

Callide Valley Presbyterian Church

[Biloela & Jambin]



growth groups booklet term 1 2023

1	SPEAKING ON GOD'S BEHALF	Hebrews 1:1-3	Jan 29
2	JESUS IS BETTER THAN ANGELS	Hebrews 1:1-14	Feb 05
3	JESUS OFFERS A BETTER SALVATION	Hebrews 2:1-9	Feb 12
4	JESUS IS A BETTER BROTHER	Hebrews 2:10-18	Feb 19
5	JESUS IS BETTER THAN MOSES	Hebrews 3:1-19	Feb 26
6	JESUS OFFERS A BETTER REST THAN JOSHUA	Hebrews 4:1-11	Mar 05
7	JESUS—THE BETTER PRIEST	Hebrews 4:12-5:6	Mar 12
8	JESUS LEADS US TO MATURITY	Hebrews 5:7-6:12	Mar 19
9	JESUS OFFERS A BETTER HOPE	Hebrews 6:13-20	Mar 26



This is our first Bible series for the year, The Gospel according to Hebrews: Jesus is better... As you can see from the titles we keep the 'better than' theme going all the way through, but that's much more than just a advertising ploy—it's serious business. The author of Hebrews is writing to a church and Christians under fire.

This congregation, composed primarily of Jewish Christians, are being tempted to stop being followers of Jesus. In some ways their temptation is unique, and in other ways it's all too common... 'stop going to church, go back to doing what you did before and everything will be alright'. For them that meant going back to the Jewish practices and system of the Old Covenant. Judaism was an officially sanctioned 'religion' in the Roman Empire whereas Christianity wasn't and didn't even look like a religion. If they went back there would be no persecution, no name calling, no confiscation of property, but they would lose in the only way it matters—they would lose God, Christ and salvation. The writer of Hebrews encourages them to 'keep on keeping on' by showing them how Jesus is better than ... the Old Covenant system which pointed to Jesus.

For us in a different place and time the letter to the Hebrews helps us to see how Jesus fulfills the Old Covenant in the New and how we need to be on our guard and encourage each other to keep trusting and keep owning our Lord Jesus who gave himself up for us. Hebrews contains some stern warnings but only because the stakes are so high ... our eternal salvation. I hope this series will be an encouragement to you to encourage others and be encouraged by them to 'keep on keeping on' in Jesus. I'm looking forward to this term as we spend time together in God's word, and I hope you are too!

Andrew.



...about this study booklet...

- the studies in this booklet link into the sermon series at church (the dates of the talks are listed on the front cover), with each study following the talk by the same title. This approach enables group time to be spent digging deeper into the Bible text and to discuss issues or questions raised by the talk. Importantly, it also enables your group to have a strong focus upon application, sharing, accountability and prayer. Our groups are not just about information but transformation.
- we aim to provide a copy of this study booklet to every regular attender at church whether you've been with us for only a few weeks or for many years. We would love everyone to be involved in one of our Growth Groups and do the studies in that context. You can read more about the groups and find out how to get involved in one in the coming weeks at church.
- If you are presently unable to be part of one of our Growth Groups we hope you will still be able to set aside time to work through the weekly studies. And we would also like to link you to a Growth Group as a point of contact in times of need. The group can also pray for you and look out for you. In a growing church having all our regular attenders in a Growth Group, or at least linked to one in this way, is a key way we can care for everyone involved.
- You will notice as you look through the opening pages that there is a lot more to this booklet than the studies alone. It is also a key way, each term, you can find out more about what is happening across our various church ministries. This helps us all not only stay informed but also able to pray meaningfully for the ministries and life of our church family. Some of the prayer points in each study will refer you back to the various ministry articles for that reason.



It takes about half an hour to read through the letter to the Hebrews. Here are some questions to think about as you read...

