

TCC Community Guide

For the week of January 14, 2024
Greater Than: A Series in Hebrews

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from January 14, 2024

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the verse provided, slowly, perhaps a couple of times, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: John 1:1-5

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Hebrews 1:1-4. Pastor Adam taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- The book of Hebrews is most likely a sermon written by an unidentified Pastor to a congregation of messianic Jews. The original audience would have been familiar with the Old Testament.
- The sermon was delivered to them during a time of persecution, likely during or after 64AD, when Rome caught fire, and Emperor Nero blamed the Christians. House Churches retreated to meet in Catacombs, and many Christians were persecuted. Internal evidence in the sermon suggests that the congregation was doubting their faith, tempted to disconnect/disengage from faith, discouraged, and wondering.
- The Author of Hebrews writes to this discouraged congregation and begins his sermon by reminding them that God is not far off, but is personal, near, and is speaking to them.
- The author goes on to describe the person of Jesus, giving these seven traits, saying that Jesus:
 1. Is the heir of all things. A reference to Psalm 2, Jesus IS the anticipated messiah. Jesus is Our Saviour.
 2. Was through whom the universe was made. Jesus is our creator.
 3. Is the radiance of God's glory: What the rays of light are to the sun, Jesus is to the Father – glory referring to the felt presence of God. Jesus is God with us.
 4. Is the exact representation of God's being. To know God, we need not look further than Jesus. Jesus is God.
 5. Is sustaining all things by his powerful word. He is the Sustainer of all things and worthy of our trust.
 6. Provided purification for sins. Jesus himself became our sacrifice. Jesus is our redemption and our path to joy.
 7. Sitting at the right hand of the majesty in heaven. Jesus is Our King.
- God's speech invites us to listen. We struggle to listen as some are apathetic, too busy, or too proud.
- Jesus demonstrates for us the practice of silence and solitude through which he intentionally got alone with the Father, we need to follow Jesus' example and be people who hear and respond to God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Hebrews 1:1-4?
2. In what ways might you relate to the audience of Hebrews?
3. Which of the seven characteristics of Jesus speaks to you the most in this season of life? In what ways do you need to hear God speak?
4. What does your practice of being alone with and listening to Jesus look like? How do you practice hearing God? What challenges do you experience? How might you grow in this practice?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? If this is your first meeting, ask what their prayer is for the group in the months ahead. Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of January 21, 2024
Greater Than: A Series in Hebrews

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from January 21, 2024

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, read the verse provided, slowly, perhaps a couple of times, allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: John 1:6-9

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Hebrews 1:4-14. Jenna taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- Angels are very significant throughout the Bible. They are evidence of God's work in history. It was understood that God delivered the law through angels (Acts 7:53, and Galatians 3:19). It is likely that in the midst of persecution these early Christians are once again hoping for a message or a rescue from Angels.
- This passage provides seven Old Testament passages that speak to how Jesus is superior to angels:
 1. Jesus is God's one and only Son whereas angels are not. (Hebrews 1:5, Psalm 2:7; 2 Sam 7:14 or 1 Chronicles 17:13)
 2. Jesus receives worship whereas angels are created to worship. (Hebrews 1:6, Deuteronomy 32:43)
 3. Jesus has a body, angels do not. (Hebrews 1:7)
 4. Jesus sits on the throne whereas angels minister before it (Hebrews (1:8)
 5. Jesus is set-apart as God's chosen saviour, whereas angels are sent to do God's will. (Hebrews 1:9)
 6. Jesus is the creator, whereas angels were created. (Hebrews 1:10-12)
 7. Jesus commands whereas angels obey. (Hebrews 1:13)
- If Jesus is superior to all heavenly beings - then Jesus should be the most captivating presence in our lives everyday. This presence should challenge us to live differently so we bring our whole lives into alignment with the reality of who Jesus is.
- Verse 14 gives us this strange and surreal purpose of angels: they serve us. You are an inheritor of salvation. You are the one that Christ's angels minister to. You are the one who has been crowned with glory and honour
- In difficulty we may hope for a host of Angels to come and work deliverance, but the author of Hebrews reminds us that Jesus is our deliverer, our greatest hope and who we ultimately need. He is greater.
- There is no higher power, no greater promise, no fix, no cure, no scientific breakthrough, no political mashup, no technological advancement that is greater than Jesus to Jesus. He is with us no matter our circumstance.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Hebrews 1:4-14?
2. If someone got a report on your smartphone usage, what would they learn about you? How might you adjust your relationship with your smartphone in order to more intentionally direct your attention to Jesus?
3. Hebrews chapter 1 teaches a lot about Jesus. Which aspect of His nature resonates with you the most? What difference does it make in your life?
4. What types of authority do you find you look to over and above Jesus? What are you placing hope in that can not do for you what only Christ Jesus can?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? If this is your first meeting, ask what their prayer is for the group in the months ahead. Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer. Also ensure you pray out of the scripture and discussion from the time together.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of January 28, 2024

Greater Than: A Series in Hebrews

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from January 28, 2024.

