HEBREWS

A Twelve Week Study
in the Book of Hebrews

10 Questions: Hebrews 1

1) In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage of scripture?

2) What are similarities and differences between God speaking through the Prophets in the Old Testament and God speaking through Jesus?

3) The world was created through Jesus, He is the radiance of the glory of God, He is the exact imprint of God's nature, the Universe is upheld by the word of His power. Which of these do you find most incredible and why?

4) If Jesus created & sustains everything that exists, what rights and authority does that give Him over all of creation?

5) "If Jesus is greater than the angels, why might people have been drawn to worship angels? Are there any parallels to angel worship in our culture today?

6) This passage includes quotations from or references to the following passages: Psalm 2, Psalm 89, Psalm 97, Psalm 104, Psalm 45, Isaiah 61, Psalm 102, Psalm 110 & Psalm 91. In your group, choose 1 or 2 of these to review and discuss. What do you learn about the roles of angels and the role & nature of the Son of God?

7) What are some habits or practices within the church today that could serve as a distraction from, or hindrance to, the worship of Jesus?

8) What is competing with Jesus today for the supreme place of worship in your heart?

9) If someone was to observe your life, what are some of the things they would identify as being most important to you? Do you think that the list they would come up with would match the list you would make for yourself? If not, what may cause the difference between what you value most and what others observe?

10) What is one thing that you could do this week to help you feel closer to Jesus?

10 Questions: Hebrews 2

1) In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage of scripture?

2) What causes people to drift away from the truth of the Gospel? What are the things in your life that, if left unchecked, might cause you to drift in your faith? How could we help to prevent each other from drifting?

3) If those living before Christ were held accountable to the message of salvation as they understood it, how much more accountable are we, since it has been more perfectly revealed through Jesus?

4) Why was it fitting that Jesus should suffer in the process of bringing us to glory?

5) What does it mean for Jesus to call us brothers? In what sense are we brothers and sisters of Jesus?

6) How does the fear of death lead us into slavery? In what areas of your life today do you experience the greatest fear? In what way is that fear hindering or enslaving you? What other subtle fears might be tied to a fear of death?

7) What does it mean when it says that Jesus had to become like us in every respect?

8) Look up the words "propitiation" and "expiation". Why is it significant that Jesus made propitiation for our sins?

9) Does the righteous wrath of God towards our sin contradict His love for us? Why or why not?

10) Where are you currently experiencing the greatest temptation towards sin? Does the knowledge that Jesus also suffered when He was tempted strengthen,help or empower you to fight that temptation? How might God use your struggle against sin to help or encourage someone else?

10 Questions: Hebrews 3:1-4:13

1) In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage of scripture?

2) According to verse 3:1, who is the audience that the letter is written to?

3) What makes Jesus superior to Moses? Why would this have been an important truth that needed to be emphasized to the original recipients of this letter?

4) The Israelites who saw God free them from Egypt and care for them over 40 years in the wilderness were not permitted to enter into His rest, despite how much time they had spent with God, because of their lack of faith. Why do you think that some people think just going to church or reading their Bible is enough?

5) What does it mean to "enter into His rest"? Why are those who doubt and hold onto unbelief unable to enter into His rest?

6) Today is the day of your salvation! If you have not yet fully trusted in Jesus as your Lord & Savior, what is holding you back or causing you to delay?

7) The "rest" that we experience in salvation means that we stop "working" to be saved. In your own words, how would you explain that to a non-Christian friend?

8) Explain how the Word of God is alive, active, and functions like a sharp sword. How have you experienced that truth in your life? Can you describe a time when a sermon or passage of scripture deeply convicted you?

9) At some point, you will be confronted by the Word of God and you will either respond with repentance and faith, or your heart will become hardened. How has this truth been demonstrated in your life and the lives of those that you know?

10) When you stand before the Lord to give an account of your life, what will you say? How confident are you that you will spend eternity in heaven?

10 Questions: Hebrews 4:14-5:10

1) In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage of scripture?

2) According to this passage, why are we able to draw near to the throne of grace with confidence? Where does that confidence come from?

3) How does it make you feel to know that Jesus faced the same temptations that you face? What is a temptation that you are currently wrestling with? How can your relationship with Jesus help you to overcome it?

4) How has Jesus shown you mercy and grace in a personal time of need?

5) What are some of the roles and characteristics of a High Priest in vs 5:1-4? Why is Jesus able to perfectly fulfill the role of High Priest?

6) Does your own personal weakness lead you to be more gentle, compassionate and empathetic with others who struggle? Why or why not?

7) What does it mean that Jesus learned obedience through what He suffered?

