8:7–13; Galatians 3:21–22.

10. Why was there a need for a new covenant? What was “wrong” with the “first covenant” (i.e., the one given to Moses at Sinai)?

Heb. 8:8a

Heb. 8:9b

Gal. 3:21-22

11. What distinguishes the new covenant from the old?

Heb. 8:10

Heb. 8:11

Heb. 8:12

12. This section is a quotation from Jeremiah 31. How does Jesus fulfill this prophecy?

Day 5: Read Hebrews 8:10–12; 2 Corinthians 3:2–18.

13. Read the Corinthians passage as an “alleluia” to the glory of the new covenant described in Hebrews 8. The new covenant is called “the ministry of the Spirit” in this passage. What effect does it have on believers?
14. What does the image of the veil explain?
15. How has God unveiled your heart? What effect has this unveiling had on your life and outlook?

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

The First Covenant and the New Covenant Hebrews 9:1–10

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Day One: Read Hebrews 9:1–10 Overview

1. Why was the earthly tabernacle set up? (Exodus 25:8,9)
2. How many rooms were in the tabernacle? What were the names of the rooms?
3. What was in each room?
4. What were the responsibilities of the priests in the outer room? (Exodus 29:38–41; 30:7,8)
5. What priest was able to go into the inner room? How often was he able to go into the inner room?

Day Two: Read Hebrews 9:1,2 *Several objects which were a part of the tabernacle have been included in this passage of Hebrews. The next two days will include researching the objects and how they were used to point to Christ.*

6. In a few words give a general description of the lampstand. (Exodus 25:31–39) How did the lampstand foreshadow Christ? (John 1:4; 8:12)
7. Describe the table. (Exodus 25:23–30)
8. What type of ingredients were used to make the bread? (Lev 24:5–9) What did the bread represent?
9. How did the table and the bread foreshadow Christ? (John 6:35)

Day Three: Read Hebrews 9:3–5

10. The ark of the covenant was an important piece of furniture in the Most Holy Place. There were three items inside the ark. Each item has historical significance from the days of the Israelites wandering in the desert. How does each item represent God's relationship to His people?
- A. Manna (Exodus 16:32–35)
 - B. Aaron's Staff (Numbers 17:1–10)
 - C. Stone Tablets (Exodus 34:27,28)
11. What was the lid called? (Exodus 30:6)
- A. Write a definition of atonement? (Feel free to use a dictionary)
 - B. Who is now our atonement? (Romans 3:21–25)
12. "Within this Jewish Sanctuary, then, we find a picture of God's plan of salvation. We see 'mercy and truth met together' (see Ps. 85:10)—God's throne of grace supporting His righteousness rather than compromising it." Ray Stedman What do you think he meant by this?

Day Four: Read Hebrews 9:6,7,9 *The role of the shed blood.*

13. What did the high priest need to be able to enter the Most Holy Place?
- A. For whom was the blood offered?
 - B. What sins did the blood atone for?

(In Old Testament language the "sins of ignorance" were seen in contrast to sins of unrepented defiance. See Numbers 15:30,31)

14. In light of verse 9, was the blood offered in the Most Holy Place enough? Why or why not?

Day Five: Read Hebrews 9:8–10 *How this passage applies to us today.*

15. What did the Holy Spirit wish to show?
16. How was this a picture for today? (vs. 9)
17. What did the first covenant deal with? What was it unable to deal with?
18. What are the sacrifices in which God delights? (Psalm 51:10–17)
19. How are these sacrifices ever obtained? (Hebrews 9:13,14)

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

The Blood of Christ Hebrews 9:11–28

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Days 1 and 2: Read Hebrews 9:11–14; review Hebrews 9:1–10.

1. Fill in the chart comparing different aspects of worship under the “first covenant” (9:1) with Christ’s work under the “new covenant” (9:15).

First covenant	New covenant
A. What is the covenant’s purpose?	
(9:9)	(9:15)
B. Who serves as high priest (mediator)?	
(7:5)	(9:11, 15)
C. Where does he serve?	
(9:1ff)	(9:11, 24)
D. Whose blood atones for sin?	
(9:7, 12)	(9:12)
E. How often must a sacrifice be repeated?	
(9:6, 7)	(9:12)
F. How effective is the sacrifice?	
(9:9, 13)	(9:14)

Day 3: Read Hebrews 9:13, 14.

2. Read and reread verse 14, and then list some key words or phrases.

3. What are “acts that lead to death” for you personally?
4. Why do our consciences need to be cleansed so that we may serve God?

Day 4: Read Hebrews 9:15–22.

5. Look carefully at verse 15. It starts out “for this reason.” What thought is continued here?
6. What is our “promised eternal inheritance” (vs. 15) as believers? (Recall 8:8–12.)
7. How is the new covenant like a will?
8. Why did Christ have to die?