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, slowly read the verse provided (perhaps a couple of times), allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: John 1:10-13

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Hebrews 2:1-4. Pastor Adam taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- The author of Hebrews has been making his case throughout chapter 1 that Jesus' message is the greatest message. We must resist drifting from it. This may reflect that the audience was feeling tempted, amidst persecution, to turn away from Jesus.
- In light of Jesus' better message, the author pleads with the church not to drift away from it.
- Adam highlighted two ways to consider Jesus' message:
 1. The message of Jesus' teaching: Jesus taught on what life with God and others should look like. He demonstrated a particular way of life and invited others to follow him. We learn Jesus' message by studying his teaching.
 2. The message of the good-news (gospel) of Jesus: Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension and sending of the Holy Spirit ushered in a new era for humanity in which they can be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus. Mark 1:15 summarizes Jesus' declaration that "the time has come..." The message of the gospel calls us to repentance from sin and trust in Jesus.
- Pastor Adam spoke to three ways this passage identifies why we need to listen to Jesus' message of salvation:
 1. By neglecting the message we may drift away (2:1). The metaphor is powerful, revealing that there is inevitable movement as it relates to our life with Jesus. We are either moving forward or sliding backward. Anchored or drifting.
 2. By neglecting the message we experience consequences (2:2-3). Verse 2 is contrasting two messages. The OT law (delivered by angels) with the message of Salvation from Jesus. Both messages contain the reality of consequences (v. 2-3).
 3. We need to listen because it is true (2:3b-4). The message has been confirmed by God. God had shown up in their context through signs and wonders. This church had seen it and had experienced God's gifts at work in and through them. In their current circumstance the author is reminding them of God's activity in their midst which testifies to it being a true message.
- How do we resist the drift? We are not unlike this early church in the possibility of drifting away from Jesus' message of salvation.
 - Giving our attention to Jesus. Study the scriptures, meditate on the life of Jesus, apply His word to your life.
 - Live in the reality of what we believe with trust and obedience. The author confirms the message of Jesus by pointing to lived experiences of God at work in their community. Pray for and expect God's activity in your life.
 - Live a life of testimony. Share with others the many ways God is at work in your life today.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Hebrews 2:1-4?
2. Have you ever felt tempted to turn away from following Jesus? What were you tempted to turn towards?
3. How would you summarize Jesus' message of salvation? In what ways does this message surpass other messages or invitations we may hear from other religions, world views, or from within our culture?
4. In the section on "How do we resist the drift," which application resonated with you the most? Share the ways in which you already engage in these practices or how you would like to be more intentional with them.

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of February 4, 2024

Greater Than: A Series in Hebrews

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from February 4, 2024.

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, slowly read the verse provided (perhaps a couple of times), allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: John 1:14

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Hebrews 2:5-9. Pastor Norb taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- The writer of Hebrews continues to highlight Jesus' status over the angels by speaking to how all things will be subject to Him.
- He quotes Psalm 8 which speaks simultaneously to both humanity's significance as well as their value and dignity.
- Psalm 8 declares that **God loves and cares for humanity**. We are a creature of special privilege. It references Genesis 1:26-28 which reveals humanity's destiny to rule and have dominion. God's intent was that humans would reflect his image by exerting dominion over creation. This puts humanity in a pretty special place.
- Psalm 8 should cause us to reflect on the reality that **humanity is broken**. Humanity is messed up by sin. Rebellion has wrecked everything. Now instead of the beauty of creation, our days are full of pain and suffering and heartache and disappointment. This is not God's original design.
- The author then turns our attention to Jesus. Some commentators believe that Psalm 8 is a reference to Jesus Christ. However, it is not an either/or issue. Jesus' humanity fulfills the anticipation of Psalm 8. **God's amazing grace is revealed in Jesus** as he suffered on our behalf and made a way for us to be restored to our created purpose and destiny.
- We need to look to Jesus. Jesus was sent by God to rescue humanity. Jesus came, not to reign (that will come), but to suffer and die. We should turn our eyes to Jesus. Don't get discouraged, or drift, or be disobedient.
- How do we respond to God's grace revealed in Jesus?
 - **Give thanks**. As we think about what God has done for us we should be filled with gratitude. We should express a genuine sense of awe and wonder. We may benefit from echoing the words we find in hymns and worship songs.
 - **Confession and Repentance**. We often participate in the brokenness of humanity. Sometimes we blow it; we sin. We need to confess these to God, look to Jesus and follow his ways.
 - **Renew our Commitment to Jesus**: As we reflect on God's grace it should compel us to pledge our loyalty and obedience to Jesus. Our life of gratitude is lived out in commitment to God's ways.
 - **Commit to sharing Jesus**. As we reflect on God's grace it should compel us to extend that grace to others and participate in the mission of God that was demonstrated for us in the life of Jesus. We should intentionally engage in acts of justice; and bringing peace to whatever situation we find ourselves in.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Hebrews 2:5-9?
2. When you consider humanity's place in creation, expressed in Psalm 8, and its created purpose, expressed in Genesis 1:26-28, what does that make you feel? How is your current work and commitments active participation of this created purpose?
3. In what ways do you "look to Jesus" in moments when you are overwhelmed by the brokenness of humanity?
4. What worship song or hymn do you favour when you think about giving thanks to God for the grace given in Jesus?
5. How might you participate in sharing Jesus this week?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of February 11, 2024
Greater Than: A Series in Hebrews

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from February 11, 2024.

