

Introduction: Were You Hoping for Something Better?

In what areas of life do people today feel a nagging sense of disappointment?

Looking back, what are the primary influences that have shaped your understanding and expectations of Jesus?

How satisfied are you now in terms of closeness to and intimacy with God? In what ways would you like that relationship to change?

Chapter 1: What Is God Saying to You?

Hebrews 1:1–2:4

Which aspects of the person of Jesus are most meaningful to you? Why?

How does the passage about the nature and role of angels challenge or affirm what you have believed about angels?

Do you see yourself as drifting in regard to your connection to Jesus, or would you say that you have tethered yourself firmly to him?

Chapter 2: What Are You Afraid Of?

Hebrews 2:5-18

When you think about death, does it inspire fear or hope or some other emotion? What belief about death shapes your emotional response?

Think about the phrase “but we see Jesus.” What difference does it make to see who Jesus is and what he has done as we face the reality of death?

How does it help you to know that Jesus understands what it is like to live in this world and face its temptations and trials?

What truth in this chapter has the power to free you from the fear of death?

Chapter 3: Where Are You Going?

Hebrews 3:1–4:13

Could you relate to Nancy’s experience of being tired of feeling like a hypocrite—being busy for God with no real connection to him?

When you think about the promise of rest that God offers, what appeals to you about it?

If someone were to ask you what kind of faith is necessary to have real rest in this life, how would you answer?

What does it mean to open up your life under the authority of God's Word? In what way have you experienced personally that the Bible is living and active?

Chapter 4: What Do You Need?

Hebrews 4:14–5:10; 7:1-28

Why do we need a mediator between us and God? What do we need that mediator to do?

Which aspects of the perfect priest—Jesus—are most meaningful to you? Why?

When you hear the invitation to draw near to the throne of grace with confidence, what does that mean to you in practical terms, and what sometimes keeps you from it?

In what ways would you like to draw near to God beyond what you have done in the past?

Chapter 5: How Can You Know that Your Faith Is for Real?

Hebrews 5:11–6:20

Which aspect of a growing craving for God's Word is most challenging to you—taking it in, giving it out, or living it out?

Does the discussion of falling away inspire thoughts and feelings of encouragement and hope or discouragement and fear?

What does it mean to you to grab hold of the hope God offers you?

What promises of God are most meaningful to you at this point in your life? Where are those promises found in Scripture?

Chapter 6: How Will You Get Rid of Your Guilt?

Hebrews 8:1–10:18

In what ways does guilt or a guilty conscience impact a person's life?

What, to you, is the most meaningful way the new covenant is better than the old covenant?

How has studying Hebrews helped you to understand the significance of the Old Testament sacrificial system as well as the superior sacrifice of Jesus?

Chapter 7: Why Should You Keep on Believing?

Hebrews 10:19-39

How does this passage in Hebrews help us to view persevering by drawing near to God as more than an emotional or sentimental experience?

In what circumstance and in what way do you sense God calling you to hold on to hope?

How is a lifestyle of sin a rejection of Jesus—even for the person who claims to be a believer?

When you read about God’s promise of reward to those who persevere, what do you think that means?

Chapter 8: What Are You Waiting For?

Hebrews 11

Which of the biblical characters described in this passage can you most relate to in terms of their hopes and disappointments?

What big-picture truth do you take from Hebrews 11 that can make a difference in how you live today?

What will it mean for you to fix your eyes on what is unseen?

What are you personally determined to do while you wait for your faith to become sight?

Chapter 9: What Is Your Obsession?

Hebrews 12:1-24

What is the difference between an interest or desire and an obsession? How do you know the difference?

What does it mean in practical terms to “fix your eyes” on Jesus and to “consider him”?

Looking back at your life, in what ways have you seen God discipline you as his child? Are you glad he did?

Chapter 10: What Are You Dreaming Of?

Hebrews 12:25–13:25

When you dig deep to define what makes up your dreams for the future, what are you dreaming of doing or becoming?

What aspects of a secure, passionate, sacrificial, submissive, and pleasing life appeal to you? What aspects are harder to welcome into your dreams for the future?

If you were to describe in a few sentences what the book of Hebrews is about, what would you say?

What has been the most significant way this study of Hebrews has changed you?