



Jesus is...
A Study in Hebrews
WestWay Christian Church

“And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son”-
Hebrews 1:2a.

Hebrews

Background on Hebrews- Unlike many books of the New Testament, the identity of the author is not known for certain. It was written with Jewish Christians in mind (“our forefathers...the prophets”- 1:1). In Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus is quoted as asking his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” The author of Hebrews uses the first 10 chapters to deal with this question. In a systematic fashion, Jesus is both compared and contrasted to angels, Moses, the High Priest, Melchizedek, and Abraham. Then, we see Jesus described as above and beyond each one, each of them were merely *types* (*examples, symbolic representations*) who pointed to a revealed elements of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Chapter 11 reads like a “Who’s Who?” of the Jewish faith and the final 2 chapters serve to encourage both the ancient believer and the current reader. The Bible is God’s story, timeless and timely.

Each lesson has several different elements. You’ll **read the text** for the day, followed by a suggested **key verse** for memorization, followed by a specific **study method**. You may want to read the text again as you work through the study method.

On Bible Study:

This challenge requires us to be students of scripture. We must spent time with it, interact with it, stomp on the blade of the shovel and force it into the earth.

As you read through this study, you’ll see that there are 4 different Bible study methods used, as well as different versions of Scripture. This is designed to help you view scripture differently and to provide you will a multitude of tools to help you understand what you’re reading. Each of the methods used are designed to prevent you from rushing to apply what you’ve read. Plan on 30-45 minutes per study, possibly longer!

A few reminders about studying the Bible:

- No one, not even God, is keeping score.
- It’s not a race.
- Don’t compare yourself to others, it’s not a contest.
- Just like there’s a way to pray that makes you seem holier than you are (on the street corner with loud voice) there’s a way to be proud and arrogant when you study scripture.

But...

- It’s a relationship. And people in relationships do stupid, crazy things. They get up early to spend time with them. They stay up late, too late and fall asleep with one another. They tell others where they are, what they’re doing and who they’re doing it with. They talk on the phone, Skype, text and Facebook message one another. In short, they are together. They grow close. They miss one another when they’re not together. They ask questions. They listen. They answer.
- Studying scripture should be like that.

Resources:

Jesus-centered Bible. (2015). Carol Steam, IL: Lifetree.

Wiersbe, W. W. (2009). *Be Confident: Live by faith, not by sight* : NT commentary, Hebrews. Colorado Springs, CO: David C Cook.

Hebrews

This study guide will follow our Fall 2018 message series on Hebrews. Each week, usually by Sunday afternoon, you'll find the message online at westwaychurch.com/media.

September 2 2018-	Hebrews 1-13- Jesus is Superior
September 9 2018-	Hebrews 1:1-3- Jesus is how God speaks
September 16 2018-	Hebrews 1:4 - 2:18- Jesus is superior to the angels
September 23 2018-	Hebrews 3:1 - 4:13- Jesus is superior to Moses
September 30 2018-	Hebrews 4:14 - 5:10- Jesus is the Superior High Priest
October 7 2018-	Hebrews 5:11 - 6:20- Moving Forward
October 14 2018-	Hebrews 7- Jesus is the Superior Priesthood
October 21 2018-	Hebrews 8- Jesus is the Superior Covenant
October 28 2018-	Hebrews 9- Jesus is the Superior Sanctuary
November 4 2018-	Hebrews 10- Jesus is the Superior Sacrifice
November 11 2018-	Hebrews 11- Cause you gotta have faith
November 18 2018-	Hebrews 12- Endure, live, listen
November 25 2018-	Hebrews 13- Love, remember, sacrifice

Hebrews

Read Hebrews 1-13

Theme: Jesus is Superior

Theme Verse: “Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoke to us through his Son”- Hebrews 1:1-2a (NLT).

This week, spend time with the entire book of Hebrews. Read through it a few times to get the general idea of what it’s about.

What’s the overall tone of the book? Why is it being written?

Complete the following sentence using as many words, thoughts and concepts from Hebrews as you can:

“Jesus is...”:

In one brief sentence, state the main message of Hebrews.

Using the space below, write what you’re hoping to gain from this study.

How can you focus on *listening with the intent to obey* what God will say to you during this study?

Hebrews

Read Hebrews 1:1-3

Theme: Jesus is how God speaks

Theme Verse: “The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his hand”- Hebrews 1:3a (NLT).

OPA Method

Observation -Compile all facts in the passage -Make observations on what passage says - Make at least 10-30 observations.