1. What specific things are we told about Jesus in the course of this letter?
2. What specific issues in the early church does the letter seem to address? What things are suggested in the letter?
3. What do these letters reveal about the character of God and his control over different situations?
4. How does the writer to the Hebrews encourage the early church?
5. What are some of the key words and themes that come up in the letter? How do these compare with what you know of other parts of the New Testament?
6. How would you summarise Hebrews in a sentence or two?
7. What challenges/encouragements does this letter offer us as Christians today?

getting more out of your studies

- READ the relevant passage before the Sunday talk (and look through the investigate questions). Wrestling with God's Word for yourself before hearing the talk will help you to get much more out of it.
- PREPARE the study questions before your Growth Group meeting. You'll be in a better position to serve others in your group through thought out contributions. If everyone in the group prepares in this way, it will be easier to dig deeper, and to devote more time to application and prayer.
- PRAY for those teaching the Word; for those leading groups; for other members of your group; and for yourself—that your attitude will be focused on serving others, and growing in knowledge and love of Jesus our



kick off
this question just gets us talking about the broad subject of the study before we see what God's word says about it.



key verse
it's helpful to find one verse that sums up the whole passage we're looking at. Try memorising some of these verses through the term.



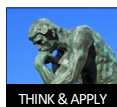
big idea
gives a 'ballpark' sense of the focus of the study—to keep us on track. It's great to get into the detail, but we also want to pull it all together.



investigate
draws out what the Bible text is actually saying. Stay looking at the Bible as you answer them, and refer to verses in your answer.



digging deeper
gives you the chance to chase up the big idea in other parts of the Bible, especially if your group prepares ahead and covers the main set passage faster.



think & apply
is where the rubber hits the road: applying it to our lives. Doing studies linked to the Sunday talks allows more time to be devoted to this vital step.



training
is an opportunity to re-inforce what we have learnt in the study through various practical exercises. Don't be afraid to have some fun and give it a go.



Prayer is a key part of how we respond to listening to God in his word together—by talking to him together. It's a key part of our ministry to each other.



church events reminds us that we're part of a church family, and that there are many other opportunities to meet together and spur one another on in following Jesus.



family discussion
provides a question for a family to discuss together—and an opportunity to share with our children what we are learning—ideal for Monday morning breakfast.



reading ahead
gives you a reminder of what's coming up next week. You'll serve your group well by preparing for the study. For study 1 read Hebrews chapter 1.

your growth group

your Growth Group is a place where you get to:

- connect significantly with a regular group of friends
- grow in Christian faith and love; and
- serve one another in word and action

... of course, the key ingredient in all that happening... is being there! But that's only the first step. A helpful small group member is one who:

- prepares the study beforehand;
- shares their answers as well as their life; and
- listens thoughtfully and actively to what others have to say

How about committing yourself to the other members of your group by being there each week and doing these three crucial things?

your leaders

your small group leaders are appointed each year by the Session. They are carefully chosen to lead Growth Groups, because first and foremost, they care about your progress as a growing follower of Jesus. We're also confident that they care about working hard at understanding and applying God's word to their own lives. They take part in Leaders Meetings throughout the year, previewing the studies, being equipped for their role, and giving feedback on how each group is travelling. Leaders will also seek pastoral input from our Session when they feel they need advice in how to best care for group members in particular situations. Please value and care for your leaders as they care for you!

Keep these words in mind from Hebrews 13:17...

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith... Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

We encourage everyone from Callide Valley to consider joining a Growth Group. If you would like to find out more please contact Andrew Purcell on 0439 510 500 or Ian Wilkie on 0407 156 543.



What are some of the times that you have spoken on behalf of someone else? (Or been a representative of someone or an organisation/school)



^{NIV} **Hebrews 1:3**... The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.



Jesus speaks the very words of God.

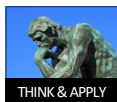


READ HEBREWS 1:1

1. How has God spoken in the past? v1

2. Pool your group's knowledge—can you think of the 'various ways' that God spoke through the prophets? What has now changed? v2

3. How do these opening lines confront the viewpoint that the Old Testament, the story of Israel, offers all the answers for how to live a life of obedience and worship to God?



4. How do these opening lines confront the viewpoint that we need some extra sort of revelation besides that of the Old Testament?

Read 1Peter 1:3-9 and 2Peter 2:4-9.

What does Peter say about the trials we face?

READ HEBREWS 1:2-3

5. List the ways Jesus is described in verses 1-3 ?



6. In your own words, what point is the writer of Hebrews trying to make about Jesus given the situation he is writing to?