Day 5: Read Hebrews 9:23–28.

9. What phrases in verses 25 through 28 show that Christ’s sacrifice is the final one:
10. Explain the “copy” concept so prominent in verses 23 and 24. (See also Heb. 8:5) How does this support the finality of Christ’s sacrifice?
11. List the phrases in these verses that contain forms of the verb “to appear.” Note what tense it is in, and explain how it is used.
12. This week’s passage focuses on Christ’s work for us. Explain in your own words the aspect presented in each of the following verses and what it means to you personally:
 - A. Verse 14:
 - B. Verse 15:
 - C. Verse 24:
 - D. Verse 26:
 - E. Verse 28:

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

Christ's Sacrifice Once for All Hebrews 10:1–18

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Day 1: Read Hebrews 10:1–5.

1. How does the fact that the animal sacrifices were offered “year after year” (vs. 1), “day after day” (vs. 11), “again and again” (vs. 11) show their inability to save anyone?

2. What was the fundamental problem with the old sacrificial system? (vs. 4)

3. What was, finally, the effective remedy for sin, of which the “blood of bulls and goats” was just a “shadow”? (vss. 5c, 10)

Day 2: Read Hebrews 10:3.

4. If these perpetual sacrifices were so ineffective, why did God command them? What was their purpose? (vs. 3)

5. What is the good done by keeping the sense of sinfulness alive annually (vs. 3)? (Think about Galatians 3:24; Romans 3:19)

6. What happens to a culture (like 20th century America) in which even the concept of sin is by and large lost? (Jeremiah 8:11,12)

Day 3: Read Hebrews 10:5–12.

7. Even in the Old Testament days when God commanded sacrifices, what did he desire more than these? (Jeremiah 7:22,23; Hebrews 10:7b)

8. What did Christ offer to God rather than animal's blood? (vss. 5, 12)

9. As people saved by Christ's offered body, and now called to imitate him, what are we to do with our bodies? (Romans 12:1)

Day 4: Read Hebrews 10:13, 14.

10. Jesus now "waits for his enemies to be made his footstool" (vs. 13). Who are his enemies and when will the final installment of his victory occur? (Hebrews 2:14; 1 Corinthians 15:24–27; 2 Thessalonians 1:7b, 8; Revelation 20:10, 14, 15)

11. How does verse 14, in its verb tenses, capture both the "already finished" and the "not yet finished" aspects of your salvation?

Day 5: Read Hebrews 10: 15–18.

12. The sacrificial system was an integral part of the old covenant (or agreement, arrangement, treaty) between God and man.

A. Where were the old covenant laws written? (Exodus 24:7, 12; Hebrews 9:4)

B. Where are the new covenant laws written? (Hebrews 10:16; Jeremiah 31:31–33)

13. What does it mean that God's laws are written on your heart and in your mind, rather than just on stone or paper?

14. What becomes of your debt of sin under this new covenant? (vs. 17) Therefore, what becomes of the need for more sacrificial offerings? (vs. 18; Zechariah 3:9b)

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

Confidence and Perseverance Hebrews 10: 19–39

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Day 1: Read Hebrews 10:19–25.

1. The author begins this passage by recapping the highlights of Christ’s sacrifice recounted in Hebrews 10:1–18. Which word or phrase in verses 19–21 is most meaningful to you?
2. What five exhortations or applications follow from this sacrifice? (Hint: Each one begins with “let us...”)
3. Why do you think each exhortation begins with “let us...” and not “you should...”?
4. Are exhortations commands? Why or why not?

Day 2: Read Hebrews 10:22, 23.

5. Meditate on the phrase, “Let us draw near to God.” Does this strike you as a comforting or an intimidating proposition? How does author of Hebrews view it?
6. What four things does the author list in verse 22 that enable us to draw near to God ?
7. What is the basis for the hope mentioned in verse 23?
8. Give an example of how you might “draw near” and “hold on” in your daily life.

Day 3: Read Hebrews 10:24, 25.

9. In what three ways are we urged to reach out to others in these verses?

10. List several different methods you might use in obeying these commands.

11. In what ways are the commands to draw near to God and to encourage each other related?
(Recall Jesus' summary of the Law in Mark 12:28–34)

Day 4: Read Hebrews 10:26–31.

12. One commentator compared this passage with that of parents warning their children about the dangers of a busy highway near their home. How does this comparison explain the author's tone and choice of language?

13. To whom is this section referring? (vs. 26)

14. To worship idols resulted in physical death under the Old Covenant (Deuteronomy 17:2–7);
What is the result of the apostasy described here?

Day 5: Read Hebrews 10:32–39.

