

# Bible Study 1 – Hebrews 1:1-4



## Read Hebrews 1:1-4 together

What stood out, challenged or encouraged you from the message?

Hebrews is writing to a bunch of first century Jewish Christians who were thinking about giving up because they started to doubt Jesus, were considered to strange and because they experienced suffering. In what ways do we encounter discouragement in following Jesus.

Have you ever heard someone say, "I would believe in God if He would just show himself"? How does such a person usually want God to reveal himself.

What evidence for God is there? How would you respond to the above question?

Andrew listed 7 reasons why he believes in God – can you remember any? Can you add to them?

Read Hebrews 1:1-4. How did God choose to show himself.

Give some examples of how God spoke “in many ways” in the Old Testament (Num 22:26-31, Deut 4:10-13; Ezek 1:4-28; Dan 5:5-6, 5:22-28, 7:1).

Write down everything you can learn about Jesus from verses 2-3. What do you learn about:

Who he is?

What status he has?

What he has done in the past?

What he still does?

How does this give you confidence in Jesus.

**Pray about these things for one another.**

# Bible Study 2 – Hebrews 2:5-3:6



## Read Hebrews 2:5-18 together

1. What stood out, challenged or encouraged you from the message?
2. Being super-honest, what are the common questions we (as followers) often have rolling around in our minds that might cause us to doubt God or to struggle in our faith just like the Hebrew Christians were?
3. Read Hebrews 2:1 – What is the danger facing the Hebrew Church, and what is the one thing the author points out that will help them avoid this?
4. The author uses Psalm 8 to highlight that Jesus is the ruler of all things. Why is this good news not just for us but for the world that seems to be unruly at times?
5. How can/does looking upon the world through the eyes of Jesus help us see things more clearly?

6. The author then presses home to the Hebrew Christians what salvation has accomplished for them. In the message we considered this movement from religion to relationship, or law to grace, and how this can be an unsettling transition for some. How have you wrestled with what it means to live under grace in your life?
  
7. In the message we also considered that this relationship includes adoption into God's household as son's and daughter's. How does being elevated to such a position of honour and being part of God's family encourage you and give you hope?
  
8. Verse 18 reminds us that Jesus has gone through the same suffering and temptations that we face in life. How does this encourage us to look to Him for help when we go through tough or challenging times?

### **Read Hebrews 3:1-6**

The writer encourages us again to fix our thoughts on Jesus (verse 3), to remember that God is the builder of everything (verse 4), and that Christ is faithful (verses 2 & 6).

9. How do we fix our thoughts on Jesus?
  
10. What benefit is there in remembering that God is the builder of everything?
  
11. When have you been encouraged recently about Christ's faithfulness?
  
12. Finally, what challenge or test are you or those close to you currently experiencing where you need to be reminded of Jesus' greatness?

**Pray about these things for one another.**

# Bible Study 3 – Hebrews 3:12-5:7



## Read Hebrews 3:12 to 5:7

1. What strikes you from this passage? What don't you understand?
2. What stood out, challenged or encouraged you from the message?

## Read numbers 13:25-14:35

3. Given the amazing things God had done in bring Israel up out of Egypt, how should the Israelites have responded to the spy's report at Kadesh?
4. How did they respond?

## Read Hebrews 3:7-4:1

5. The author of Hebrews quotes Psalm 95. According to this psalm and Hebrews 3 what is the real problem for the people of God?

6. What is our danger as Christians?
7. How do we harden our heart towards God? How do we know if our heart is soft or hardened?
8. According to this passage what are we urged to do about it?

**Read Hebrews 4:14-16.**

9. What does this teach us about the way Jesus wants to minister to us?

The writer of Hebrews uses Melchizedek as an example of how Jesus wishes to minister to us. Melchizedek was a priest/king. Jesus is a priest/king who comes to us with tears and truth, grace and truth. Andrew stated for us to soften our hearts towards God we need Jesus' ministry of truth and tears.

10. How have you experienced this in your life?

Andrew also stated that we need to minister as little shepherds this ministry of truth and tears to one another. Hebrews 3: 12-13 reads...

*<sup>12</sup> See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.*

11. How can we better do this with one another. What are the challenges? What are the benefits of speaking truth and grace into one another's lives?

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# Bible Study 4 – Hebrews 5:11-6:20



## Read Hebrews 5:11-6:12

1. What strikes you from this passage? What don't you understand?
2. What stood out, challenged or encouraged you from the message?
3. When it comes to receiving good and bad news which do you prefer to hear first, and why?
4. The writer to the Hebrews begins with some warnings about falling away, and some of the reasons they are in danger of doing so. They are accused of:
  - spiritual immaturity (5:12-13, 6:1-3)
  - a lack of fruitfulness (6:7-8), and
  - of being lazy (6:11-12)

Which of these do you think is the biggest danger for today's Church and current followers of Christ?

5. This passage is one of those sometimes used to debate whether someone can reject their salvation but then return to following Christ. Various scriptures can be drawn upon to build a case either way. Look up these verses and discuss the reasons for and against.

Hebrews 6:4-6

1 Corinthians 10:12

Romans 8:39

John 10:28

Others?