7. How does this compare with how people think of Jesus today and the temptations we face?



8. A theme to take notice of: In the teaching on 'endurance' what are the readers (us included) told to do?

Passage Message

Hebrews 3:14

Hebrews 4:14

Hebrews 10:23

Hebrews 10:35

Hebrews 12:1-3



9. What are some of the ways we are called to speak on God's behalf?



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

Growth Group members	Unbelieving friends



Jan 29	Sunday School resumes	Feb 20	Widows Group 9.30am
Jan 29	VIP-Net Youth resumes	Feb 20-21	Standing Committees
Jan 29	Growth Groups Resume	Mar 02	Session Meeting
Jan 31	VIP-Net Jr Resumes	Mar 05	Lord's Supper
Feb 02	Session Meeting	Mar 06	Widows Group 9.30am
Feb 06	QTC Thanksgiving Svc 7pm	Mar 12	Pelican Pt Service
Feb 06	Widows Group 9.30am	Mar 13	CAMEOH 9.45am
Feb 11	Presbytery Rocky 10am	Mar 16	CoM Meeting
Feb 13	CAMEOH 9.45am	Mar 20	Widows Group 9.30am
Feb 15	CVMF Annual Meeting	Apr 01	School Holidays START
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How important is it for us to keep trusting in Jesus even when life is tough?

Pray that we'd be encouraged to continue to pray for each other and allow God to bring us to maturity in Christ Jesus.



NIV Colossians 1:15-16 ¹⁵ *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.* ¹⁶ *For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.*

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven for our faith in Jesus Christ and the love we have for each other, and pray that these would grow more and more.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, especially those who are facing hardship in their lives.

Praise God that he has a plan to bring his people to maturity and furnish them with the crown of life.

pray also

for Term 1 at School

for VIP-Net Junior and VIP-Net Youth as they kickoff this week.



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

Hebrews 1:1-14



What do you know about angels? Do you know more or less about Jesus?



^{NIV} **Hebrews 1:14** Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?



Jesus brings a better message and has far more authority than angels.



INTRODUCTORY NOTES: There is no detailed teaching on angels in the bible but there are a number of times when they are mentioned. **Although the OT does not say so, among the Jews, there was a belief that angels were involved in the giving of the law to Moses.** (See Hebrews 2:2 and Galatians 3:19.) Don't be misled. While this looks like a chapter about angels, it's not! It's about which WORD is best—the Jewish law, who they thought was given by angels, or the gospel, which was brought by Jesus. A bunch of Old Testament quotations tells these former Jews which messenger they should stick with and why!

READ HEBREWS 1:1-9

1. What are some of the comparisons made here between Jesus and the angels?

2. Who holds the greater position of authority and responsibility?



READ HEBREWS 1:10-14

3. What is being pointed out about Jesus from quoting verses 10-12?

4. What point is being made in verse 13?



5. According to verses 6, 7 and 14, what is the 'job' of angels? (Note also: The word 'angel' means 'messenger'. So 'messenger' is their name and their function.)



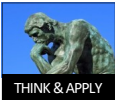
6. According to verse 3 (which is a link to Psalm 110) and verse 13 (which directly quotes Psalm 110), what position does Jesus have right now?

Read Psalm 110.

What does it teach is about Jesus?



7. What path did Jesus take before he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven? (v.3)



8. When this passage makes the point that Jesus is: the Son of the Father, the heir of all things, the creator of the universe, the radiance of God's glory, the powerful sustainer of all things, the one who provided purification for sins, God who rules with righteousness, the eternal one, and judge – how does this challenge the way you think about Jesus yourself?

9. How does this view of Jesus find its way into your daily life?

10. What kind of importance should we attach to the message Jesus brings to us in the New Testament?



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

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Mar 05	Lord's Supper	Apr 20	CoM



How important is it for us to listen to Jesus?

Pray that we'd be encouraged to listen to Jesus and embrace the message he brings us.



NIV Hebrews 1:3
³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven for our faith in Jesus Christ and the love we have for each other, and pray that these would grow more and more.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, to live according to God's desire for our lives.

Praise God that he has a plan to bring his people to maturity and furnish them with the crown of life.

pray also

for Missionaries Keith and Elspeth Campbell in PNG.

for our Sunday School children and our Sunday School teachers.