15. After any encounter with a scary reality, one understandably seeks comfort. With what does the author of Hebrews seek to comfort his readers? (vss. 32–34)

16. What further assurance does he offer? (vss. 35, 39)

17. What evidence or fruit of your own faith can you recall in times of doubting? Consider writing a psalm or hymn of praise in the style of Psalm 107 recalling key events in your own walk with God.

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

By Faith Hebrews 11:1–16

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Day One: Read Hebrews 11:1–16.

1. Read the section and note how many times the phrase “by faith” appears.
2. Name the people who are highlighted in this section.
3. What do they all have in common? (vs. 13)

Day Two: Read Hebrews 11:1–3, 6.

4. List the key elements of faith given in these verses. How is faith nurtured? (Romans 10:17)
5. Choose several of the following verses and explain how they relate to the elements of faith.
 - A. Titus 2:13
 - B. 1 Peter 1:3–5
 - C. 1 John 3: 2,3
 - D. Romans 8:23–25
6. How can you please God? (vs. 6, John 6:29) Where does faith come from? (Ephesians 2:8,9)
7. Review what you have learned about faith. How would you describe your faith to another person?

Day Three: Read Hebrews 11:4–7.

8. Genesis 4:1–16 tells the story of Cain and Abel. After reading the story, what light does Hebrews 11:4 shed on the difference between their two sacrifices?

9. How is it that Abel still speaks today?

10. Why was Enoch commended?

11. Genesis 5:21–24 and Jude 14,15 describe Enoch.
 - A. What does it take to “walk” with someone?

 - B. What did it mean for Enoch to walk with God? (Reference: Malachi 2:6b, Galatians 5:25, Colossians 3:1,2)

12. Genesis 6 tells the story of Noah building the ark.
 - A. How does Genesis 6:5, 11,12 describe the earth and men?

 - B. How does Genesis 6:9 describe Noah?

13. What two things motivated Noah to build the ark? (vs. 7)
 - A. Describe what it means to have “holy fear.” (see also Nehemiah 5:15,16; Acts 10:2)

 - B. How are faith and holy fear related?

Day Four: Read Hebrews 11:8–12.

14. A small vignette of Abraham’s life is given in vss. 8–12. List the areas of faith which were demonstrated in his life.

15. Why was Abraham able to have such faith? What did God call Abraham? (James 2:23)

16. First Abraham believed and then he _____ (vs. 8). What does this explain about faith?

Day Five: Read Hebrews 11:13–16.

17. What does it mean to long for a better country—a heavenly one? (Optional references: Philippians 3:20, Ephesians 2:19, Revelation 21—22:6)

18. Think of each person you have just studied. How are you like these people? (Try to be specific.) Has your faith deepened as you realize your similarities? Why or why not?

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

Faith Makes All the Difference**Hebrews 11:17–40**

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Day 1: Overview—Read Hebrews 10:35–39; 11; and 12:1.

1. In light of Hebrews 10:35–39, explain the purpose of chapter 11.
2. In 10:39, what two groups does the author divide people who have (as described in 10:26) “received the knowledge of the truth”? In which group is every example mentioned in chapter 11?
3. What key word in 10:36, 11:27, and 12:1 describes the aspect of faith that the writer most wants to encourage in his hearers?

Day 2: Read Hebrews 11:17–19 and Genesis 22:1–18.

4. According to Gen. 22:1 and Heb. 11:17 what is God doing to Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his son, Isaac?
5. In the realm of faith, what is the relationship between testing and perseverance? (See James 1:2–4.)
6. How does Abraham demonstrate his faith? (See also Rom. 4:20–22.)
7. Recall a time when your faith was tested. Looking back, share how God used that test to increase your perseverance.

Day 3: Read Hebrews 11:20–23.

8. What phrase(s) in verse 13 are illustrated by the examples of:
- A. Isaac? (Gen. 26:2–5; 27:27–40)
 - B. Jacob (also called Israel)? (Gen. 47:29–31; 48:8–20)
 - C. Joseph? (Gen. 50:24, 25)
9. Why do you think Moses' parents are given as examples of faith? (see Acts 7:6, 7, 17–20)

Day 4: Read Hebrews 11:24–29.

10. According to these verses, enumerate the ways that Moses demonstrated faith in God.
11. According to verse 27, what was the primary reason that Moses persevered? (Choose one and explain your choice.)
- a) He firmly believed that Israel was being treated unfairly.
 - b) He knew that he was special and that he had a great work to do for God.
 - c) He had a vision of God.
12. How does this same thing enable you to persevere?

Day 5: Read Hebrews 11:30–40.

