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Bethel Gospel Tabernacle



C.A.R.E. SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

C.A.R.E. Study Material

Book of Hebrews

*And daily in the temple, and in every house,
they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

(Acts 5:42 (KJV))



For more information on the C.A.R.E. Ministry
Please email CARE@bgtintl.com or call the Church office
Christ-Like **A**pproach in **R**eaching **E**veryone

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Notes

1. Hebrews 1:1-14

The author of Hebrews wanted to demonstrate to his readers that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the ultimate revelation of God's grace. In order to demonstrate Christ's superiority, the author compared Jesus to angels. Although angels had been used by God in the past to reveal his plan of salvation, Jesus is superior to angels because he revealed God himself, God in a human body.

OPEN

1. Why do you suppose so many people today are fascinated by angels?

EXPLORE

2. How did the angels respond when the Son of God was born? (1:6)
3. How is God's kingdom described? (1:8)
4. Where is the Son of God right now? (1:13)
5. To whom are God's angels sent to help? (1:14)

GET IT

6. How does God speak to us through his Son?
7. What does it mean to love right and hate evil?
8. What is it about the Son of God that makes him greater than the angels?
9. In what situations might an angel help, watch over, or minister to you?

APPLY

10. How can you use the description in Hebrews 1 to explain Jesus to a non-Christian friend or acquaintance this week?

2. Hebrews 2:1-18

For some inexplicable, wonderful reason God chose people rather than angels to be the focus of his grace and the inheritors of his heavenly kingdom. Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth as a human being—as one of us. He became hungry and thirsty. He even was tempted by Satan. He endured all this in order to die an innocent death on the cross so that we would be able to share in God's glory.

OPEN

1. Why might you want to be an angel? Why would you not want to be an angel?

EXPLORE

2. What did God do for his human creation? (2:8)
3. What did Jesus' death accomplish? (2:14)
4. Before Jesus' sacrificial death, what was it that enslaved people? (2:15)
5. Why is Jesus able to help people who are tempted? (2:18)

GET IT

6. Why do you suppose people are important to God?
7. What does it mean that people are a little lower than the angels?
8. How can we share in God's glory?
9. Why was it important for Jesus to become human?

APPLY

10. What areas of temptation might you ask for Christ's help this week?

3. Hebrews 3:1 – 4:13

Moses was revered by the Jews for leading the Israelites out of Egypt. But as the Son of God, Jesus is superior to any servant of God, especially Moses. Unlike Moses, who only led the people out of physical bondage, Jesus leads people out of bondage to sin. Just as the ancient Israelites were warned not to harden their hearts against God, the author of Hebrews warned his readers not to turn away from Jesus, an even greater prophet than Moses.

OPEN

1. How do people become heroes in our society today?

EXPLORE

2. How does Moses' position in God's family compare with Christ's position? (3:5-6)
3. Why were some people not allowed to enter God's rest? (3:19)
4. Why did the Israelites, who wandered in the wilderness, ignore God's teaching? (4:2)
5. To what is God's Word compared? (4:12)

GET IT

6. Why would the author of Hebrews compare Jesus to Moses?
7. How can you tell if a person is becoming hardened in sin?
8. What can we do to prevent others from becoming hardened in sin?
9. How does it make you feel to know that nothing in the world can be hidden from God?

APPLY

10. What can you do this week to give Jesus his due as the "hero" of the Christian faith?

4. Hebrews 4:14 – 5:10

Jesus is the ideal representative for us in heaven. Because he came to earth and lived as one of us, he knows firsthand about human weakness. Even though he remained sinless, he faced the same temptations we face. As a result, he is able to provide the mercy and grace we need to help us in times of trouble.

OPEN

1. If you were in serious trouble, what kind of person would you want to help you?

EXPLORE

2. Why are believers able to approach God's throne with confidence? (4:15-16)
3. How does one become a high priest? (5:4)
4. How is Jesus' priesthood similar to Melchizedek's? (5:7)
5. How did Jesus learn obedience? (5:8)

GET IT

6. Why do we need a high priest before God?
7. Why is it important that Jesus face the same kinds of temptation we face?
8. With what attitude do you approach God in prayer?
9. What does it mean to you to have Jesus as your high priest?

APPLY

10. What problem or situation in your life will you take before the throne of God this week?

5. Hebrews 5:11 – 6:20

The Christian life is an active, ongoing process. After we learn the elementary truths of God's Word, we need to move on to more advanced teaching. The more we learn about God and his Word, the deeper our relationship with him will become, and the less likely we will be to fall away from the Christian life, as the author of Hebrews warns in this passage.