Praise the Lord for our bible college QTC.



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

Hebrews 2:1-9

3

Jesus Offers A Better Salvation



What are some of the best offers people have made to you over the years?



^{NIV} **Hebrews 2:1** We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.



Jesus stands at the centre of God's ultimate plan for salvation. If we ignore him we will surely perish!



READ HEBREWS 2:1-4

1. Name three things you have to pay attention to in life...

2. How might we go about “paying careful attention” to the gospel? (What kind of things might you do?)

3. In the Old Testament law, what is the ‘just punishment’ for violation and disobedience? (c.f. Romans 6:23)

4. What is it that we have the chance of escaping (v.3)?



5. What is the escape plan and who announced it first?

6. How did Jesus describe the escape plan? (See Jn 3:16; Mk 1:15; Lk4:42-44) How is this ‘better’ than what the people had in the Old Testament?



7. What did God the Father do to convince us that the Gospel is true? (v4)



8. What are some of the main miracles of Jesus and what do the miracles show us/ teach us about salvation?

READ HEBREWS 2:5-9

9. Who is the world to come being prepared for?

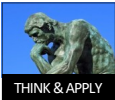
Read Psalm 8 which is quoted in Hebrews 2:6-8.

According to the Psalm, who is made to be a ruler i.e. made to have dominion?



10. What part do the angels have to play? (v.5) (c.f. Heb 1:14)

11. What do you think it means that God IS mindful of mankind? How does he show it?



12. What do you think it means to be 'made a little lower' than the angels?

13. What is the result of Jesus' death on the cross(v.9):-

A) for us?

B) for Jesus himself?

14. Having read Hebrews 2:1-9—what are the key elements of salvation to take notice of?



15. How can we make sure we don't 'ignore' this great salvation which is offered to us?

Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

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What are some ways we can keep our attention on the gospel message?

Pray that we'd be encouraged to live the way God desires and that we would not drift away.



NIV Hebrews 2:2-3a
² For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, ³ how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation?

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven for our faith in Jesus Christ and the love we have for each other. Pray that we would be rich in our faith in Jesus and so inherit the kingdom he has promised to those who love him.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, not to show favouritism, but to treat others as God has treated us.

Praise God that he has a plan to bring his people to maturity and furnish them with the crown of life.

pray also

for our Elders and those who lead our ministries.

for VIP-Net Youth and VIP-Net Jr ministries.

For our Police Force and those in our Emergency Services.

For our upcoming Annual Meeting.



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

Hebrews 2:10-18



In your own words, what does it mean to be a good neighbour to someone? How is this magnified/intensified if you are their brother or sister in Christ?



^{NIV} **Hebrews 2:17** For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.



Jesus is the best brother we could ever hope or wish for. He has become like us in order to secure the forgiveness of our sins, and do for us what we are unable to do for ourselves.



READ HEBREWS 2:10-13

1. What does verse 10 tell us about our future with Jesus?
2. What does verse 10 tell us about human existence?
3. What does it mean that Jesus is the 'pioneer' of our salvation?
4. What does Jesus declare to his people (= 'family') according to verse 12? How might this relate to Hebrews 1:3?



5. Verse 11 tells us that Jesus has made us holy. What do you think this means, and how might this affect the way we live as God's people/family?

READ HEBREWS 2:14-18

6. Why did Jesus have to share in our humanity?



7. Whose power is broken by Jesus' death on the cross and what does this mean for us—his brothers and sisters? (vv.14-15)



8. Why should we no longer fear death? (How might we encourage those around us who still hold that fear?)

9. What has Jesus 'become' in order to make 'atonement' for our sins? (v.17). What might it mean for us that he is both 'merciful' and 'faithful'?

Read Isaiah 8:11-18

What are God's people to fear **INSTEAD** of what everyone else fears?

In verse 18—what are God's people to be signs and symbols of?



10. What is another key positive outcome for us—of Jesus being fully human?(v.18)

11. How might Jesus be able to help you when you are being tempted?



READ Luke 4:1-13

12. What does Jesus do each time he is tempted by the evil one? How might this be useful for us to remember?

13. In your own words, explain how Jesus is the best brother we could ever have and why?

14. How might we be a better brother/sister/neighbour to those around us?



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

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How do we benefit from the fact that Jesus was fully human like us?