13. Read verse 31 with Joshua 2:1–21; 6:22, 23, and Matthew 1:1, 5. How is Rahab an example of one who believed and was saved?
14. In verses 32–38, there's a short list of Old Testament figures—many of them heroes. What quality do they have in common? (vs. 33)
15. What does the writer mean in verse 38 that “the world was not worthy of them”?
16. Read verses 39 and 40. Here is another translation: “And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they should not be made perfect.” Paraphrase these verses.

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

God Disciplines His Sons

Hebrews 12:1–13

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Day 1: Read Hebrews 12:1,2.

1. In verse 1, what is the “therefore” there for? In other words, what is the connection between what is said in chapter 11 and what is urged in chapter 12?
2. Who are the “cloud of witnesses” that surround us, what is it they witness to, and how will it help us to consider their lives?
3. Who caps off the list of the faith role models of chapter 11? (12:1)

Day 2: Read Hebrews 12:2,3.

4. What is the author’s metaphor for the Christian life? (vs. 1)
5. What should you keep your eye on as you run your race? (vs. 2) What is the danger if you don’t? (vs. 3)
6. What kind of thoughts kept Jesus going in his own race and experience of suffering? (vs. 2; John 13:3,4)
7. Is “the race marked out for (you)” exactly the same as everyone else’s course?
 - A. How is it the same? (Romans 1:17b; Acts 14:22b)
 - B. How is it unique? (Galatians 6:4,5; John 21:18–22)

Day 3: Read Hebrews 12:2,3.

8. Study other passages about our “race”:

A. What is Paul’s attitude about his life? (Acts 20:24)

B. What phrases describe the kind of self-discipline needed in our race? (1 Corinthians 9:24–27)

C. In this verse, what is another way of saying “I have finished the race”? (2 Timothy 4:7)

Day 4: Read Hebrews 12:4–10.

9. On the day you were saved by believing in Jesus Christ, what entirely new relationship did you enter into with God? (Choose one). (Heb.12:7; Ephesians 1:5; Romans 8:14–16)

A. potter/ pot

B. lord/ vassal

C. judge/ judged

D. father/ daughter

10. How would you expect this new relationship to affect the way God deals with your sin and weaknesses from now on?

11. Why do you discipline your own children?

12. How is God like our parents in their discipline of us? (vss. 5–8) How is he better? (vss. 9,10)

Day 5: Read Hebrews 12:10–13.

13. What wonderful thing does God promise to those who allow themselves to be changed by his rebuke and discipline? (vss. 10,11; Proverbs 1:23)

14. What kind of people reap benefit from God’s discipline? (vs. 11)

15. Name four ways God uses to keep his beloved children in the path of life. (2 Timothy 3:16)

16. What are the “feeble” and “weak” places in your life right now that can go either way — “strengthened” or “disabled” — depending on some choices you need to make?

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

Two Mountains Hebrews 12:14–29

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Day 1: Read Hebrews 12:14–17.

1. We often talk about the justice and the mercy of God; how are these two themes expressed in this week's passage? Why do you think they are presented together?
2. What particular sins does the author warn us about in verses 15 and 16?
3. To understand what the author means by "godless", read about Esau in Genesis 25: 19–34 and 27:1–41. What sort of repentance, if any, did Esau exhibit?
4. (Personal) Think about your family or church. Which of these three sins seem most tempting or problematic? Remember to pray for God's grace in your particular circumstances.

Day 2: Read Hebrews 12:18–24.

5. The comparison in this passage is between Mt. Sinai (a symbol of the Law of Moses) and Mt. Zion (a symbol of heaven). Make a list of the differences between them. What do you think is the most important difference?

Mt. Sinai:

Mt. Zion:

6. To refresh your memories, read about the giving of the law in Exodus 19:10–25. How did Moses respond? (Heb. 12:21) How might you have responded had you been there?

Day 3: Read Hebrews 12:22–24.

7. Which groups are mentioned as dwelling in heaven? (vss. 22,23) Who do you look forward to seeing in heaven?
8. In the description of Mt. Zion, God is described as the “judge of all men.” Why doesn’t this description seem to evoke the same terrifying response as Mt. Sinai?
9. Read about the results of Abel’s death in Genesis 4:10–12. In contrast, what are the results of Jesus’ death? (Hebrews 9:12–14)
10. What impact might the description of these two mountains have on your prayer time or worship this week?

Day 4: Read Hebrews 12:25–29.

11. Read these verses all the way through. What do you think the author is concerned about?
12. Which things are described as “shaken”? Which are “unshaken”?
13. What things can we call “unshakable” in our lives? What happens when we rely on “shakable” things instead?

Day 5: Read Hebrews 12:18; 25–29.

14. Throughout this passage (and the entire book, for that matter), warning and encouragement are intertwined. How are these both expressions of God’s love?
15. A movie critic, reviewing the movie The Apostle, commented how difficult it is for actors to portray sincere faith in a believable fashion. What do we learn about the nature of worship in this passage that might explain this difficulty?