OPEN

1. What is the most difficult subject you ever studied in school?

EXPLORE

2. Why was it difficult for the author of Hebrews to explain Christ's priesthood in detail? (5:11)
3. What topics does the author of Hebrews identify as being part of the elementary teachings about Christ? (6:1-2)
4. Who does the author of Hebrews cite as an example of a person waiting patiently to receive what God promised? (6:13-15)
5. According to the author of Hebrews, what two things cannot change? (6:18)

GET IT

6. What is the difference between milk and solid food?
7. How might a person fall away from Christ?
8. What can you do to guard against falling away from Christ?
9. What Bible passages, theological truths, or areas of the Christian life are most difficult for you to understand?

APPLY

10. What specific steps will you take this week to become better educated regarding a difficult biblical truth?

6. Hebrews 7:1-28

Melchizedek was an Old Testament king and priest to whom Abraham tithed one-tenth of his belongings. Because of the principle that the one who collects a tithe is greater than the one who gives it, Melchizedek was symbolically greater than Abraham, the patriarch of Israel. Like Melchizedek, Jesus is a priest who is greater than Jewish priests. The priests of Israel were descendants of Abraham and were established as priests by the Law; but Jesus' priesthood is established by his perfect life.

OPEN

1. To whom have you been compared, either favorably or unfavorably?

EXPLORE

2. How was Melchizedek different from other Old Testament priests? (7:5-6)
3. How do we know that Melchizedek was greater than Abraham? (7:6-7)
4. What was the primary weakness of the law of Moses? (7:19)
5. With whose oath did Christ become a priest? (7:21)
6. Why is Jesus always able to save those who come to God through him? (7:24-25)

GET IT

7. What difference does it make in your life that Christ is a high priest like Melchizedek?
8. What does Jesus, our high priest, expect us to tithe, or offer, to him?
9. Why is Jesus the kind of high priest we need?

APPLY

10. What concrete symbol of your gratitude can you give your high priest Jesus?

7. Hebrews 8:1-13

When God became dissatisfied with the way the Israelites were upholding their part of the agreement he had established at Mount Sinai, he established a new agreement. In contrast to the earthly priests who served under the old agreement, Jesus serves as the heavenly high priest of the new agreement, or the new covenant. He intercedes before God for all those who believe in him.

OPEN

1. How do you determine whether clothing, or some other possession, is out of style or obsolete?

EXPLORE

2. Where does our high priest serve? (8:1-2)
3. What is the responsibility of every high priest? (8:3)
4. How does the work of earthly priests compare to the work of our heavenly priest? (8:5)
5. Why did God turn away from Israel? (8:8-9)
6. What did God agree to do for the people of Israel? (8:10-12)

GET IT

7. If Christ offered a once-and-for-all sacrifice for us, what is our responsibility under God's new covenant?
8. What is available to you as a result of Christ's priesthood?
9. What does it mean to you that God remembers your sins no more?

APPLY

10. What can you do this week to strengthen your relationship with your heavenly high priest?

8. Hebrews 9:1-28

The Most Holy Place was the innermost room of the Holy Tent, the earthly Tabernacle. Under the old covenant, the high priest was allowed to enter the Most Holy Place only once a year to obtain forgiveness for the people's sins. By contrast, under the new agreement, Christ entered the Most Holy Place once and for all when he provided eternal atonement for the sins of all humanity.

OPEN

1. Which traditions, or customs, seem outdated to you?

EXPLORE

2. What was contained in the Most Holy Place of the Holy Tent? (9:3-5)
3. What were the sacrifices of the old agreement, or old covenant, unable to do? (9:9)
4. Why is the tent that Jesus entered greater than the earthly Holy Tent? (9:11)
5. What sacrifice did Jesus offer instead of the blood of goats and calves? (9:12)
6. According to God's covenant system, what does blood have the power to do? (9:22)

GET IT

7. Why were the rules and regulations for Jewish worship so strict?
8. How does Christ's sacrifice set us free from sin forever?
9. For what will we be judged after we die?

APPLY

10. What difference will the fact that Jesus is interceding for you before God the Father make in your prayer life this week?

9. Hebrews 10:1-18

Under the old covenant, people were required to offer sacrifices continuously in order to be made clean so that they could approach God in worship. Under the new covenant, Jesus' once-and-for-all sacrifice—his death on the cross—takes away sins completely. Those who believe in Christ are made perfect and spotless before God.