Pray that we'd be encouraged to live the righteous and holy lives that God desires.



NIV Hebrews 2:18
18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven for our faith in Jesus Christ and the love we have for each other. Pray that we would strive to live righteously in God's sight, knowing that Jesus forgives us when we get it wrong.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, to trust Jesus and follow his example by doing the things he did.

Praise God that he has a plan to bring his people to maturity and furnish them with the crown of life.

pray also

for our Sunday School ministry and our Sunday School teachers

for the work of the Presbyterian Inland Mission and the work they do to bring the gospel to the remotest parts of our country.



for Sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

Hebrews 3:1-19

Jesus Is Better Than Moses



If someone has helped you (and/or your family) through a long ordeal—how should you treat them once it's all over?



^{NIV} **Hebrews 3:5-6** “Moses was faithful as a servant in all God’s house,” bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. ⁶But 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.



While Moses was a great man and an outstanding leader of God's people - Jesus is both a better man (as we saw last week), he is ruler over the house of God and in the position of ultimate authority.

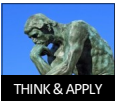


READ HEBREWS 3:1-6

1. How does the writer address the Hebrews in v.1, and what is it they share in? DO you think this applies to us and why?

2. When I was learning to play golf as a kid, I was always told to keep my eye on the ball. If we are going to live the Christian life well, of course we need to keep our eyes on Jesus. What do you find interesting or intriguing about the titles of Jesus in v.2?

3. In v.3 we are invited to compare and contrast Moses and Jesus. In what ways are they the same and in what ways are they different and why?



4. How does Moses’ rescue of God’s people (in Exodus to Deuteronomy) compare to the rescue Jesus offers in the gospel?

5. What makes us “God’s house”?



6. When we are told that Moses was faithful in bearing witness to what would be spoken by God—what specifically does he say in Deuteronomy 18:14-18? How does this line up with what we know of Jesus’ transfiguration (read Mark 9:1-8)?



7. How might these verses in Hebrews 3:1-6 help us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus?

READ HEBREWS 3:7-11

8. How did the Israelites hear God’s voice throughout Exodus to Deuteronomy? How do we ‘hear God’s voice’ and his message to US? (see Hebrews 2:3-4)

Read Numbers 13:30-14:4

What does Caleb say to the people?

What do the rest of the spies who entered the land say?

How did the Israelites respond to the reports they heard? (Do you think they trusted God to carry out his plan that Moses had brought to them?)

What temptation were they faced with and how might this be similar for us today?



9. Who was testing whom in the wilderness for 40 years? What was the outcome of all this 'testing' (vv.10-11)?



10. Although Moses was a faithful messenger throughout this time, what was revealed about the hearts of the Israelites? In what ways might we still have this same problem in our hearts?

READ HEBREWS 3:12-19

11. What happened to those who failed to believe Moses? Who was it they were refusing to trust?

12. What do you think it means to 'enter God's rest'?

13. What will happen to us if we fail to trust and believe the Gospel message that Jesus has brought to us from the Father?



14. What does the author suggest to prevent us from having sinful unbelieving hearts? How might we do this?

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What are some ways we can encourage each other?

Pray we'd be encouraged to believe the Gospel with absolute certainty.



NIV Hebrews 3:12-13
¹² See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven for our faith in Jesus Christ and the love we have for each other. Pray that we would speak well of each other and say things that build one another up in our faith in Jesus.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, to trust Jesus and follow his example by doing the things he did.

for the ministry of our Committee of Management.

That our Local Chaplaincy Committee will be able to fill a number of chaplaincy vacancies including our Primary School, and District Schools.

for the Presbyterian Church in Emerald and particularly that Rod would be a faithful minister of God's word as he and the church reach out to the Emerald community with the gospel.



for Sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

Hebrews 4:1-11



What are some of the things that people do to relax? What do you find most relaxing and how often do you get to do it?



^{NIV} **Hebrews 4:8-10** For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. ⁹There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; ¹⁰for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his.