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, slowly read the verse provided (perhaps a couple of times), allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: John 1:16-17

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Hebrews 2:10-18. Pastor Adam taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- The writer of Hebrews having established that Jesus is greater than the angels then teaches on how Jesus became lower than the angels by becoming human.
- Christianity stands out from other religions in that God comes down to us not leaving us to figure out our own way to Him.
- Jesus is our pioneer: He became lower than the angels so that He could make a way for us. Chapter 2 explores 3 things Jesus accomplished in becoming human:
 1. **Family** (2:11-13): Jesus made the way for us to become holy. Holiness is what God is, characteristic of Him. Verse 11 implies that we are not holy. Jesus makes a way for us to become holy which allows us to become part of His family. Jesus, unashamedly, calls us His sisters and brothers. Psalm 22 and Isaiah 8 are referenced to celebrate the fact that God is victorious and faithful.
 2. **Freedom** (2:14-15): Jesus made a way to free us from death. The devil holds power of death. Jesus calls Him the ruler of the world (Jn. 12:31; 14:30), Paul calls him the god of this age (2Cor. 4:4). Death prevents humans from experiencing destiny described in Psalm 8. Humans can't properly exercise dominion over the world if they die under Satan's rule.
 - Jesus had to become a man to conquer death. In Jesus' case, death was not the consequence of human rebellion. It was an expression of obedience to the will of God. This caused the devil's power over death in the case of Jesus as powerless.
 3. **Redemption** (2:17): Jesus made a way for us to be restored to God by being our representative, our High Priest.
 - Jesus is our High Priest, who makes atonement: the process by which people remove obstacles to their reconciliation with God. In the OT this was done through animal sacrifice, in the NT Jesus becomes that sacrifice atoning for our sins.
 - Chapter 2 teaches much about the incarnation, it assures us that Jesus became one of us and made a way for us to be brought into the family, to be free from death and restored to God.
 - Jesus' incarnation is historical evidence that God purses us. We are left to ask: Do you know Him? Do you know He is with you?
 - One of the reasons we don't experience His presence is that we don't choose to turn our eyes, hearts and minds towards Him. In our minds we are more present to our difficulties, or entertainments than to Jesus. God has given us prayer as a vehicle to be with Him.
 - In this season of Lent, consider engaging in a weekly, 24 hour fast as a way to reflect more on Jesus incarnation and suffering.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Hebrews 2:10-18?
2. How would you explain the significance of God becoming human in Jesus to someone who is unfamiliar with the topic?
3. Which of the three accomplishments shown in this chapter resonate with you? In this season, which would you like to deepen your understanding and experience of? Family, freedom or redemption?
4. While God came to us in Jesus, and Jesus pioneered and accomplished so much for us we may still struggle to "climb the mountain" back to God on our own. In what ways do you find yourself working apart from Jesus to experience the realities of family, freedom and redemption? How may you more experience God's grace and accomplishment for you?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of February 18, 2024
Greater Than: A Series in Hebrews

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from February 18, 2024.

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, slowly read the verse provided (perhaps a couple of times), allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: John 1:19-23

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Hebrews chapter 3. Pastor Norb taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- The author addresses the audience as "holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling". It is appropriate to pause on the truth communicated in this address. While we are saved as individuals we live our our faith in the community of faith. **IF YOU ARE A BELIEVER IN JESUS CHRIST**, this should encourage you! You are not alone. We can experience incredible unity within diversity.
- Moses was understood by the early audiences as the greatest man in history, and for Good reason. Pastor Norb listed six reasons why Moses was so revered. While both Moses and Jesus were faithful, the author, building on his argument that Jesus is greater than the angels, teaches that Jesus is also greater than Moses. All of the Old Testament, priesthood, sacrificial system, and the tabernacle, were pointing forward to a fulfillment in Jesus.
- Because Jesus is greater we need to honour Him. How do we do that?
 1. **Focus on Jesus** (v1.): Orient your desire towards Jesus, concentrate on Him and discipline yourselves to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus..." (Heb.12:1-2)
 2. **Protect your heart** (v12): The writer is issuing a warning in verse 12. We should be very careful and concerned about the state of our hearts. Turning away from the living God is in fact a huge mistake.
- The author points back to the stubbornness of heart of the Israelites in the desert because of their unbelief. We must not let our hearts grow cold. If we stop hearing God's voice, a hard heart is not far behind. And a hard heart leads us to wander.
- 3. **Encourage one another** (v13): Jesus is honoured as we encourage one another by helping one another along in our walk with Jesus, and by watching out for one another when we notice concerning patterns emerging in other's lives.
- As people who have heard God speak through Jesus, we must not harden our hearts, rather we should seek to honour Jesus by turning our hearts towards him, living consistent to his desires for us, and by encouraging one another.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Hebrews, chapter 3?
2. What is a favourite memory of being a part of the family of God? In what ways, through what circumstances have you experienced christian unity in the midst of diversity?
3. How do you cultivate your desire, and disciplines towards Jesus? What do you notice between seasons where you feel you are doing this well and seasons you feel this is neglected?
4. How might you apply verse 13, what does it look like for you to encourage others? **Take time to Encourage one another:** As a group, pause to ask Jesus to bring to mind encouragements for those in your group. Allow 3 min or so of quiet, perhaps some will want to write down what comes to mind. Take time sharing together ways that you see Jesus as work in one another's lives. Reflect on answered prayers, growth in character, moments of service, and ways that you've been blessed by one another. Receive one another's encouragement with gratitude.

