

**SPRING 2015  
HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GROUP  
STUDENT GUIDE**

**THE BOOK OF  
HEBREWS**

**JESUS IS GREATER**

**BBC**  
**STUDENTS**

# 2015 STUDY SCHEDULE

**January 11 -- Night of Worship (no small group)**

**January 18 -- Session 1**

**January 25 -- Session 2**

**February 1 -- Session 3**

**February 8 -- Session 4**

**February 15 -- Night of Worship (no small group)**

**February 22 -- DNOW Weekend (no small group)**

**March 1 -- Session 5**

**March 8 -- Session 6**

**March 15 -- Session 7**

**March 22 -- Night of Worship (no small group)**

**March 29 -- Session 8**

**April 5 -- Easter (no small group)**

**April 12 -- Session 9**

**April 19 -- Session 10**

**April 26 -- Night of Worship (no small group)**

**May 3 -- Session 11**

**May 10 -- Mother's Day (no small group)**

**May 17 -- Session 12**

**May 24 -- Memorial Day Weekend (no small group)**

**May 31 -- Session 13**



## Who is Jesus? Hebrews 1:1-4

### HEBREWS 1:1

- › List 3 different people and the main ways you communicate with them. Why do you use different methods with different people?
  
- › What does it say about God that He chooses different ways to speak to different people?

### HEBREWS 1:2

- › How is Christ a better form of revelation than a prophet or a burning bush?
  
- › What does being an heir mean? Why is this significant?

### HEBREWS 1:3

- › What event do you think the writer is referring to in reference to Jesus dealing with our sins?
  
- › Why would the writer record that Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Majesty?

### HEBREWS 1:4

- › Look back through the entire passage and record each description of Jesus.
  
- › What makes the name of Jesus higher than all other names?



| SESSION 1

## Who is Jesus? Hebrews 1:1-4

### CENTRAL TRUTH

*Jesus Christ is God and reigns supreme over all things in the universe.*

### NOW WHAT?

- › Why do you think the writer spent these verses explaining the greatness and superiority of Jesus?
  
- › Do you personally believe these things to be true? Why or why not?
  
- › Do your actions agree with that answer? Explain.
  
- › If Jesus is superior, if He truly is God's Son, what keeps us from trusting Him completely with our lives?
  
- › List 3 areas of your life where you aren't trusting Jesus completely and explain how you can begin moving in that direction.

### PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Jesus isn't simply another good man, good teacher, or religious figure. He is God in flesh. He is also our Redeemer. Spend time this week thinking about that one thought—Jesus is both God and Redeemer.
- › **Memorize:** Hebrews 1:2
- › **Pray:** Ask God to reveal Himself to you this week. As you seek Him daily, ask for ears to listen and strength to obey. Trust that His way truly is the best way.
- › **Keep on Digging:** Read the following verses and note how Jesus is described:
  - Matthew 22:41-45
  - Luke 5:17-26
  - Mark 9:2-8
  - John 1:1-18



## Stay Focused

### Hebrews 2:1-4

## HEBREWS 2:1

- › List 5 situations that had a negative outcome because someone wasn't paying attention or they were distracted.
  1. A failed exam because the student didn't pay attention or take notes in class.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
- › Why is paying attention so important and being distracted so dangerous?
- › What is the writer warning against drifting away from?

## HEBREWS 2:2-3

- › What was the message spoken through angels? (See Gal. 3:19 for help.)
- › Breaking the law of the Old Testament was sin. What are the consequences of sin? See Romans 6:23.
- › The writer uses the word "escape". How can you escape the consequences of sin?

## HEBREWS 2:4

- › We should not neglect or be distracted from the salvation offered to us through Christ. What proof does the writer use to show that Christ is our salvation?
- › What are some ways you have seen others become distracted, or personally been distracted from following Christ?



## CENTRAL TRUTH

*The gift of salvation is only offered through Christ. We must not neglect that relationship or be distracted from it.*

## NOW WHAT?

- › What areas of your life are competing with Christ for top spot?
- › Why is it dangerous to give something other than Jesus that spot, even if only for a season?
- › What are some practices that would help you be more focused on Christ?
- › Of the list you just made, which two can you commit to doing this week? Share these 2 with a friend and hold each other accountable.

## PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** What in your life really matters? What relationships are you building that will last beyond this year? Five years? Ten? It is easy for us to focus too much on temporary things and give them too much influence over our life. This could be a sport, school, or a guy/girl. None of these things are bad, but they can distract us from—Jesus Christ. Focus your thoughts on Him this week and give Him your affection. Christ deserves our best.
- › **Memorize:** Hebrews 2:1
- › **Pray:** Ask God to change your perspective this week. Too often we get caught up and distracted by the ordinary day-to-day events in our lives, and we take our eyes off of what matters. When we see Christ as He truly is and keep our eyes fixed on Him, the other areas of our lives will take their rightful place.
- › **Keep on Digging:** Ask a trusted friend for some help this week. Ask these three questions and be open and willing to hear what they have to tell you:
  - What would you say is the most important thing in my life?
  - What would you list as your top potential distractions?
  - What can we do to look out for each other and guard against these distractions together?



| SESSION 3

## **The Only One Able** Hebrews 2:14-18

### **HEBREWS 2:14-15**

- › List several characteristics all humans have in common.
- › Which is easier for you to understand, Jesus being a human or Jesus being divine? Why?
- › Describe your understanding of what the death of Christ did for people in general and what it accomplished for you personally.

### **HEBREWS 2:16-18**

- › Why doesn't Jesus need to reach out and help the angels?
- › How would you describe the terms "merciful" and "faithful" to one of your friends?
- › What do you think the high priest was responsible for? Why should that be significant to us today?



## The Only One Able

Hebrews 2:14-18

### CENTRAL TRUTH

*Jesus Christ became one of us to defeat our Enemy and restore our relationship with the Father.*

### NOW WHAT?

- › What are you battling in life right now that you need to give over to Jesus?
  
- › What is it that might keep you from trusting His help in your situation?
  
- › List 4 people you know who need to know that Jesus became one of us so He could be our Savior. Ask others in your Bible study group to pray with you for opportunities to share Christ with those on your list.

### PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** There is a saying that something is only worth what someone is willing to pay for it. There is a lot of truth in that statement. Spend time this week thinking about how valuable you are to God. He was willing to pay for your life with the blood of His Son. No greater payment could ever be made. Your life has value—great value.
- › **Memorize:** Hebrews 2:18
- › **Pray:** Christ displayed His love for us by offering His life in place of ours. Ask God to give you opportunities to show that love to someone around you this week.
- › **Keep on Digging:** When Christ walked the earth, He faced every temptation we face today. Think about a major temptation you are facing now. Spend some time every day this week praying to God for help in this specific area. This temptation doesn't have to have victory in your life because Jesus has already won the battle. Trust Him to help you as you seek to follow Him.



## **Don't Give Up** Hebrews 3:7-15

### **HEBREWS 3:7-9**

- › Read the following passages about how God worked among His people and then see how they responded. In each passage, try to identify what happened before and after each incident.
  - Numbers 11:1-9
  - Numbers 14:1-4
  - Numbers 21:1-6

### **HEBREWS 3:10-11**

- › What does it say about the people that no matter how much God blessed them, they always ended up complaining and turning from Him?
- › How can you keep from falling into a similar pattern today?

### **HEBREWS 3:12-15**

- › Can you identify from these verses any progressive steps that would lead to an unbelieving heart?
- › How does a person keep his or her heart turned to the Lord, walking in His ways? How can you check your heart for spiritual life?
- › What does daily encouragement in the faith look like? Why do you think it is important for it to be daily?
- › Why do you think the writer would repeat what he said in verse 7 again in verse 15?
- › What is important about the word “today”?



## Don't Give Up

Hebrews 3:7-15

### CENTRAL TRUTH

*Following Jesus is a lifelong commitment and we all need to constantly encourage one another to stay strong in Him.*

### NOW WHAT?

- › Who do you know that might need some encouragement this week? List at least 2 names.
  
- › Think of at least two ways that you can encourage each person in their faith this week. Write these 2 ways below.
  
- › Now you know who to encourage and how to encourage them. What needs to be your next step?
  
- › What is one thing you can do this week to search your own heart for any rebellious attitudes or actions?

### PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Spend some time this week thinking through the times Christ has been faithful to you. Think about times of hurt and pain where His love sustained you. Also think about times of blessing where He provided for you beyond what you deserved. We need to remember the past, learn from it, and allow it to propel us into the future holding strong to the hand that is reaching out to us.
- › **Memorize:** Hebrews 3:13
- › **Pray:** Ask God for strength to not give up on what He is doing in your life and to help you to encourage those around you to do the same.
- › **Keep on Digging:** Sometimes we encourage others through our actions and other times all we need to do is use our words. Be intentional this week to do both. Your task this week is simple:
  - Do something for someone without them asking.
  - Say something encouraging to someone you think may need a lift.