8) What enables Jesus to be the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him? Are you confident that you have received that salvation from Him?

9) Are you naturally a more independent person or someone who is quick to ask for help? How do you think those tendencies are impacting your relationship with God?

10) Why do we need Jesus to be our Great High Priest? Does thinking of Him in that role impact or change the way that you pray or worship Him?

10 Questions: Hebrews 5:11-6:20

1) In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage of scripture?

2) Do you consider yourself to be mature in your faith? If so, what makes you mature? If not, what do you need to do to become mature?

3) What enables you to distinguish good from evil? Can you describe a time when you needed to decide if something or someone was good or evil?

4) Do you believe that someone who is saved by Jesus can lose their salvation? What are some scripture verses that support your view?

5) In vs 6:4-8, What type of person is being described? Are there people who have been attending church for decades who will not be in heaven? What determines whether someone has true saving faith & eternal life?

6) What place do good works and acts of service have in the life of a Christian? What is your motivation for doing good works?

7) How does being an "imitator of those who through faith and patience inherit the promise" enable us to have "full assurance of hope until the end"?

8) What does "holding fast to the hope set before you" look like in your life today? What is the ultimate hope that is set before you? What could cause you to lose hope? How do you guard against that?

9) How does the High Priesthood of Jesus serve as a sure and steadfast anchor for your soul?

10) Why do some Christians fail to advance beyond immaturity and struggle with having a confident assurance of their salvation? What habits or practices have helped you to grow in maturity and confidence?

10 Questions: Hebrews 7

1) In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage of scripture?

2) Read Genesis 14:17-20. What do you know about the context of this passage? What do you find interesting about it? What questions do you have?

3) How could Jesus be a High Priest if He was not from the tribe of Levi? Why would this have been an important question for the author of this letter to address?

4) What is significant about Melchizedek's name and title pointing to the King of righteousness and the King of peace?

5) Why would Abraham have given Melchizedek a tenth of all that he had? What would that signify? What does your approach towards offerings and giving say about your relationship with the Lord?

6) V12 says that when there is a change in the priesthood there is necessarily a change in the law as well. How did the death & resurrection of Jesus change our relationship with the law?

7) Read Psalm 110. Who is this Psalm speaking about? What does it mean for Jesus to be a priest forever? How does that impact us?

8) How is Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant? Name some of the ways in which the new covenant under Jesus is superior to the old covenant under the law?

9) Which of the qualities of Jesus that are listed in v26 are you most grateful for today?

10) This letter addresses many of the biggest stumbling blocks that would've prevented a Hebrew from believing in Jesus. What are some of the biggest questions that keep people in our culture from believing in Jesus today?

10 Questions: Hebrews 8

1) In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage of scripture?

2) We often discuss how Jesus fulfilled the law, which is true. But from another viewpoint, the law was just a shadow of what Jesus is in reality. What are some of the ways that the old covenant law was pointing ahead to the reality of Jesus?

3) Do you know Christians who seem to want to remain under the law? What does that look like in our culture today? How does that mentality misrepresent the truth of Jesus and what He has done?

4) Why was there a need for a new covenant to replace the old one?

5) Why did Israel fail to continue in their covenant with God? What is one area where you are struggling or failing to walk in obedience to God today?

6) What does it look like to have the law of the Lord in your mind and written on your heart? Why is having a relationship with God superior to religious rituals?

7) Can you describe an area where God has truly changed your heart so that you now love what God loves and truly desire to walk in obedience? Why is love a stronger motivation than fear?

8) Look at Jeremiah 31:31-34. Do you believe that we are living in the fulfillment of the new covenant that Jeremiah is describing? Why or why not?

9) For you, what does it look like to know the Lord? What obstacles in your life keep you from knowing Him better? What is the next step that you could take to help you to know God better?

10) If the old covenant is being removed, what purpose did it serve?

10 Questions: Hebrews 9:1-10:18

1) In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage of scripture?

2) What are some of the items found in the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place? What did you find most interesting about that? What might they represent, symbolize, or help us to remember about God's relationship with His people?

3) Why is the sacrifice & blood of Jesus more powerful and eternal than the blood of animal sacrifices?

4) The Israelites relied on works, under the law, for their salvation - but the author of Hebrews says those were "dead works". What "dead works" do people rely on in our culture for salvation? What "dead works" are you tempted to rely on?

5) What does "Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins." mean?

6) Why was it sufficient for Christ to die one time for the forgiveness of sins? When He comes again, what will He be coming to do?

7) v10:4 says "For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sin." If that is true, what was the purpose of the old covenant sacrificial system? In the Church today, how are we reminded of the cost of our sins?