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of February 25, 2024

Greater Than: A Series in Hebrews

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from February 25, 2024.

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, slowly read the verse provided (perhaps a couple of times), allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: John 1:35-39

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Hebrews chapter 4:1-13. Pastor Adam taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- The author brings us into the story of Israel on the edge of the promise land where they chose not to trust God and faced the consequence of not being able to enter into the land. We too have an invitation from God to enter into rest His rest.
- We can enter into that rest as we walk with Jesus in bold faith. We are warned, however, that unbelief can keep us from experiencing the rest Jesus has for us.
- His rest is the promise of salvation through God's provision. There is a rest from trying to achieve salvation, but also a rest we have in Jesus where we are confident in Jesus' completed work that frees us from striving. A few examples of striving may be: to belong, to be secure through securing wealth or possessions, or to experience worth through achievement.
- Adam sought to help us think through how we use the word "belief", or "faith" by speaking to the differences between public (what we say we believe), private (what we think we believe) and core (what we actually believe) beliefs. When the Bible speaks of faith, or belief, it is not calling for public or private conviction, to say or think the right things, but rather a conviction of heart that is evident in the ways we live our lives.
- When the Bible talks about belief, or faith, it is speaking of our core beliefs, our faith in action, or our trust. Our choices in life reveal the things we truly trust in. The core beliefs of the Israelites revealed a belief in a god who would not be faithful, provide, deliver or come through on His promise.
- The author highlights that we are invited into God's rest today - we don't have to wait. To enter this rest, we are invited to:
 - **Have soft hearts** (v7b). Commentator Bill Lane says that a hard heart is, "Intelligent planned unbelief."
 - **Make every effort** (v11). As we consider our trust systems, we should intentionally pay attention to areas we do not trust Jesus, or areas where we are striving to achieve something Christ has already achieved for us. We do this through prayerful exploration and humble listening, trust the Holy Spirit to reveal to us areas we need to more deeply surrender ourselves to God.
 - **Listen for Jesus' leading** (v12-13). In the context of hearing God's voice, the author speaks of the power of God's word (voice). It helps us to realize that there is no point hiding from God, and that we should allow His word to work in our hearts and lead us into His rest. We need to read the word, listen to it, and allow it to expose areas of dis-trust.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Hebrews, chapter 4:1-13?
2. What personal example would you use to explain the differences between public, private and core beliefs? Where do you see inconsistencies between your public or core beliefs?
3. In what areas of your life do you ache for the rest that Jesus offers in Matthew 11:28-30? How might misplaced trust factor into your ability to experience this rest?
4. What examples would you give about what it looks like to "make every effort" to enter God's rest? What does this look like in your own life?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of March 3, 2024
Greater Than: A Series in Hebrews

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from March 3, 2024.

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, slowly read the verse provided (perhaps a couple of times), allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Psalm 24:1-6

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Hebrews chapter 4:14-16. Pastor Norb taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- A high priest is an advocate, or a representative of people before God. Hebrews teaches that Jesus is our great High Priest who not only represents us before God, but who also gets us.
- Jesus gets us because he knows us (verse 13). There are no secrets before God, He is everywhere present and we are totally and fully known by Jesus. This should be an encouragement to us because while knowing us completely, He also loves us deeply.
- We might think we are too messed up, too broken, or done such terrible things, that we run away from God because we are scared that we have to give an account before Him. But we need to be awakened to His love, and instead of running from Him, run to Him.
- Jesus gets us because He is the high priest (verse 14). The Old Testament priests had to return again and again to make sacrifice for the people of Israel. But, Jesus' death on the cross, the giving of His own blood is the once and for all sacrifice for sins. His sacrifice assures our position before the Father.
- By becoming human, Jesus is able to empathize with our weakness (verse 15). He truly gets us and helps us in our weakness.
- Pastor Norb quoted Tyler Staton: "[Empathize], translated literally, means to "co-suffer." That's how Jesus deals with our sin. He suffers with us – suffers the consequences of our thoughts, actions, and disordered desires; suffers the subtle agony of hiding and pretending and presenting a preferred self that traps us in perpetual insecurity; suffers the estrangement from God we willfully chose by "managing" a sin pattern we've grown tired of confessing rather than bringing it into the light of his inexhaustible love."
- We respond by holding firmly to our confession (verse 14). What is our confession? That we cannot make ourselves right before God. We can't fix ourselves. So we need to live in total dependency on Jesus. Make a commitment to follow no matter what.
- We respond by approaching boldly (verse 16). Jesus knows our sin, yet invites us to come to Him. We can boldly approach the Father, so we need to do so. He makes a way for us. We approach boldly. This is ongoing, "constantly approach".