Principles -Draw a few principles from observations you made -Write down what God is trying to teach you in the passage.

Application -How will you apply the principles to your life? -Be specific – A good application tells who, what, and when.

Additional Questions:

Why were so many prophets required during the Old Testament?

Why did God have to speak so often to his people?

Is Jesus “just another prophet”? Why/why not?

How is Jesus similar to previous prophets? How is he different?

Hebrews

Read Hebrews 1:4 - 2:18

Theme: Jesus is superior to the angels

Theme Verse: “This shows that Jesus is far greater than the angels, just as the name God gave him is greater than their names”- Hebrews 1:4 (NLT).

SPECK Method

Sins to Avoid -Make a list of sins– wrong actions, attitudes, or thoughts– that are mentioned in the passage to avoid in life.

Promises to Claim -Make a list of promises, these will give us confidence when we doubt God/ face difficult times. Take them to heart and believe what the say.

Examples to Follow -What examples do you find? Is there a right way of thinking or acting described in the passage that you should take as an example in your life. Write it down!

Commands to Obey -Write all commands you find. When a passage encourages you to take action, take it as a command and write it down.

Knowledge of God -What does the passage tell you about God that you can apply to your daily life.

Additional Questions:

What kinds of jobs or roles do you think angels have in our world today?

In what ways is being a human better than being an angel? In what ways do you think being an angel would be better than being a human?

Hebrews

Read Hebrews 3:1 - 4:13

Theme: Jesus is superior to Moses

Theme Verse: "Moses was certainly faithful in God's house as a servant...But Christ, the Son, is in charge of God's entire house..."-Hebrews 3:5a, 6a (NLT).

5 P Method

Purpose -Why did the author write this? Why is it important to be in the bible? Write a couple of sentences of what you think the theme or topic is.

Primary Verse -Which verse or verses seem to contain the most important thought in the passage? Which one stands out most? Write out the verse & reference.

Promises -Make a list of promises you find. Sometimes you need to infer promises from the passage if it doesn't state them straight out.

Problems -Find anything you don't understand, even a word and write it as a question.

Practical Application -Think what the passage means to you. What action should you take? What needs to change or be worked on? Application should tell who, what, and when.

Additional Questions:

Read Exodus 3:1-13 and John 14:6-14. Compare contrast the way Moses and Jesus dealt with their calls.

In what ways have you experienced God's word as described in Hebrews 3:12-13.

Hebrews

Read Hebrews 4:14 - 5:10

Theme: Jesus is the Superior High Priest

Theme Verse: “This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all the same testings we do, yet he did not sin”- Hebrews 4:15 (NLT).

OPA Method

Observation -Compile all facts in the passage -Make observations on what passage says - Make at least 10-30 observations.

Principles -Draw a few principles from observations you made -Write down what God is trying to teach you in the passage.

Application -How will you apply the principles to your life? -Be specific – A good application tells who, what, and when.

Additional Questions:

What role did the priests in the Old Testament play?

What does it mean that Jesus is our Priest? How do you interact with Jesus as your Priest?

What does it mean to boldly approach God's throne of Grace?

Hebrews

Read Hebrews 5:11 - 6:20

Theme: Moving Forward

Theme Verse: “Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil”- Hebrews 5:13-14 (NIV).

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Practical Application -Think what the passage means to you. What action should you take? What needs to change or be worked on? Application should tell who, what, and when.

Additional Questions:

How can you know if you're making spiritual progress or not?

How can we take responsibility for our own spiritual growth?

In your own words, what is the difference between “meat” and “milk” from a spiritual standpoint? Which does your diet most consistently contain?

Hebrews

Read Hebrews 7

Theme: Jesus is the Superior Priesthood

Theme Verse: “There were many priests under the old systems, for death prevented them from remaining in office. But because Jesus lives forever, his priesthood lasts forever”- Hebrews 7:23-24 (NLT).

Newspaper Method

Who? -Make a list of major characters in the passage.

What? -What are the circumstances? What are the characters doing? What do we learn from what they say or their actions?

How? How is the author comparing and contrasting the priesthoods of Melchizedek and Jesus?

When? -When do you find yourself in need of a priest?

Why? -Why did God think this passage was so important that He included it in His Word?

How? -How does this apply to your life? How are you going to live differently today because of what you read? -Be specific— a good application tells who, what, and when.

Additional Questions

Spend extra time and thought on Melchizedek. The Old Testament discusses him in Genesis 14 and Psalm 110. Write down as much as you can about him from these texts.

Why do you think civilizations were already offering tithes to God before the commandment to tithe was given to Moses?