When we hear the Gospel we are to combine it with faith in Jesus which results in ACTION in your life. We are to enjoy the rest Jesus offers us as we look forward to the eternal salvation he offers.



READ HEBREWS 4:1-5

1. Speaking personally, how much do you need your rest a) each night? b) each week? And c) annually? What are the indicators that you haven't had enough rest?

2. What was going to be their 'status' in the promised land? (See especially Exodus 6:6-8; Exodus 7:16; Numbers 15:39-40; Deuteronomy 14:1-2). What kind of people were they going to be?

3. What seems to be the link here between holiness/purity, obedience to God's commands, the gospel and rest? What stopped them from 'entering' God's rest?



4. How do people react in the Old Testament if they are not 'right with God' and they know that he is near? (See especially Exodus 20:18-21; Isaiah 6:1-5; Jonah 1:8-16)

5. How well would you sleep at night if you knew that someone was after you? (e.g. Tax man, Policeman, scary underworld figure...)



6. What is the position before God if their sins remain unforgiven and they refuse to listen to him? (read Hebrews 4:12-13)



7. If people know and understand the full weight of Hebrews 4:12-13 why might they not be able to rest?

8. What significant thing has Jesus done to make us 'right with God' and be at peace with him? (See Hebrews 2:10-11, Hebrews 3:1a), Hebrews 2:17).

READ HEBREWS 4:6-11

9. Why would a 'hard heart' prevent a person from entering God's rest?

Read Exodus 12:1-13

What is the final plague upon Egypt and what happens in every Egyptian household that night?

How are the Hebrews shielded from this plague (what are they instructed to do)?

Read Exodus 13:11-16

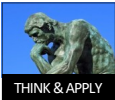
What were the people to do regarding their firstborn sons?

What has God done for us with his firstborn Son?



10. With respect to the Hebrew forefathers, what was ‘their example of disobedience’ and how did they ‘fall’?

11. What is the rest that we have the opportunity to enter and what does it mean for us to “make every effort” to enter it?



12. How is this still all about holiness/purity, obedience to God’s commands, the gospel and rest? What will stop us from ‘entering’ God’s rest?

13. How is ‘not working on a Sunday’ only a small part of what is being considered here?

14. What does Jesus say to us about rest? (See Matthew 11:28-30)



15. Are you actually getting the rest that you need? Is there anything you need to do differently to ensure you enter God’s rest?

Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God’s Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

Growth Group members		Unbelieving friends	



Feb 19	Annual Meeting	Apr 07	Easter Friday
Feb 20	Widows Group 9.30am	Apr 09	Easter Sunday
Feb 20-21	Standing Committees	Apr 11-15	CQ Launch Camp
Mar 02	Session Meeting	Apr 16	Session Meeting
Mar 05	Lord’s Supper	Apr 18	VIP-Net Jr Meeting
Mar 06	Widows Group 9.30am	Apr 20	CoM
Mar 12	Phillip Preaching		
Mar 12	Monto PC Annual Meeting		
Mar 13	CAMEOH 9.45am		
Mar 16	CoM Meeting		
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Apr 01	School Holidays START		



What are some ways we can humble ourselves before God?

Pray that we’d be encouraged to live in a way that brings honour and glory to God.



NIV **Matthew 11:28-29**

28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven that because of the salvation he provides us in Jesus his Son—we deserve his undivided loyalty and attention.

Pray that we would remember to encourage others this week, and to cast their burdens upon the Lord.

Pray that we would ask God for the things we need, rather than seek to obtain our wants and desires by worldly means.

pray also

for our kids, youth and young adults.

for the Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF) and their work with Arab and Muslim peoples around the world.



for sunday’s bible talk and next week’s study read...

Hebrews 4:12-5:6



What kind of people make the best representatives in our local, state, and federal government and why?



^{NIV} **Hebrews 4:14-15** 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. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.



Jesus is exactly the priest we need and we should never forget this or become complacent in our faith!



READ HEBREWS 4:12-13

1. What do you find unsettling about these verses? What does the word/law of God actually do for us (c.f. Romans 3:19-20)

2. What do these verses tell us about our future encounter with God? How certain can we be that this future meeting will happen?

3. What kind of help might we need before we get to this meeting, and what do you think the writer means by calling it our time of need?