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Hebrews, chapter 4:14-16?
2. Can you recall a time in your life when you ran away from God rather than run to Him?
3. In what ways do you experience your actions not lining up with your confession of faith? When do you attempt to take your salvation or sense of security into your own hands, rather than bringing it to God?
4. What does it look like for you to live in total dependency on Jesus? Share examples with your group as a way to encourage one another.

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of March 10, 2024

Guest Speaker, Mark Buchanan

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from March 10, 2024.

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, slowly read the verse provided (perhaps a couple of times), allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Psalm 25:1-10

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Luke 19:1-10. Mark Buchanan taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- As a tax collector, Zaccheaus would have been despised by those in Jericho. It should shock us that Jesus interacts with him in a positive way, let alone goes to his house. This follows Jesus' pattern of seeking out the most seemingly underserving people. Jesus sought out those, who from a Jewish understanding, He shouldn't have been near.
- Mark Buchanan highlighted the context in which Luke records this story:
- First, Jesus' teaching on children. Zaccheaus demonstrates the child-likeness that Jesus references in 18:15, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."
- Receptivity is the quality of a child that Jesus wants us to have. Zaccheaus exemplifies child-like receptivity.
- Mark told a story of a preacher who attempted to give \$20 away but was met only by resistance and skepticism among adults. Children, however, ambitiously sought to receive it. Mark encouraged us to learn from the children when we consider the gifts that Jesus wants to give us (19:9).
- The second contextual story was the rich young ruler (Lk. 18:18-25), who rejects Jesus' invitation to give everything away, which is how we read Zaccheaus responds to Jesus.
- The third important contextual reality, highlighted by Mark, is that this story takes place during Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. Jesus is able to welcome people like Zaccheaus because He Himself is going to climb a tree and go out on a limb, giving not half, but all that He Has so that anyone who says they want in on the inheritance will receive it.
- Mark invited us to see ourselves in the place of Zaccheaus. No matter how we find ourselves, would we too hear the words of Jesus, "You are my child, I love you, I am pleased with you, and I want to give you the whole inheritance."

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Luke 19:1-10?
2. In what ways do you respond to Jesus with skepticism or resistance rather than child-like receptivity? How might your response to Jesus look more like a child's? (Mark described a practice of receptivity in his daily morning prayer)
3. While Zachcheaus' receptivity of Jesus was in light of his initial salvation, in what ways do we continue to receive from Jesus as we mature in our faith? How might we resist these, or expectantly receive them?
4. Who are the "despised", the people you would rather not associate with, in your contexts? How might you model Jesus' compassion, love, and pursuit to them?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of March 17, 2024
Greater Than: A Series in Hebrews

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from March 17, 2024.

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, slowly read the verse provided (perhaps a couple of times), allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Psalm 25:11-22

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Hebrews 5:1-10. Pastor Norb taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- The author of Hebrews is highlighting the significance of Jesus being our eternal High Priest
- The sacrificial system was started by God and helps us to understand the cost of forgiveness, the punishment of sin, and that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (c.f Heb. 9:22)
- The author of Hebrews teaches on the High Priests comparing them to Jesus in 3 ways:
 1. **Their Function:** The High Priests function as mediators between God and people and offer regular sacrifices on their behalf (v.1). Jesus, as the ultimate High Priest, offered Himself as an eternal sacrifice which brings eternal salvation (v.8). In this, He is greater than the High Priests as His sacrifice was required only once for all time.
 2. **Their Compassion:** High Priests were inherently flawed and so able to deal compassionately with those who were struggling (v.2). Jesus, as the ultimate High Priest, who became a man, offers compassion to us as well. The author cites Jesus' prayers in the garden of Gethsemane (v.7) bringing us to Matthew 26 where we read about the anguish Jesus endured. In His anguish He chose the Father's will even though it brought pain. In this way, Jesus is greater than the Old Testament High Priests in that while subject to temptation, He never sinned. Jesus' compassion towards us flows from this empathy.
 3. **Their Calling:** High priests were called by God (v.4). The author of Hebrews quotes Psalm 2 and 110 to demonstrate that Jesus was also called by God (v.5-6) but that His calling is greater (as God's son and in the order of Melchizedek).
- Having portrayed Jesus as our Great High Priest, Pastor Norb invited us to 1) run to Jesus, not from Him, trusting that we will be met with compassion, and 2) know that we are not alone. Jesus' earthly suffering reminds us that He can relate to our own suffering. He can empathize with our weakness (cf. Heb.4:15-16)
- Pastor Norb recommended reading Leviticus chapters 8-10 and 16 for additional Old Testament background on High Priests.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Hebrews 5:1-10
2. Priests mediate between people and God. In a world saturated with idols (false-gods) where do you see modern priests at work? Brainstorm modern idols and the experts people turn to for intermediary help in order to experience the benefit of the idol. Consider their function, compassion and calling (credentials). Consider how these priest-like organizations or experts distract us from Jesus, our great High Priest. Example: an idol of perfect body image or health may be mediated by health experts..
3. When experiencing suffering, what keeps you from turning to Jesus?
4. In reference to Matthew 26:39, do you have any "cups" you wish God would take away? Allow the answers to these questions transition to your prayer time.