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

Ethics Hebrews 13:1–8

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16

Day One: Read Hebrews 13:1.

1. One commentator, reflecting on the end of chapter 12, defines God as “both the consuming fire of Mount Sinai and the consuming love of Mount Zion.” As you reflect on this, what is the connection between the end of chapter 12 and this section of Hebrews 13?
2. The love stated in verse 1 is “philadelphia” or brotherly and sisterly love. This was a highly esteemed virtue when the book of Hebrews was written. Is that true of today? Why or why not?
3. How has the culture influenced the way you love others?
4. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 John 3:14,16; and John 13:35. Are these verses descriptive of your love? Why or why not? (If you have any favorite verse on love, please share them with the group.)
5. How does God view the love which the body expresses to one another? (Psalm 133; John 17:11, 20–23)

Day Two: Read Hebrews 13:2,3.

6. What does the author tell the reader not to forget? Why do you think he exhorted them in this way?
7. Who is a stranger?
 - A. How do you view strangers?
 - B. What effect does this have on the way you treat strangers?
8. Why is hospitality so important?

9. How are we to care for the needy? (verse 3). According to this verse, what attitude should you have toward the needy?

Day Three: Read Hebrews 13:4–6.

10. How are adultery, sexual immorality, and the love of money related?
11. Verse 4 states that “marriage should be honored by all.” It does not say by only those who are married. How does God want everyone to honor marriage? What are some practical ways you can do this? (1 Timothy 5:1)
12. What happens to the unrepentant adulterer and sexually immoral person?
13. What did Christ say about the love of money? (Matthew 6:19–21, 24; Mark 4:19; Mark 10:23–27; Luke 12:15)
14. What hope does God give us? (vss 5,6)

Day Four: Read Hebrews 13:7,8.

- 15: What three exhortations are we to consider about leaders?
16. How does verse 8 relate to verse 7?

Day Five: Application.

17. Has this passage caused you to think about how you love those in or outside the body of Christ, those in need, the troubled; and about your relationship to money?
- A. Are there any actions which the Holy Spirit is calling you to take to restore the brotherly love within the body of Christ?
- B. What will be your action and who will you ask to pray for you as you take this action?
18. How are we ever able to fulfill these exhortations in Hebrews 13? (Meditate on John 15:1–17, especially verse 5)

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

Remember This

Hebrews 13:9–25

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Day 1: Read Hebrews 13:9.

1. According to verse 9, what is a preventative to being carried away by “all kinds of strange teachings”?

2. Review the following verses from Hebrews: 2:1; 3:1, 13; 4:2, 12, 16; 5:14; 6:12; 10:19–25; 12:1, 2, 14, 15, 28.
 - A. What are some of the means by which we receive grace?

 - B. What are some things that can hinder our growth as Christians?

3.
 - A. What was motivating the Hebrews to return to following the dietary laws of the Old Covenant? What motivates you to pray, study God’s word, and show love to others?

 - B. What makes the means of grace different from the useless eating of “ceremonial foods which are of no value to those who eat them”? (see Romans 8:3)

 - C. How can the “religious” things that we do be of no value to us or to God? (Romans 10:2–4)

Day 2: Read Hebrews 13:10–14.

4. What is the altar referred to in verse 10? What does it mean that “those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat of it”?

5. In Leviticus 16 we read how the bodies of the animals that were sacrificed on the Day of Atonement were burned outside the camp. What further picture of Christ are we given in Heb. 13:11, 12? What is the significance of this?

6. What would the exhortation in verse 13 have meant to the Hebrews? What does it mean to you?

Day 3: Read Hebrews 13:15–19.

7. Christ's sacrifice did away with animal sacrifices, but now what sacrifices please God? (vss. 15, 16) Also, what characterizes sacrifices that are pleasing to God? Hint: How does verse 15 start out? See also Romans 12:1, 2 and Psalm 51:16, 17.
8. Read verses 17–19 with verses 7 and 8. What should be our attitude towards our leaders? What should we do for them? What responsibilities do our leaders have for us?

Day 4: Read Hebrews 13:20, 21.

9. Verses 20 and 21 are a benediction—a final blessing. (Verses 22–25 are a P.S.) Read them several times. What do these verses tell us about God?
10. What two things does the writer desire that God would do for his hearers?
11. What is the promise of the eternal covenant (recall Heb. 8:10)? Put this promise into your own words. What is the nature of the covenant that was sealed by Christ's blood?

Day 5: Read Hebrews 13:20–25.