READ HEBREWS 4:14-16



4. In v.14—where has Jesus gone and how does this knowledge, combined with his ‘status’ of high priest give us great hope and strengthen our faith?

5. As great high priest what does Jesus do for us?

6. What do we receive **from** Jesus in our time of need? How important is it to remind each other of these things?



READ HEBREWS 5:1-6

In this part of Hebrews the writer explains that Jesus is a priest, like Israel had throughout its history. But, he also spends a lot of time showing that Jesus is a very different and vastly superior priest. Fill in the table below from what we learn in 4:14-5:3:



The similarities between Jesus and the priests of the OT system:	The differences between Jesus and the priests of the OT system:
5:1	4:14
5:2	4:15
5:4-5	5:1 & 5:3

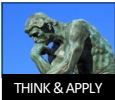
Read 2Peter 3:1-14

What is going to happen when the Lord returns?

What kind of people does the apostle Peter say we should be?



7. From 5v.1 what is the actual role of the high priest in the Old Testament?



8. How is Jesus better than the high priests of the Old Testament

9. What do verses 2 and 3 point out about the old testament high priests and what is useful for us to remember here about ministers and pastors today?

10. What are we told about 'high priestly appointments', and how Jesus is appointed to the role of high priest? Do we still follow this practice in our churches today? (What might be the value of doing this?)



11. What can we be thankful for about Jesus' high priesthood in our 'time of need'?

Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

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Apr 01	School Holidays START		



What are some ways we can be good ambassadors for Christ?

Pray that we'd be alert to opportunities to share the news of Jesus with our friends and family.



NIV Hebrews 4:15-16
15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven that because of the salvation he provides us in Jesus his Son—and our high priest.

Pray that we would be alert to the good things we ought to be doing, and take the time to do them.

Pray that we would be keen to tell others the good news of the gospel of Christ.

pray also

for our music ministry and all those in our church who serve the Lord in this way

for Inside/Out Chaplaincy (formerly CCC) as they continue to minister in word and in deed to prisoners across our state.

for the ministry of Nathan and Naomi Shannon in Gladstone



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

Hebrews 5:7-6:12



What is the hardest thing about reading your bible?



^{NIV} **Hebrews 6:1-3** Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, 2 instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And God permitting, we will do so.



As we continually read God's word and allow it to shape our lives (like 'land continually drinking rain') we will produce a great harvest for the Lord.



READ HEBREWS 5:7-6:3

1. What is the reason that Jesus was 'heard by God' when he offered 'prayers and petitions' to his father?
2. What did Jesus gain through suffering and what did he become the source of? Who benefits from this?
3. What priestly order is Jesus a part of and who made this 'designation'?
4. Why is 'teaching the Hebrews' becoming difficult according to verses 11 & 12? What is it they need 'all over again'?
5. What is the distinguishing feature of a mature Christian? What have they trained themselves to do? (See also 2Tim 3:16-17)
6. In 6:1-3—what action is required in order to move on to maturity?



READ HEBREWS 6:4-8

7. What does the writer say is "impossible", and how does this compare with those who were disobedient and 'fell in the desert'?



8. What do verses 7 & 8 tell us about how we should live?

9. How would you say that you have been responding to God's word in your own life? What might it mean for you to 'drink in the rain' and produce a harvest for the Lord in your life?

Read Joshua 24:14-18 & 28-30

What do we know about Joshua's life and his service to God's people?

How long did he remain faithful for, and how long did he 'actively serve the Lord' for?

How long should we actively serve the Lord for?



READ HEBREWS 6:9-12

10. What is our author convinced of here in verse 9?



11. What do we learn about God in verse 10, and what things will he remember? (How do we 'show' our love for him?)

12. How should we live as Christians according to verses 10-12? Do we ever get to the stage where we've done enough and can sit back and let others/ the next generation do all the work of serving? What should our attitude be?



13. What is the promise we stand to inherit if we remain faithful and patient in serving others? What have we learnt here about Christian maturity?

Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

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Apr 01	School Holidays START		



What are some ways we can remember God's compassion and mercy for us in Jesus?

Pray that we'd be thankful for the things we have been blessed with, and patient as we wait for his return.