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of March 24, 2024

Greater Than: A Series in Hebrews

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from March 24, 2024.

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, slowly read the verse provided (perhaps a couple of times), allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Psalm 26

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Hebrews 5:11-6:3. Pastor Adam taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- Having begun teaching on Melchizedek, the author pauses to address concerns he has around the congregation's ability to receive the teaching. He identifies four signs of immaturity:
 1. Being apathetic about maturity (v11): Their language here is strong, the author is accusing them of being careless or spiritually dull. They were demonstrating contentment about where they were at spiritually when God had so much more in store for them.
 2. Being unable to teach (v12): Unable to relay information about Christ to others. Their lack of understanding about the message of Christ was evidenced in their inability to share that message with others.
 3. Stuck in the basics (v12): They should be ready to receive and apply certain teaching, but are not able to because they lack understanding the basics.
 4. Confused about righteousness (v13): Their lack of understanding leads to confusion about right and wrong and Christian living. Living in righteousness means the way you live your life reflects alignment with the purpose and heart of God. Which results in greater peace, and deeper joy.
- As we reflect on these, we may see ourselves in some of them. The author of Hebrews exhorts us to move on towards maturity.
- We should start where we are at. The author calls the congregation to pursue maturity. We can pursue maturity as we:
 - Love Jesus: Cultivate a deeper love for Jesus. Allow passion to drive out apathy.
 - Learn from Jesus: Spend time in the word, learning more about Jesus and the life God has called us to.
 - Live like Jesus: Apply the word to our lives, putting into practice the things we are learning.
 - Love like Jesus: Become "teachers", extending the truth of the message of Jesus to others in word and deed
- Trust Jesus' work in us (6:3): We can be disappointed about our own state of maturity. The author of Hebrews reminds us to trust in God's work in our lives.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Hebrews 5:11-6:3?
2. Which of the four signs of immaturity do you see in your own life?
3. What other obstacles do you experience that keep you from maturing in your life with God?
4. How might you cultivate a greater passion for Jesus?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from March 31, 2024.

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, slowly read the verse provided (perhaps a couple of times), allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Matthew 28:1-6

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, 1 Corinthians 15:1-20a. Pastor Norb taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- We often view grace with skepticism, thinking that it is too good to be true. At Easter we celebrate this grace as we encounter the good news that Jesus defeated death and evil by His own death and resurrection, offering us new life. The Bible teaches us that this message is both good and true (Romans 10:9-10)
- In 1 Corinthians 15, the apostle Paul is considering the question, "what if Jesus did not rise from the dead?" He speculates that:
 - Verse 14: Preaching and faith would be useless because there would be nothing to believe in or preach about
 - Verse 17: Humanity would remain stuck in their sins, without hope
 - Verse 19: Christians are pitiful people, basing their lives on a lie
- But Jesus did rise from the dead. There is a lot of evidence to this end. **1)** The historic changing of worship from Saturday to Sunday, **2)** the historic celebration of Easter, **3)** Christian art documenting the risen Christ, **4)** the earliest Christian hymns documenting celebration and teaching of Jesus' bodily resurrection, **5)** Jewish historians writing about Jesus' resurrection, **6)** the enduring Christian Church and its creeds through history **7)** Jesus' own claims that He would rise again (Matt. 27:62-65), **8)** the resurrected Jesus' appearance to eye witnesses (1 Cor. 15:6), and lastly, **9)** the fact of the empty tomb (that the opponents of Jesus admitted the tomb was empty and could not produce Jesus' dead body)
- *Since Jesus is, in fact, greater than the grave, and did rise from the dead, how do we respond?*
 - To the skeptic, these facts may convince you, but shouldn't coerce you. It is okay to have some doubts about the resurrection, but don't dismiss it. Engage in your own investigation. The further we explore the evidence of Jesus' resurrection you will be faced with its reality.
 - To the one who wants to believe, take the step of faith and receive the grace. Jesus invites you to "come, follow me." Will your respond? By faith. Say "Yes" to Jesus. And make Him Lord of your life.
 - To the believer, live into the reality of the resurrection? What do you need to commit yourself to do more intentionally and passionately walk with Jesus. Perhaps you need to renew your commitment to Jesus. Your faith is not in vain (1 Cor. 15:58)

Discussion Questions:

1. What Easter or Lenten traditions help you and your family to remember and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus?
2. What has resonated with you most from this message and 1 Corinthians 15:1-20a?
3. Which of the 9 evidences provided stood out to you the most, and which may respond to skepticisms you've heard from others?
4. Through this past weekend we have remembered Jesus' sacrifice, love, forgiveness and resurrection. What have you been reflecting on the most during this Easter season?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of April 7, 2024
Greater Than: A Series in Hebrews

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from April 7, 2024.