## Secured With Confidence

Hebrews 4:14–5:6

### HEBREWS 4:14-15

- › Based on your understanding of the role of the high priest, what does it mean that Jesus has become our great High Priest?
- › Identify 3 qualifying characteristics of Jesus to serve as our great High Priest.

### HEBREWS 4:16

- › The author encourages us to approach the throne of grace with boldness. Based on what you discovered in verse 15, why is it possible for us to have boldness as we approach God's throne?
- › What is the difference between mercy and grace? Why is it important for us to receive mercy and grace at the proper time?

### HEBREWS 5:1-4

- › In what ways is Jesus different from the other high priests?
- › Read Leviticus 10:8-11. How were the priests expected to live differently than the people they served?

### HEBREWS 5:5-6

- › Why do you think the writer made such a big deal about Jesus not exalting Himself to the role of high priest?
- › The writer references Jesus as a High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. Read verse 10. Why was Jesus referred to as a High Priest in the order of Melchizedek?



## Secured With Confidence

Hebrews 4:14–5:6

### CENTRAL TRUTH

*We can approach God with confidence because of the work of Jesus as our great High Priest.*

### NOW WHAT?

- › List 3 problems that you are facing in your life.
  
- › Now list 3 people that you know you could trust to talk to about these problems.
  
- › Was Jesus on your list? Why or why not?
  
- › What have you learned about Jesus in this session that would give you the desire to include Him on your list?

### PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Jesus is our great High Priest and because He is interceding for us we can approach the throne of grace with confidence. Spend some time thinking this week about situations where you really need to talk to someone or you are in desperate need of some help or direction. Instead of going to a friend first go to the throne of grace. Jesus has made the way for us to approach Him in our time of need.
- › **Memorize:** Hebrews 4:16
- › **Pray:** Ask Jesus to give you strength today to have the confidence that you need to approach the throne of grace with boldness. Thank Him for serving as your High Priest and understanding your weaknesses.
- › **Keep on Digging:** Read the following verses to understand more about the role of the High Priest and the priesthood of Melchizedek.
  - Leviticus 8
  - Hebrews 7
  - Genesis 14:18-20
  - Psalm 110:4



## **Don't Walk Away** Hebrews 6:1-8

### **HEBREWS 6:1-3**

- › What do you see in verse one as the path to moving toward spiritual maturity?
  
- › When you think about spiritual maturity, what image comes to mind? Who do you think of as being spiritually mature?
  
- › In these verses, the writer lists six concepts that we should move forward from. See if you can find and list the 6 concepts.
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### **HEBREWS 6:4-6**

- › The writer claims that something is impossible. What do you think the writer is stating is impossible?
  
- › How would turning away from Jesus bring Him into public contempt?

### **HEBREWS 6:7-8**

- › The writer uses an agricultural story to further illustrate the point made in verses 4-6. What do you see are the similarities and the differences in both scenarios?
  
- › What would cause the different results from the same rain falling on the same ground?



## Don't Walk Away

Hebrews 6:1-8

### CENTRAL TRUTH

*Rejecting Christ leads to hopelessness.*

### NOW WHAT?

- › Write down your age when you became a believer (If you have not yet accepted Jesus as Lord, talk with your student minister or someone on staff at your church).
- › In the time between when you first accepted Christ as your Lord and now, would you consider the product of your life to be useful vegetation or thorns and thistles?
- › What does the product of your life say about your walk with the Lord?
- › What do you need to do to move forward into maturity?

### PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** As Christians, we must be diligent to demonstrate our salvation, moving toward maturity. Maturing believers must be willing to warn others of the dangers of immaturity and disobedience. We should help others understand that Christianity is a lifelong faith commitment that requires growth and spiritual maturity. Make sure that you are on the right path to spiritual maturity.
- › **Memorize:** Hebrews 6:10
- › **Pray:** Pray that Christ would give you the strength to move forward in maturity. Ask Jesus to give you the boldness to encourage others to be a great example of Christ's love. Pray that you would never set Jesus up as a public disgrace, but always as the Savior of the world.
- › **Keep on Digging:** Read the following verses to continue to study the issue of perseverance.
  - Matthew 7:15-23
  - Luke 9:62
  - Mark 13:13
  - 2 Timothy 4:10
  - 1 John 2:19



| SESSION 7

## **Only Jesus Saves** Hebrews 7:23-28

### **HEBREWS 7:23-24**

- › Why is it necessary for us to have a great High Priest?
- › What is the significance of the many priests needed in the Old Testament and Jesus being our only High Priest?