12. How has God shown himself to you to be the God of peace?
13. What does it mean that Jesus is your great Shepherd? (Psalm 23; Isaiah 40:11; John 10:2, 3, 11, 14, 27)
14. Why is this benediction such a fitting conclusion to the book of Hebrews?

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

Thanksgiving and Prayer

Colossians 1:1–14

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

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Day 1: Read Colossians 1:1, 2.

1. Paul writes this letter in the style of the day: his name up front instead of at the end. Note the ten words he uses to identify himself in verse 1.
 - A. What insight does this give you into how Paul sees himself (i.e., his “self-image”)?
 - B. How do you honestly view yourself in the most fundamental terms?
2. “Christian” was first a derogatory term originating in Antioch. There were three principle designations by which the earliest believers knew themselves: “saints”; “the faithful”; “brethren”. Which of these are found in verse 2? How do they sum up the believer in relation to God—and to other believers?
3. In wishing “grace” and “peace” to his readers (vs. 2b), Paul combines a known Greek form of greeting (“grace”) with a Hebrew one (“peace”).
 - A. Though these words were commonly used in the greetings of secular letters too, how does Paul elevate them to a new spiritual dimension? (Consider Romans 3:23, 24; 5:1; John 14:27)
 - B. How does this greeting hint at the universal scope of God’s salvation plan?

Day 2: Read Colossians 1:3–8.

4. Although Paul will address some serious challenges to the true gospel in this letter to the Colossians, what is his first and overarching thought or attitude in vss. 3ff?
5. What is it that Paul is thankful for regarding the Colossians? (vss. 3–6)
6. Astute Bible readers over the centuries have noticed that “faith”, “love”, and “hope” are often linked in the same passage throughout the New Testament, as here in verse 5 (See also Romans 5:2–5; 1 Corinthians 13:13; Galatians 5:5, 6; 1 Thessalonians 1:3; 5:8; Hebrews 10:22–24). What do you make of that?

Day 3: Read Colossians 1:9, 10.

7. This week's passage is for the most part a peek into Paul's prayer life.
 - A. What are the kinds of things he prays for (his "wish list" for you)?
 - B. What are the kinds of things you pray for (your own "wish list")?
 - C. Are the two lists similar?
8. What does Paul ask God to fill you with in verse 9?
9. To what end or purpose does Paul make this request in verse 9? (vs. 10)
10. Based on your reading of verses 9 and 10, what is the purpose, or proper use, of any gift you have been given by God? (See also 1 Peter 4:10; Romans 14:7; 15:1, 2)

Day 4: Read Colossians 1:11–14.

11. A main request in Paul's prayer is for your "endurance" (vs. 11). What does this tell you about what to expect (and what not to expect) in the course of your life?
12. See how Paul emphasizes thankfulness or gratitude throughout his letter (1:3, 12; 2:7; 3:15; 4:2). How can you cultivate an abiding attitude of thankfulness even in a life where much "endurance" is needed? (Consider vss. 5, 12–14)

Day 5: Read Colossians 1:1–14.

13. Paul borrows images from agriculture to describe the mysterious working of the spiritual world (vss. 6, 10). How is the progress of grace in the world (and in your own life) very much like the way seeds and plants grow?
14. Every person alive belongs to one of two kingdoms. Find them in verse 13.
15. Pick out words or phrases that characterize citizens of Satan's "dominion of darkness". (Ephesians 2:1–3) What words characterize citizens of the Son's "kingdom of light"? (vs. 14)
16. What "qualifies" you to share in the inheritance of the kingdom of light? (vs. 12)

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

Invisible Reality

Colossians 1:15–2:5

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

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Day 1: Read Colossians 1:15–20.

1. This section is thought to be part of an ancient hymn or testimony (similar to the Apostle's Creed). Read these verses aloud, imagining the voices of Christians everywhere and throughout the ages joined with yours.
2. Look at the various ways Jesus is described in these verses; give him a functional name for each of them. (e.g., "Creator", vs. 16)
3. Think about the quality of invisibility (vss. 15, 16). Make a list of as many invisible things as you can think of. How do we know about each of these things? According to verse 15, how do we know about God?
4. What phrases in this section testify that Jesus is fully God?

Day 2: Read Colossians 1:19–23.

5. What does reconciliation mean? In what sort of circumstances do you see a need for reconciliation (either with God or with other people) in your daily life?
6. What is the source of our alienation from God? (vs. 21)
7. What is the means of our reconciliation? (vss. 19, 22)
8. What is the mark of a person reconciled to God? (vs. 23)

Day 3: Read Colossians 1: 24–27.