The Levites were priests because of their blood line, not their character. What problems might this have posed for the temple?

Hebrews

Read Hebrews 8

Theme: Jesus is the Superior Covenant

Theme Verse: “When God speaks of a ‘new’ covenant, it means he has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and will soon disappear”- Hebrews 8:13 (NLT).

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Principles -Draw a few principles from observations you made -Write down what God is trying to teach you in the passage.

Application -How will you apply the principles to your life? -Be specific – A good application tells who, what, and when.

Additional Questions

Based on your reading and study of Hebrews so far, what are some differences between the old covenant and new covenant?

How is the way you (as a new covenant believer) experience God’s love and forgiveness different from the way an Old Testament Israelite would experience God’s love and forgiveness?

Why did the old covenant need to be replaced?

Will the new covenant ever need to be replaced? Why or why not?

Hebrews

Read Hebrews 9

Theme: Jesus is the Superior Sanctuary

Theme Verse: "...he has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever"- Hebrews 9:11b-12 (NLT).

5 P Method

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Promises -Make a list of promises you find. Sometimes you need to infer promises from the passage if it doesn't state them straight out.

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Practical Application -Think what the passage means to you. What action should you take? What needs to change or be worked on? Application should tell who, what, and when.

Additional Questions

How does this text help you think about the building at 1701 W 27th in Scottsbluff?

Think about the differences between the earthly and heavenly tabernacles. What are some practical ways the Israelite's experience with God was different from ours?

Read verses 9:13-15 carefully. What is the difference between the old system of sacrifices and the the new covenant? How might your life be different today if your sins was covered, rather than removed?

Why might the Jewish Christians in the New Testament be tempted to return to the old system of sacrifices, rules, and regulations? What are some ways you feel more comfortable with the familiar, especially when those ways may be different than what God is calling you to?

Hebrews

Read Hebrews 10

Theme: Jesus is the Superior Sacrifice

Theme Verse: “For God’s will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time”- Hebrews 10:10 (NLT).

OPA Method

Observation -Compile all facts in the passage -Make observations on what passage says - Make at least 10-30 observations.

Principles -Draw a few principles from observations you made -Write down what God is trying to teach you in the passage.

Application -How will you apply the principles to your life? -Be specific – A good application tells who, what, and when.

Additional Questions

Regarding verse 8, why might God not be pleased with sacrifices or offerings though they were required?

The second half of this chapter is a warning to “hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm.” Why might this warning be here, in this chapter?

What might keep us from accepting Christ’s work on the cross as a “finished work”?

Why was blood such a significant part of sacrifices?

Hebrews

Read Hebrews 11

Theme: Cause' you gotta have faith

Theme Verse: "Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see"- Hebrews 11:1.

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Additional Questions

What are the invisible things you have faith in?

Warren Wiersbe writes, "Cain was religious, but not righteous." What's the difference between the two? Do you tend more to be religious or righteous?

Compare/contrast Rahab's comments (Joshua 2:8-14) with the Israelites' comments (Deuteronomy 1:27-28) about God. What was the difference between their faith?

How does faith give someone a good reputation (Hebrews 11:39)?

Hebrews

Read Hebrews 12

Theme: Endure, live, listen

Theme Verse: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witness to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us”- Hebrews 12:1.

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Promises to Claim -Make a list of promises, these will give us confidence when we doubt God/ face difficult times. Take them to heart and believe what they say.

Examples to Follow -What examples do you find? Is there a right way of thinking or acting described in the passage that you should take as an example in your life. Write it down!

Commands to Obey -Write all commands you find. When a passage encourages you to take action, take it as a command and write it down.

Knowledge of God -What does the passage tell you about God that you can apply to your daily life.

Additional Questions

In our Ecclesiastes series, we talked about the concept of “enduring” as an inappropriate way of dealing with the reality of death. What is the difference between that type of enduring and “running with endurance the race God has set before us”?

What are some things that slow you down on your spiritual journey? What keeps you from “stripping them off”?

What are some things that Jesus did while he was alive that might help you on your spiritual journey?

Hebrews

Read Hebrews 13

Theme: Love, remember, sacrifice

Theme Verse: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever"- Hebrews 13:8.

SPECK Method

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Additional Questions

How does this chapter talk about hospitality?

How does this chapter talk about Christian leaders and how to support them? Why is this important?

What are some "strange, new ideas" (13:9) that are tempting to adopt?

How can we ensure that we are not just "thinking more about God" but "listening to God with the intent to obey"?