### **HEBREWS 7:25**

- › What makes it possible for Jesus to always be able to save those who come to God through Him?
- › What does it mean that Jesus lives to intercede for us?

### **HEBREWS 7:26-27**

- › List the character qualities of our great High Priest found in verse 26.
- › What are the differences between the sacrifices the priests made and the personal sacrifice that Jesus made?

### **HEBREWS 7:28**

- › Read Psalm 110. What is the oath that the writer is referring to?
- › How did the coming of Christ eliminate the need for the old priesthood?



## Only Jesus Saves Hebrews 7:23-28

### CENTRAL TRUTH

*Jesus is our holy undefiled Savior who lives to intercede for us.*

### NOW WHAT?

- › List 3 friends who would have your back no matter the situation.
  
- › What would you have to do for one of the friends you listed above to get upset and turn on you?
  
- › Is there anything that you could do as a believer in Christ for Jesus to turn His back on you?
  
- › Jesus lives to intercede for you and He stands in the gap for you. He deserves your all. Does your life reflect your full devotion to Him? What is the evidence?

### PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Only Jesus can provide salvation. Our salvation depends on Him and Him alone. Since salvation is based on Jesus and His character, we can live faithfully and share the gospel with confidence. If you have committed your life to Christ, who do you need to tell about Jesus? How can you use what you've learned to help them understand that only Jesus saves?
- › **Memorize:** Hebrews 7:25
- › **Pray:** Ask Jesus to help you understand the price that was paid for your sin. Pray for Him to give you understanding about His role of interceder in your life, and the boldness to share with others how they can only receive salvation through Jesus.
- › **Keep on Digging:** Jesus has provided once and for all our sacrifice for sin. But there are places in the Scripture that ask for us to make sacrifices. Study these verses below about sacrifices we are to make as believers.
  - Romans 12:1-2
  - Hebrews 13:15-16
  - Psalm 40:6
  - 1 Peter 2:4-10
  - Psalm 51:16-17



## **A Promise Fulfilled**

### **Hebrews 8:1-13**

#### **HEBREWS 8:1-5**

- › Where do these verses say Jesus is right now and what is He doing?
- › What was Moses warned about as he was completing the tabernacle? Why was that so important?

#### **HEBREWS 8:6**

- › Why is the ministry of Jesus superior to the ministry of the priests?
- › What do you think it means that the covenant that Jesus is mediating has been legally enacted?

#### **HEBREWS 8:7-12**

- › In this passage, several benefits of the new covenant are listed. Write down at least 2 benefits that the writer references.
- › Of the benefits that you listed, which one is the hardest for you to grasp and understand? Why?

#### **HEBREWS 8:13**

- › Write down several demands of the old covenant.
- › The writer refers to the old covenant as old and about to disappear. What implications come to mind when you think of that language?



## A Promise Fulfilled

### Hebrews 8:1-13

## CENTRAL TRUTH

*Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the new covenant.*

## NOW WHAT?

- › Go back and read verses 10-12. Who seems to be the major player of the new covenant?
- › God said that He would write His law on our hearts. What does it mean that God desires to change us from the inside out?
- › Is it hard for you to accept that God says He will never again remember our sins? Why?
- › What are the sins in your life that God has forgotten about, but you have trouble letting go of?

## PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** We are unable to keep God's law on our own. Only through faith in Christ can we be set free from sin to live a life that demonstrates righteousness. What insights from this passage could you share with a friend who is trying to change his or her life apart from Christ? What might that person point out to you about your own efforts? What do you need to let Jesus change in your life by trusting in Him and not in yourself?
- › **Memorize:** Hebrews 8:12
- › **Pray:** Today's prayer should focus on thanksgiving. Thank God for promising a new covenant and for His desire to write His law on your heart. Thank Him that He promised to remember your sins no more. Finally, thank God that all of this was made possible through our great High Priest, Jesus Christ.
- › **Keep on Digging:** Read Jeremiah 31:27-34. Jeremiah had been telling the people for 29 chapters that Babylon was coming to destroy the city and take them into captivity due to the many sins of Judah. But a day of salvation was going to come! The people would be restored to their homeland and God's mercy would triumph!
  - How many times does God say "I will" in verses 31-34?
  - List out the things God says that He will do.
  - Explain how God has done each one of these things He promised to do.



