

# 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 pursues 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.