NIV Hebrews 6:10-11
10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. 11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized.

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven that because of the salvation he provides us in Jesus his Son—and for the many other blessings he pours down upon us.

Pray that we would be patient, and trust God in all things, remembering the example of Job, and that of Jesus.

Pray that we would be keen to tell others the good news of the gospel of Christ.

pray also
 For our church leaders

for the ministries of L&C; Glen and Liz; Paul Smith; Libby Haswell; & Walter Jones.

for the work of the Bible League as they seek to provide bibles to persecuted Christians.



for sunday's bible talk and next week's study read...

Hebrews 6:13-20



What are some of the things that people hope for in life?



^{NIV} **Hebrews 6:19-20a** We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, ²⁰where our forerunner, Jesus, has entered on our behalf.



God's purpose is unchanging, and secured by an oath from God himself. Therefore we can 'rest secure' in our hope of eternal salvation and all that our brother Jesus has done on our behalf.

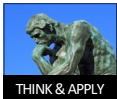


READ HEBREWS 6:13-17

1. From last week—when we continue to serve our Christian brothers and sisters faithfully—what promises do we stand to inherit? (6:10-12)

2. What does God promise Abraham, and how does God give Abraham confidence to trust him?

3. Read Genesis 15:1-21. What is Abraham 'credited with' by God and why is he credited with it?



4. Read Genesis 22:15-18. After Abraham's obedience concerning Isaac his one and only son to Sarah, what does God promise to Abraham and confirm on oath?

5. How widely known would these details have been among the Hebrew people?



6. What was Abraham prepared to do with his one and only son?



7. What are we being told here about the promises God makes to us?

8. What does God do for us with his one and only son?

READ HEBREWS 6:18-20

9. What are the two unchangeable things(v.18) that give us incredible hope?

Read Romans 4:13-25

How are we encouraged by Abraham's faith and trust in God?

What things do we stand to inherit if we trust God?



10. What is our soul 'anchored to' when we trust God's promises to us?



11. What is it that makes our hope 'firm and secure'?

12. If we 'hold fast' to God—what kind of assurance do we have then as Christians? Will anyone ever be able to separate us from God our Father?

13. What has Jesus done on our behalf, and how does this give us everlasting hope that will never fade?

14. How might we encourage others in their faith at this half-way point in the letter to the Hebrews?



Pray together about the encouragement and challenge raised by God's Word through this study. Note prayer points below for your partners in the gospel (Growth Group members) and their contacts:

Growth Group members		Unbelieving friends	



Feb 19	Annual Meeting	Apr 02	Baptism Service
Feb 20	Widows Group 9.30am	Apr 06	A Night to Remember 6.30pm
Feb 20-21	Standing Committees	Apr 07	Easter Friday 9.30am
Mar 02	Session Meeting	Apr 09	Easter Sunday 10am
Mar 05	Lord's Supper	Apr 11-15	CQ Launch Camp
Mar 06	Widows Group 9.30am	Apr 16	Session Meeting
Mar 12	Phillip preaching	Apr 18	VIP-Net Jr Meeting
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Apr 01	School Holidays START		



What are some ways we can encourage each other as disciples of Jesus?

Pray that we'd be thankful for the things we have been promised, and that we'd trust God for the things he has planned for us.



NIV Romans 4:23-25
²³ *The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, ²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*

Give thanks to our Father in Heaven that because of the salvation he provides us in Jesus his Son—and for the many other blessings he pours down upon us.

Pray that we would be patient, and trust God in all things, remembering the example of Abraham and his faith and trust in God.

Pray that we would be keen to tell others the good news of the gospel of Christ.

pray also
 For the other churches in the Presbytery of Central QLD

For the preparations for our Combined Churches Carols Service 28th May—Lutheran Church.

For the Ministry of AFES around Australia, and particularly for Libby Haswell.



for revision of this series re- read...

Hebrews 1-6!

The titles, format and questions in these studies have been gradually developed from the 1990s onwards in cooperation with various pastors and ministry workers throughout Australia who have willingly shared their Bible study material with one another. Some of these shared titles, formats and questions have been utilized in Bible study booklets published by various evangelical churches. The common shared source of these studies published by these churches and their publishing houses is acknowledged.