8) Why is it significant that Jesus sat down at the right hand of God after dying and rising again?

9) v10:14 speaks about our perfection and also our sanctification. How is it possible to be viewed as perfect by God in regards to sin, while also continually being shaped and molded into the image of Jesus (sanctified) day by day?

10) What ceremonies, holidays, and practices in the church today help remind you of Jesus and what He has done?

10 Questions: Hebrews 10:19-39

1) In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage of scripture?

2) In the temple, only certain priests could enter the holy place and only the high priest could enter the most holy place once each year. How does it make you feel to know that you now have direct access to God's presence through Jesus?

3) How does the faithfulness of Jesus lead us to a full assurance of faith and unwavering hope? What is our faith & hope dependent on? What can take that away?

4) How important is consistent attendance at church to you? Why?

5) What does it look like to "stir up one another to love and good works"? Can you think of a time that someone did that for you? That you did it for someone else?

6) What is the danger of deliberately continuing to sin after receiving a knowledge of the truth? How seriously do you take sin?

7) What perspective did these early believers have when they faced suffering and persecution? Do you share this same perspective today? What makes it difficult to think in that way?

8) What does faithful endurance look like in your life today? How could your discipleship group or Christian friends help you to faithfully endure the challenges that you are currently facing?

9) What does it look like for you to live by faith and not shrink back in this season of your life?

10) Do you rely more on Jesus, or on your own strength, in difficult moments? What would it look like for you to learn greater dependence on God and less on self?

10 Questions: Hebrews 11

1) In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage of scripture?

2) "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" What does that type of faith look like in your life today? What things are you hoping for, even though you don't yet see them?

3) What are your beliefs about the origins of the universe?

4) Without faith it is impossible to please God. Do you feel like God is pleased with you? Why or why not?

5) In what way did Noah's reverence for God condemn the world?

6) Do you think of yourself as a stranger and an exile on the earth? What is missing here, that we will find in our true homeland?

7) In faith, what did Abraham believe that God could do if he offered Isaac up as a sacrifice? How does the story of Abraham and Isaac foreshadow the crucifixion of Jesus?

8) In what way did Moses experience "the reproach of Christ" and how was that "greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt"? Can you describe a time when it cost you something to believe in or identify with Jesus?

9) What stands out to you in the list of faith accomplishments in vs32-38?

10) What do we know and understand about the promise that none of these heroes got to see in their lifetime? Do you think that having more complete knowledge of the promise should lead us to have more faith or less faith?

10 Questions: Hebrews 12

1) In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage of scripture?

2) How does sin weigh us down and hinder us in our pursuit of Jesus? What sin are you carrying today that is slowing you down? What would it take to lay it down?

3) How does looking to Jesus keep you from becoming weary or fainthearted? Can you think of a time when you applied this to a challenge you were facing?

4) Can you think of a time when you lived in a disciplined manner to train athletically or pursue a health goal? How does that experience relate to your spiritual discipline? Did you enjoy the process or just endure it for the result?

5) What effect does a "root of bitterness" have in a person? In a community?

6) How do you actively pursue peace and holiness? What are some of the habits or practices that help you with this?

7) Read about the Israelites' encounter with God in Exodus 19. Why do you think that God chose to reveal Himself in that way? How would you have responded?

8) What does it mean to have a kingdom that can not be shaken?

9) Do you have a reverence and awe for God? How do you balance your understanding of God as a loving Father and as a consuming fire?

10) In this season of your life, where do you need to live with greater discipline? How can you cultivate a greater sense of reverence and awe for God?

10 Questions: Hebrews 13

1) In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage of scripture?

2) What does it look like for you, today, to let brotherly love continue, show hospitality to strangers, and remember those who are in prison or mistreated?

3) What practical things can you do to honor marriage (whether you are married or not) and keep from sexual immorality? Why is this important?

4) How does the Gospel enable you to be free from the love of money and to be content with what you have? How does knowing that Jesus will never forsake you and that He is your helper make this possible?

5) Who are you seeking to imitate? Who do you admire? Does the fruit of their life actually bring satisfaction? How can your heart be strengthened by grace?

6) This passage discusses sacrifices of praise, doing good, and sharing what we have with others. Are those things evident in your life? Do you think of them as a sacrifice or an offering to God when you do them?

7) What should obedience and submission to spiritual leaders look like? What allows leaders to lead with joy? What causes groaning?

8) How often do you pray for others? What could help you to do this more regularly and intentionally?

9) What would it look like for God to "equip you with everything good that you may do His will"? If you were fully equipped today, what would change in your life?

10) How would you answer if someone were to ask you: "What is the book of Hebrews about?" How are you thinking or acting differently after this study?