## **The Perfect Sacrifice**

### **Hebrews 9:11-15**

#### **HEBREWS 9:11**

- › The writer says that Jesus appeared as High Priest of the good things that have come. What do you think are the good things the writer is referring to?
- › What was greater and more perfect about the new tabernacle as compared to the old?

#### **HEBREWS 9:12**

- › What was the purpose of Jesus entering the holy of holies?
- › What comes to mind when you think of Jesus entering the holy of holies with His own blood?

#### **HEBREWS 9:13-14**

- › What does the writer of Hebrews say was the only thing that the sacrifice offered by the priests could accomplish?
- › In verse 14, what does the writer say the sacrifice Jesus offered was able to accomplish?

#### **HEBREWS 9:15**

- › What does this verse say we are qualified for if we are called by Christ into salvation?
- › What has to take place before an inheritance can be realized? How has this been accomplished through Christ?



## The Perfect Sacrifice

### Hebrews 9:11-15

## CENTRAL TRUTH

*It is only through Jesus perfect sacrifice that I am made right with God.*

## NOW WHAT?

- › What do you find yourself doing to try to earn the favor and forgiveness of Jesus?
- › Is there anything you can do to cause Jesus to love you any more than He does right now? Explain.
- › List a few things you are doing to try to earn the love and favor of God that you need to stop doing.
- › List a few steps you'll take to start living in freedom and His forgiveness this week.

## PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Jesus has made our redemption possible through His death and resurrection. To redeem a slave means to pay the price necessary to set a him or her free from slavery. When Christ gave Himself for us, He liberated us from spiritual slavery to our transgressions. Transgressing involves crossing a line. We deserve to be punished for crossing the line and sinning against God. Instead of punishing us, God has chosen to forgive us if we put our trust in His Son. The first covenant can't address our sins in that way, and people still living under it need to be redeemed. Only the new covenant provides a way to be set free from sin's slavery.
- › **Memorize:** Hebrews 9:15
- › **Pray:** Ask Jesus to forgive you for your futile efforts to gain His love and His favor. Thank Him for offering the perfect sacrifice for your sins and qualifying you for the eternal inheritance. Thank Him for serving as your heavenly mediator and commit yourself to be an ambassador for the gospel.
- › **Keep on Digging:** How were the Old Testament believers saved by Jesus Christ if they did not know all that we know about Jesus at the time when they lived?

Explore the following verses:

- 1 Peter 1:10-12
- Romans 3:25-26
- Genesis 15:5-6
- Hebrews 11:1-2, 39-40



## **Faith is?** Hebrews 11:1-6

### **HEBREWS 11:1**

- › The writer uses two main points in verse 1 to define faith. Write down those two points.
  
- › How would you explain faith to someone who is not a Christian? If you are still unsure of your own faith, ask a minister at your church to discuss this with you.

### **HEBREWS 11:2-3**

- › Why do you think the writer uses the illustration of creation as the starting point for describing what it means to live by faith?
  
- › How does creation serve as a great illustration for the definition of faith?

### **HEBREWS 11:4-5**

- › How does Abel's faith still speak from the grave?
  
- › What information did Enoch have in his life to base his understanding of who God was? Do you think we have more or less information than Enoch had?

### **HEBREWS 11:6**

- › Why do you think it is impossible to please God without faith?
  
- › What two things must we believe if we are going to draw near to God?



## Faith is? Hebrews 11:1-6

### CENTRAL TRUTH

*It is impossible to please God without faith.*

### NOW WHAT?

- › Go back to the definition of faith that you wrote down at the beginning of the session. How has your definition of faith changed based on what you have learned today?
- › In what area of your life do you struggle to believe that Jesus is enough?
- › What do you regularly find yourself doing that sabotages living a life of faith?
- › What do you need to do today to have faith that Jesus is all you need in every area of your life?

### PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Having faith in Jesus is not limited to salvation. So many times we believe that Jesus is enough for salvation, but we fail to believe that Jesus is enough for our struggle for identity. We tend to struggle and do not believe that Jesus is enough when we have a horrible relationship with our mom or dad. The truth is that faith in Jesus is the answer to all of those issues and more.
- › **Memorize:** Hebrews 11:6
- › **Pray:** Let your prayer focus around trusting in who Jesus says He is. Faith is about having a growing understanding of who He is. Ask Jesus to show you more of Him than He ever has before. Ask Him to give you a revelation of His glory that will cause you to become a person of great faith. Not because you are a great person, but because He is a great Savior.
- › **Keep on Digging:** The remainder of Hebrews 11 speaks of many other faithful ones who have gone on before us. In your spare time this week, choose several of the following examples of faith to look up in the Old Testament.
  - Abraham and Sarah – Genesis 12:1-9; 17:1-27; 22:1-10
  - Isaac – Genesis 27:1-45
  - Jacob – Genesis 48:8-22; 49:1-27
  - Moses – Exodus 2:11-14; 3:1-4:17; 12:1-32
  - Rahab – Joshua 2:9-11
  - Joseph – Genesis 50:24-25



## Strength to Carry On

### Hebrews 12:1-2

## HEBREWS 12:1

- › Who do you think the writer is referring to when he mentions the great cloud of witnesses?
- › What do you think the purpose of the great group of witnesses is in our life?
- › What does it mean to lay aside the weight of sin that entangles us? What image does that language create in your mind?
- › The Scripture compares the Christian life to running a race. How does the writer say we are supposed to run?

## HEBREWS 12:2

- › Where are we to keep our eyes focused? Why is this so important?
- › Write down two words that are used to describe roles that Jesus plays when it comes to our faith. Identify and attempt to explain these two words.
- › What was the finish line that motivated Jesus and allowed Him to endure the race that was set before Him?
- › What did Jesus go through for us as He ran the race that the Father put before Him?



## Strength to Carry On

### Hebrews 12:1-2

## CENTRAL TRUTH

*Jesus is the strength we need to persevere.*

## NOW WHAT?

- › Think again about those who encourage you. Write down the names of your great cloud of witnesses.
- › What sins ensnare you and keep you from running the race for Jesus? Confess those sins and strive to run in God's freedom.
- › Up to this point, what has been your finish line?
- › What do you need to do to change your finish line and begin running after Jesus?

## PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** The writer uses a great illustration that creates a powerful word picture as we think about laying aside sin that entangles us. Think about something that you have gotten tangled up in when you were walking or running. The picture is not of something that stops us, but what slows us down. As you think about these Scriptures this week, think about those areas of your life where you are allowing “small sins” to slow you down. They are not the giant sins that we seem to avoid, but the small ones that will slow us down and eventually render us ineffective. What will it take to lay those aside?
- › **Memorize:** Hebrews 12:1-2
- › **Pray:** Let your prayer today revolve around the verses that you memorized. It is a great discipline to learn how to pray Scripture. Thank Jesus for the great cloud of witnesses that reside in heaven and are there to cheer us on in our faith. Also thank Him for your great cloud that is present with you that encourages you in your faith. Ask Jesus to give you the strength to run with endurance, to keep your eyes on Jesus, and to run hard toward the finish line.
- › **Keep on Digging:** There is a connection between verses 1-2 and verses 3-7. Sometimes this connection is not always obvious, but God wants each of us to run with endurance and to finish the race. He desires for us to run well. However, we still struggle at times with sin, and with hearts that do not want to submit to God's Word. As our loving and wise heavenly Father, God knows this, and He will train us through sufferings and trials, disciplining us for our good.

Think of biblical examples of God's loving discipline and training.

- Moses who spent 40 years on the “backside of the desert” (Ex. 3:1).
- Joseph who was sold into slavery (Ex. 37:25-28; 39:19-23).
- David was disciplined when he had Uriah killed after stealing his wife Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11-20).



## Headed to the Mountain

Hebrews 12:18-24

### HEBREWS 12:18-19

- › List the words or phrases that are used to describe the Israelites experience at Mt. Sinai.
  
- › What did the Israelites hear while at the foot of the mountain? How did they respond to what they heard?

### HEBREWS 12:20-21

- › What level of access did the Israelites have to Mt. Sinai? What would happen if anyone or anything went up the mountain?
  
- › How did Moses feel about approaching God?

### HEBREWS 12:22-24

- › What do you think the Scripture means when it refers to Mt. Zion? List out the words or phrases that are used to describe our coming experience at Mt. Zion.
  