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, slowly read the verse provided (perhaps a couple of times), allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: 1 Peter 1:3, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Hebrews 6:4-12. Pastor Steve taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- There are several warning and promise passages throughout the Bible. This Hebrews passage is one of them where the author uses a strong warning and pairs it with a promise, seeking to spur his audience on to good works, to faith in and life with Jesus.
- The intent of this warning is not to scare the audience into being good, yet to encourage them in their perseverance.
- The Bible is clear that God is faithful to hold and keep us; our salvation is secure. This passage speaks of those who have "tasted" and "shared" in the things of God, who appear to be Christian on the outside, but are not walking with Jesus. In the case of Hebrews, this is likely those who fell back into Judaism, deciding against Jesus as their Messiah or Saviour.
- Those the passage are referring to are not ignorant about Jesus, but in knowing who He is have chosen to reject him
- This passage is a call to persevere in our faith in and love for Jesus. We should not be able to, nor want to taste the goodness of God, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and then decide, "actually, nevermind."
- This passage is a reminder to examine our own hearts and evaluate our own commitment to Christ.
- 6:7-8 teaches that our faith should lead to action and that action should be evidenced by fruitfulness. Those who have dedicated their lives to Jesus should be actively engaging in the great commission.
- 6:9-12 The promise of eternal life with God, life after we pass from this short time on earth, the promise of salvation from sin is ours if we can have faith and patience like the many who have come and gone before us. We must place our faith and trust in Jesus and put effort into our relationship with Jesus. As we do this we will experience the goodness of God; His rest and love for us.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Hebrews 6:4-12?
2. How do you respond when you read warning passages in scripture? What do they teach you about the character of God?
3. What obstacles do you experience in your life which tempt you to be lazy in your relationship with Jesus?
4. In what ways do you see yourself living out the great commission (Matthew 28:19-20)?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of April 14, 2024
Greater Than: A Series in Hebrews

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from April 14, 2024.

Tonight's reflective reading: 1 Corinthians 15:57, "Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Hebrews 6:13-20. Pastor Adam taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- From Hebrews 5:11-6:12, the author of Hebrews is calling his audience to persevere in their faith. 6:13-20 encourages the congregation that their hope in the prevailing goodness of God and his good work in our lives is not in vain
- God's faithfulness to his promises is demonstrated through history. The author uses Abraham as an example of God's demonstrated faithfulness. In Genesis 22:16-17, God makes promises to Abraham and swears by Himself that He would bless Abraham. The history of Israel testifies to God's faithfulness towards Abraham as all of the promises come to pass. As these promises were given to Abraham and then demonstrated to come to pass, so too, we can hope in the promises that God has given us, knowing they will too will come to pass.
- God's faithfulness to his promises is secured in the finished work of Jesus. The author uses the metaphor of an anchor to illustrate the certainty of our hope - God's hope and purpose for our lives, our security in Christ and opportunity to experience His goodness is not going anywhere. This anchor goes "behind the veil", which is an illusion to the holy of holies in the temple. As Abraham's hope was anchored in God Himself, so too, ours is anchored in the presence of God.
- Jesus' finished work on the cross made a way for us to have hope. A hope not based on subjective wishful thinking, but hope that will not disappoint. The anchor behind the veil invites us to see that we have access to an intimacy with God that was once extremely limited but is not available to all who anchor themselves in Christ.
- When struggling to persevere we may face temptation to place our hope in things other than God. This passage calls us to have our hope anchored in Christ alone.
- In light of this hope we should:
 - Persevere in our faith. We can avoid being lazy or sluggish in our faith when we are hopeful
 - Consider the examples and testimonies of those who have demonstrated faith and patience (v12) as they waited to experience God's goodness.
 - Seek to live our lives in response to the promises of God. Believing that what God's word says is true should shape our lives.
 - Be mindful of how you may have placed hope in people, or things other than God.
 - Resist being crushed under the pressures of life. In difficult seasons we need to discipline ourselves to wait upon the Lord (Isaiah 40:28-31)

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Hebrews 6:13-20?
2. What are you hoping for yourself or loved ones in this season and what would it look like for God's redemptive work to be evidenced in that situation?
3. How does hopeful expectation of God's faithfulness give shape to the way you live your life?
4. Share an example or testimony about God's demonstrated faithfulness.

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of April 21, 2024
Greater Than: A Series in Hebrews

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from April 21, 2024.