9. Paul mentions rejoicing in suffering in verse 24. What sort of suffering did Paul endure as a result of preaching the gospel? (Acts 9:19b–25; Acts 14:19, 20; Acts 21:27–36; Acts 28:16) How is Paul’s suffering like that of Jesus?
10. For whose sake is Paul suffering? (vs. 24b)
11. What was Paul’s commission? Give as many details as you can discover in vss. 25–27.
12. In the New Testament, “mystery” refers to something formerly hidden which has now been revealed. What is the mystery Paul refers to? How does this mystery relate to you? (See also Col. 2:2, 3)

Day 4: Read Colossians 1:28–2:5.

13. Make a list of the verbs that describe Paul’s actions. How would you characterize the degree of difficulty of Paul’s ministry?
14. What is Paul’s purpose or motivation? (vss. 2–4) What motivates you in your daily walk with Christ?
15. Why might Paul desire “the full riches of complete understanding” for his readers? vs. 4 (i.e., why is wisdom so important?) What is the basis of wisdom? (Proverbs 9:10)

Day 5: Read Colossians 2:5.

16. This verse reminds us of the invisible bond that believers share in Christ. Think of someone dear to you who lives at a distance. Begin an imaginary letter to him or her with the following phrase and complete the sentence with your own thoughts for this person:

For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

The Emptiness of the World and the Fullness of Christ**Colossians 2:6–23**

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

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Day One: Read Colossians 2:6–23.

1. Choose a verse which would state the central theme of this section.
2. What does it mean for you to live “in Christ” as spoken in verse 9? (Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 3:16, 17)
3. Read the following verses and explain the effects of being “rooted and built up in Christ.” (Psalm 1:1–3; Psalm 52:8; Psalm 92:12–15)
4. Why is it important to be thankful?

Day Two: Read Colossians 2:6–8.

5. Think and describe some philosophies (current or historical) based on “human tradition and basic principles of this world.” What is hollow and deceptive about each of the philosophies you described?
6. Why did Paul warn the Colossians against being taken captive? Were you ever taken captive through a human tradition? If so what was the tradition and how were you taken captive by it?

Day Three: Read Colossians 2:9–12.

7. Use other words to describe the phrase, “in Christ all the fullness of Deity lives in bodily form.” (Hebrews 1:3a; John 14:9)
8. Why is Christ head over every power and authority? (Col 1:16)
9. What have you received from Christ? (vs. 10) What practical difference has this made in your life?

10. Circumcision was the sign of the covenant God gave to Abraham. (Genesis 17:3–7, 10, 11)
What was the significance of circumcision?
11. Read Deuteronomy 30:6; Romans 2:28, 29 and Philippians 3:3. What do these verses explain about circumcision?
12. How is circumcision performed on a follower of Christ? (vss. 11–13)

Day Four: Read Colossians 2:13–19.

13. How did you make yourself presentable so God would make you alive in Christ? (vs. 13)
14. When we came alive through the death and resurrection of Christ, what was put to death (or canceled)? What reaction do you have as you meditate on this? (vs. 14)
15. What are the warnings given in verses 16 and 18?
16. After proclaiming such freeing truth, why does Paul immediately go to a warning?

Day Five: Read Colossians 2:20–23.

17. How is the rebuke in Galatians 4:8, 9 similar to the rebuke in Colossians 2:20, 21?
18. Why do followers of Christ continue to submit to the basic principles of this world? What is ultimately the result of following these principles? (vs. 22)
19. Verse 23 describes the deceptiveness of the basic principles of this world. Where does true wisdom, worship, and humility come from? (Galatians 6:14, Hebrews 12:28)
20. Consider the comparison of the fullness of Christ to the emptiness of the world. In your own life where do you see the fullness of Christ in all its strength and beauty?

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS
Our New Life in Christ Colossians 3:1–17

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

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Day 1: Read Colossians 3:1–4.

- 1 List the facts about us as Christians that appear in verses 1–3. What are we exhorted to do in these verses?
2. How does someone act when they've set their heart and mind on something? Share an example with the group.
3. What difference is there between “things above” and “earthly things?”
4. How does setting “your mind on things above, not on earthly things” affect your outlook on day-to-day life here and now?

Day 2: Read Colossians 3:3–7.

5. What will we be like when we appear with Jesus Christ in glory? (See 1 John 3:2; Philippians 3:20, 21; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Romans 8:29, 30.)
6. In Romans 8:29, 30 “glorify” is in the past tense. What light does Paul’s use of the word “glorified” in Romans shed on Colossians 3:4?
7. Examine the list in verse 5. What do these things have in common? Why do you think greed is singled out and called idolatry?
8. How does God’s view of sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed differ from the world’s view? How can we have God’s view?

Day 3: Read Colossians 3:1–11.

9. In verses 9 and 10 what image is evoked by the phrases “you have taken off...and have put on”? (Hint: see verse 12)

10. Why are the behaviors of our old lives not consistent with our new life as Christians?

11. How do you reconcile all the active exhortations to be holy (vss. 1, 2, 5, 8, 9) with all the statements about holiness already yours in Christ (vss. 3, 4, 10, 12)?