OPEN

1. What is the highest price you have ever paid for something?

EXPLORE

2. If the law were able to make people perfect, what would have been the result? (10:1-2)
3. If the sacrifices under the old covenant could not cleanse people of their sins, what purpose did they serve? (10:3)
4. What was Christ's response to God's plan for him? (10:7)
5. What is Christ waiting for as he sits on the right side of God? (10:13)

GET IT

6. Why is the law unable to make people perfect?
7. How would you describe religious life under the old covenant?
8. Why was Christ alone able to offer a once-and-for-all sacrifice?
9. If Christ's sacrifice makes us perfect in God's eyes, what should we do when we sin?

APPLY

10. What can you do this week to show your thankfulness for Christ's once-and-for-all sacrifice on your behalf?

10. Hebrews 10:19-39

Because of Jesus' sacrifice, those who believe in him are sinless and perfect in God's eyes. Even so, believers still have a responsibility to live right before God. Christians are instructed to show love to one another, do good deeds, reject sinful ways, and persevere in the face of oppression.

OPEN

1. When was the last time you suffered, or faced difficulties, because of your Christian faith?

EXPLORE

2. Why are believers free to enter the Most Holy Place without fear? (10:19)
3. What is the ultimate end for those who live against God? (10:27)
4. What happened to people who refused to obey the law of Moses under the old covenant? (10:28)
5. How can a Christian have joy, even in the midst of persecution? (10:34)

GET IT

6. What does it mean to have a sincere heart and a sure faith?
7. Why is it important for believers to meet together and encourage each other?
8. What kinds of actions might be categorized as good deeds?
9. Why is it a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God?

APPLY

10. What is one situation in your life for which you could use the encouragement of another believer to help you persevere in the faith?

11. Hebrews 11:1-40

Faith, being certain of something that cannot be seen, is the foundation of the Christian life. Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, and many other Old Testament people of faith were used mightily by God because they placed their trust completely in him. These people of faith are witnesses to people of every generation of what God can do, if only people place their faith in the All-Powerful God.

OPEN

1. How many different people, or objects, do we place our faith in every day?

EXPLORE

2. What must anyone who comes to God believe? (11:6)
3. How did the great people of faith view themselves? (11:13)
4. What has God prepared for the people of faith listed in this chapter? (11:16)

GET IT

5. Why do you think faith is so important to God?
6. How does God reward people who truly want to find him?
7. In your opinion, which of the people mentioned in this chapter showed the greatest amount of faith?
8. How does the faith of the people mentioned in this chapter differ from your faith?
9. What might cause a person's faith to be shaken?

APPLY

10. What can you do this week to set an example of faith for those around you?

12. Hebrews 12:1-29

Believers, who are disciplined by God or who face hardship because of him, have reason to rejoice. When God disciplines, he is proving his love to his children. Just as a loving father will fairly discipline a rebellious child, so God lovingly disciplines us in order to correct our ways. Though no discipline seems pleasant at the time, the end results are a more mature faith.

OPEN

1. What is the most severe punishment you have ever been given?

EXPLORE

2. Why did Christ accept the shame of the cross? (12:2)
3. How did Jesus model perseverance for his followers? (12:3)
4. What is the important thing to remember about God's discipline? (12:6)
5. What is the ultimate purpose of God's discipline? (12:10)

GET IT

6. If the Christian life is a long-distance race rather than a sprint, how does that affect the way we should approach it?
7. What might cause you to get tired, or stop trying, as you run the race that is before you?
8. What are the different ways a person might respond to God's discipline?
9. How can God's discipline ultimately give us peace?

APPLY

10. What will you remember that next time you experience God's discipline through sufferings, trials, or other problems?

13. Hebrews 13:1-25

The author of Hebrews concludes the book with a series of instructions and exhortations for believers. Those who follow Christ are held to a higher standard than those who do not follow him. This higher standard should manifest itself not only in a believer's relationship with God but in his or her relationships with other people as well. Believers should always look for the opportunity to show love and hospitality to others.

OPEN

1. Who is the most friendly person you have ever met?

EXPLORE

2. In what way are Christians to love each other? (13:1)
3. What kind of attitude should Christians have toward people who are suffering? (13:3)
4. What kinds of sacrifices please God? (13:16)
5. What is a Christian's responsibility to spiritual leaders? (13:17)

GET IT

6. What steps would you take to help someone who is suffering?
7. How difficult is it to be truly content with what you have?
8. Which Bible character, or Christian leader, serves as your model of faith?
9. What kinds of strange teachings lead people astray today?

APPLY

10. What can you do to show kindness, or hospitality, to a stranger this week?