Tonight's reflective reading: Ephesians 5:14, "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Hebrews 7:1-10. Pastor Norb taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- Hebrews chapter 7 is not easily understood. We may read it and wonder if it is even worth our attention. The conviction at TCC is to preach through books of the Bible and not leave out any part. This passage has much to teach us about Jesus.
- The author of Hebrews returns to his thought from 5:9, by explaining that Jesus' priesthood is in the order of Melchizedek. To help his audience understand this, he reminds them who Melchizedek is.
- Some theories see Him as an Old Testament appearance of Jesus, others argue he wasn't even a real person. What Genesis makes clear is that Abraham interacted with a Priest King named Melchizedek, who was both a priest of God (the God of Abraham), and a King of Jerusalem (then called Salem).
- We better understand Melchizedek by understanding typologies in the Bible. Typologies are images or figures of the Old Testament that point forward to something in the New Testament. For example in Exodus 12 Lambs were sacrificed for the passover as a means of sparing the Hebrews. In John 1:29 Jesus is called, "the lamb of God." In this, we see that the lamb of the passover was a typology pointing forward to Jesus. Melchizedek is categorically the same, an OT Priest-King, point ahead to Jesus.
- God, being the ultimate author of the Bible, intentionally left out a lot of details about Melchizedek. What we do know of him is taught on in this chapter. The author is teaching on the reality that Melchizedek is a great priest-king, which highlights the fact that Jesus is a priest greater than all who have come before Him.
- The author highlights that Abraham brought offerings to Melchizedek because of his greatness. This practice was done by Israel to the priests as well. In light of Jesus being the greater-priest, he is worthy of all we have to offer.
- In light of this hope we should:
 - We must accept Jesus. He is the only one who can save
 - We must read and study the Bible. 2 Timothy 3:16 says that ALL scripture is God breathed and is profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. We rightly seek to understand passages like this and discover how they may be applied to our lives.
 - We must love God with our minds. We need to focus our attention on God.
 - We must worship Jesus. Because of who Jesus is and what He has done, He is worthy of all of our praise! He is truly greater than all others and is worthy of our adoration and worship.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Hebrews 7:1-10?
2. How do you interact with passages in the Bible that seem irrelevant or confusing? What resources might you use to better understand difficult passages?
3. What are some other Old Testament typologies you can think of? What are your favourite illusions to Jesus in the OT?
4. What does it look like for you to bring offerings to Jesus? As Abraham brought an offering to Melchizedek, and the Israelites brought offerings to the Priests, what are the ways you bring offerings to Jesus?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.



TCC Community Guide

For the week of April 28, 2024
Greater Than: A Series in Hebrews

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from April 28, 2024.

Tonight's reflective reading Psalm 126:2-3, "Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy... The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy."

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Hebrews 7:11-28. Pastor Adam taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- Hebrews chapter 7 seeks to teach that the Melchizedek priesthood prepared the way for a new, non-Levitical priesthood established by God. Pastor Adam suggests considering the questions or objections potentially raised by the Author's audience to better understand the section.
- V11,12. Objection 1: Jesus isn't needed because the Law is perfect (when we read "perfect" think complete). The author responds: While the old testament law already establishes a priesthood, the law also anticipates a coming messiah. Psalm 110, referenced by Hebrews anticipates that the coming priesthood would be different than the priesthood of the Old Testament.
- Vs13-19 - Objection 2: Jesus doesn't qualify because he is from the wrong tribe. In the Old Testament, to be a priest one had to be born of the tribe of Levi. The author responds: the Melchizedek priesthood gives a way for a qualification based not on lineage, but of having an "indestructible life". The life of Melchizedek's priesthood was not destroyed or ended because it was never passed along or taken by another. So too, Jesus, the resurrected, eternal one qualifies on the basis of His eternal nature.
- Vs20-22 - Objection 3: Jesus can't just start his own priesthood. The author responds: Psalm 110 confirms that Jesus did not establish the priesthood by his own ambition, rather it was God who established it.
- 23-24 - Objection 4: Is Jesus just a temporary fill in? The author responds: While former priests were cycled through, Jesus' priesthood is eternal. He and His role as priest is never going away.
- 26-28 Objection 5: Is Jesus actually able to help me? The author responds: Yes, Jesus is more than qualified, in character, ability, and for eternity.
- The concept of priests seems ancient to us, however, we all seek mediation in times of need. Hebrews 7 invites us to consider where we go for help and invites us to trust that Jesus is qualified and able to help us in our times of need.
- We can respond to this chapter by committing to walk with Jesus and know his company and help.
 - We should resist compartmentalizing spiritual aspect of our lives from those that seem less spiritual. Walking with Jesus doesn't make these distinctions. Jesus invites us to live a life abided in Him, experiencing His company throughout the day and seeking His guidance constantly.
- We should be aware of the temptation we have to limit God to our own understanding. Sometimes God will work in ways we don't understand or initially agree with. We should trust in God's ways even if they don't seem to make sense to us at the time. This is perhaps what this early congregation had to do in relation to Jesus' priesthood.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Hebrews 7?
2. We too can object to Jesus role as our helper. Which of the above "objections" are relatable to you? How have you avoided Jesus' help in times of trouble and what objection may it be reflective of?
3. How might you (or do you) keep company with Jesus throughout your day?
4. Is there something in the Bible or that God is leading you into that just doesn't makes sense to you? How might you be encouraged towards obedience?

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.