12. Verse 11 lists the divisions between people groups in the Colossian culture. What things divide people today? How does the fact that for Christians “Christ is all and is in all” change this?

Day 4: Read Colossians 3:12–15.

13. Why does Paul start this section by reminding us of who we are in God’s sight?

14. What does the description in verse 12, “God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved,” depend on? (See also Col. 1:12–14; 2:9, 10.)

15. Generally, how does society today view “Christians”? How does this view compare with the marks of a Christian listed in verses 12–14? Is there a difference between what the world says a Christian looks like and what Paul says a Christian looks like? If so, why?

16. What difference does peace ruling in our hearts (verse 15) make when we have conflicts with other believers? (vss. 13, 14)

Day 5: Read Colossians 3:15–17.

17. How can you “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”?

18. What are we told to do not once, but three times, using three different phrases in verses 15–17? List these phrases. Why is this so important?

19. In chapter 2:16–23 we learned that following a set of rules does not make us better Christians. In contrast, how are the traits listed in verses 12–17 apt expressions of who we are in Christ? (See also Galatians 5:22, 23.)

20. What impact would doing everything “in the name of the Lord Jesus” have on what you say and do today?

LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

Last Words

Colossians 3:18—4:18

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3

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Day 1: Read Colossians 3:18–24.

1. Having reminded the Colossians throughout this letter who Jesus is and what he has done to enable us to live holy lives, Paul now addresses particular situations before signing off.
 - A. How is the idea of “submitting to” others (vs. 18), “loving” others (vs. 19), and “obeying” others (vss. 20, 22) easier to take when viewed in the light of Col. 3:17?

 - B. What are the specific instructions to each group? Do you think that, in practice, there is some blurring or overlapping of duties among the groups? (see Ephesians 5:21)

 - C. What is the thought we must constantly keep in mind to help us submit to, love, obey, and serve one another? (vs. 24)

2. How does 1 Peter 3:1–6 expand on vs. 18, and Ephesians 5:25–33 expand on vs. 19?

3. If the husband is doing what he should (vs. 19), and the wife is doing what she should (vs. 18), do you think it will be hard to tell by looking at them which one is “submitting” and which one is “loving”?

4. How might you help make your children more enthusiastic about verse 20? (Multiple choice)
 - By showing them Ephesians 6:1–3.
 - By modeling verses 18, 19, and 21–23 before them.
 - Both of the above.

Day 2: Read Colossians 3:22—4:1.

5. Why might an unbeliever be tempted to do a good job for his bosses (“masters”) “only when their eye is on (him) and to earn their favor” (vs. 22)? How does being a Christian make a difference? (vs. 24; 1 Peter 2:18–23; 3:14)

6. What should you keep foremost in your mind every day, whatever your job is—whether butcher, baker, candlestick maker, or housewife? (vs. 23, 24)

7. What does verse 25 mean by saying that God shows “no favoritism”?

8. How does the earthly relationship of slave/master tend to level out when viewed in the light of the fact that both have a Master in heaven (vs. 4:1)?

Day 3: Read Colossians 4:2–4, 12.

9. How is the exhortation to “devote” yourself to prayer (vs. 2) even stronger, somehow, than an exhortation to pray “often”?
10. Other translations of “being watchful” (NIV) in verse 2 are “keeping alert” and “remaining fully awake”. Think of some reasons why this would be important in your prayerlife. (See 1 Peter 5:8; Galatians 6:1; Acts 20:30, 31)
11. Prayer is, of course, conversing with God, and a way to “cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7) What else is it? (2 Corinthians 10:4)

Day 4: Read Colossians 4:4–6.

12. What is the prayer here for those who proclaim the gospel, whether they do it in Africa or in Glenside, Pennsylvania? (vs. 3)
13. Are you able to proclaim your own faith “clearly” (vs. 4) if the opportunity arises? How might you take steps to “be prepared” (1 Peter 3:15)?
14. How should you live in your family and neighborhood and at work in order to ensure that when you do share the gospel, it will not be hindered in any way? (vss. 5, 6; 1 Peter 3:15, 16)
15. What do you think it means to make your conversation always “full of grace” and “seasoned with salt”(vs. 6)? (See also James 3:9–12)

Day 5: Read Colossians 4:7–18.

16. Skim verses 7–15. What feeling do you get about Paul’s relationship and attitude toward Tychicus, Onesimus, Aristarchus, Mark, Justus, and Epaphras? Do you feel this way about your sisters here in the Women’s Bible Study?
17. According to verse 11c, what do loving Christians do for other Christians?