- › The writer begins listing groups of people who will be in Mt. Zion. List the groups of people and your best understanding of those groups.
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  
- › What identifier is used to describe Jesus in verse 24 and how is Jesus' blood different from the blood of Abel?



## Headed to the Mountain

Hebrews 12:18-24

### CENTRAL TRUTH

*Heaven is waiting for those who trust in Jesus as mediator of the new covenant.*

### NOW WHAT?

- › What's the coolest city you have ever been to?
- › What is special about that city that makes you want to go back?
- › What's the most exciting thing you learned today about the heavenly city?
- › What are you willing to do to get to that city? What do you have to do?

### PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** The new covenant creates a new kind of community. It's a community that isn't marked by dread or fear of God. Instead, we live in joyful fellowship with Him and each other. Also, we celebrate together what Christ has done to set us free from sin and share the good news about Him everywhere we go. In the fellowship framed by the new covenant, we live in the shadow of Mount Zion. Believers can joyfully approach the Father, putting aside fear.
- › **Memorize:** Hebrews 12:28
- › **Pray:** Lord, thank you that you have provided a place for me to reside with you forever. Thank you that I will be able to enjoy the glory of heaven because of your sacrifice for my sin. Thank you that we do not have to approach your holy mountain with fear and trembling, but we have the privilege of coming directly to you because of your grace.
- › **Keep on Digging:** As we have seen, there are many themes in Hebrews. Since Hebrews was written to encourage God's people to persevere until the end, it comes as no surprise that one of the prominent themes of the book is the journey that believers are on together. Dig into these Scriptures and then compare and contrast them with Hebrews 12:18-21 and 22-24. We are on a journey that we must finish because what awaits us is glorious beyond description.
  - Hebrews 3:6
  - Hebrews 3:7-14
  - Hebrews 4:1-11
  - Hebrews 6:1, 11-12
  - Hebrews 6:19-20 with 12:1-2
  - Hebrews 10:19-25
  - Hebrews 10:36-39



**Living Out the  
New Covenant**  
Hebrews 13:1-8

## HEBREWS 13:1-2

- › What is the practical application and instruction for believers in verses 1-2?
- › What does it mean to show hospitality? Why do you think we would have the opportunity to entertain angels?

## HEBREWS 13:3-4

- › Why would the writer encourage us to live as though we were in prison?
- › Why does the writer mention marriage in the context of this conversation?

## HEBREWS 13:5-6

- › How does the promise given in verse 5 allow us to live free from the love of money?
- › How does keeping oneself from the love of money lead to living the proclamation made in verse 6?

## HEBREWS 13:7-8

- › How are you to relate to the leaders that serve in your church?
- › Why is the statement about Jesus in verse 8 so important to you as a Christian?



## Living Out the New Covenant

Hebrews 13:1-8

### CENTRAL TRUTH

*A new covenant demands a new life.*

### NOW WHAT?

- › What could you do this week to be more hospitable?
- › Think of a few people who cannot help themselves. List their names and how you could help them this week.
- › What could you do this week to show respect and honor to the pastors at your church?
- › How can your life show the world that Jesus is all you need? What are some ways your actions and words can reflect your satisfaction in Jesus?

### PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- › **Dwell:** Jesus was asked by an expert in the law what He thought the greatest commandment was. This was obviously an attempt to trick Jesus and get Him to say something that would contradict the law. Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love God with all of your heart and soul and mind. He went on to say that the second is like the first, love your neighbor as yourself. The Christian life is about loving Jesus and letting that love affect how we treat others. It is not just what we say we believe that matters. If our theology is right, then our actions and lives should reflect that.
- › **Memorize:** Hebrews 13:8
- › **Pray:** Let your prayer today focus on how you treat others. Think about your greatest challenges when it comes to relationships and lift those up to Jesus. Ask Jesus to give you the strength to live out what you say you believe. Ask Him to help you remember what He has done for you so that you can treat others as you have been treated.
- › **Keep on Digging:** Hebrews 13:1-8 covers several topics of practical relevance. Spend some time this week reading the following passages and dig a bit deeper into what these verses in Hebrews are teaching us. The following passages will help and give each of us greater insight into our passage today.
  - Love of the brethren: Matthew 22:36-40, and 1 John 2:7-11.
  - Kindness to strangers: Genesis 18-19.
  - The honor of a Christ-centered marriage: Ephesians 5:22-33.
  - Trusting God with all of our needs: Matthew 6:25-34.