6. In the message it was stated that those who were falling away from the Hebrew Church were "those who have never really made this faith their own, deep down inside." (NT Wright)  
How does one know if we have really made faith our own and that we are truly followers of Jesus?
7. In the message we heard a description of 5 things that occur when we come to Christ. Briefly discuss which of these has been the most significant for you.

*Hebrew 6:4-6*

*4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age 6 and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance.*

- Been Enlightened
- Tasted the heavenly gift
- Shared in the Holy Spirit
- Tasted the goodness of the word of God
- Tasted the powers of the coming age

8. In the message we were challenge about 2 factors that characterize spiritual maturity. These are being skilled in the word of God (5:13) and being able to distinguish good from evil (5:14)

What methods does the author indicate will help us grow in these two areas?

What has worked for you to grow in either or both of these areas in your own spiritual walk?

9. In Hebrews 6:11 the writer pleads, *“we want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized.”* This is a call to perseverance and faithfulness and commitment.

How do the following passages encourage you that God is at work in your life and help you stay the course?

Philippians 1:3-6

Philippians 2:12-13

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT)

### **Read Hebrews 6:13-20**

10. This amazing passage speaks of Jesus as our High Priest and the One who provides for us a hope that is sure and steadfast (v.19).

What areas of your inner or outer life could do with an anchor at the moment?

How are you encouraged by this hope set before us (Jesus)?

**Pray about these things for one another.**

# Bible Study 5 – Hebrews 10



## Read Hebrews 10:19-39 together

1. What encourages you from this passage? What don't you understand?
2. What stood out, challenged or encouraged you from the message?

Outline:

The importance of community vv 24-25

The disciplines of community vv24-25

Consider

Spur

Encourage

Work

The goal of community: Love and good deeds.

The secret to community vv 19-22

**The writer of Hebrews often uses the image of the Christian life as a journey. He states here that we will never make it unless we are deeply connected in community.**

3. Looking at verses 24-25, describe again what this community, the church looks like. How is this both the same and different to your experience of church life.
  
4. Western culture is based upon enlightened individualism – why is this such a hindrance to us experiencing community.
  
5. How is our experience of God vv19-23 enhanced by community vv 24-25?
  
6. Andrew claimed that the secret of Christian community is knowing who you are in Christ vv 19-23. How does this knowledge free you to serve others.
  
7. Discuss C.S.Lewis' quote about Christian community and how it might apply to your life:

***He works on us in all sorts of ways. But above all, he works on us through each other. Men are mirrors, or "carriers" of Christ to other men. Usually it is those who know Him that bring Him to others. It is so easy to think that the church has a lot of different objects – education, buildings, missions, holding services...the Church exists for no other purpose but to draw men to Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became man for no other purpose. It is even doubtful, you know, whether the whole universe was created for any other purpose.***

8. Practically discuss how you as a LifeGroup might consider, spur, encourage and work towards love and good deeds.

**Pray about these things for one another.**

# Bible Study 6 – Hebrews 11



## Read Hebrews 11:1-13 together

1. What encourages you from this passage? What don't you understand?
2. What stood out, challenged or encouraged you from the message?

## Outline:

- A. Faith is rational** – is based upon truth God has revealed about himself to us through the bible and ultimately in Jesus.
- B. Faith is personal** – the bible isn't an end in and of itself. Knowledge of God should lead you to a relationship with the living God.
- C. Faith is like an earthquake** – it feels like an earthquake – it is unsettling. Jesus' call to come and follow is risky.
- D. Faith is impossibly possible.** – Faith requires trust. You just need enough faith to jump.

3. How would our culture describe faith? How is this different to a biblical understanding of faith? Or for a non Christian friend who asked you what is faith? How would you respond?
  
4. **Read through the heroes of faith 11:1-40** – From your knowledge of them and Hebrews 11 what is remarkable about each person. How did they demonstrate faith? How is their faith modeled to us?
  
5. **Read: Luke 18:18-30** - How is faith described in this passage?
  
6. **Read: Luke 19:1-10** - How is faith described in this passage?
  
7. **Read: Luke 21:1-4** - How is faith described in the passage?
  
8. **If someone was to read your life – how would they describe faith?**

**Back to the talk:**

9. **Faith is rational:** What do we need to believe in order to be a Christian? What do we need to know?

10. **Faith is personal:** People often have a faith that is simply based upon experience or emotion or people have a faith that is purely intellectual. The Bible calls for our knowledge of God to move us into a personal relationship with God. Each one of our heroes experienced this. How does this work for you?

11. **Faith is like an earthquake:** Faith is unsettling. Faith is a call upon our lives to follow and trust Jesus even though we may not know where he is leading us. How is this working for you? Where is God shaking you – unsettling you?

12. **Faith is impossibly possible:** Faith requires trust. You just need enough faith to jump. What is the next cliff you need to jump off in order to follow Jesus? (I'm not being literal – although jumping off cliffs is fun).

**Pray about these things for one another.**

# Bible Study 7 – Hebrews 12



Read Hebrews 12:1-17 together

1. What encourages you from this passage? What don't you understand?
2. What stood out, challenged or encouraged you from the message?

Outline:

We are to endure and not give up. To remind us of this the writer uses...

- A. A metaphor of running the race (12:1-3)
- B. An analogy of parental discipline (12:4-13)
- C. An example of foolishness (12:14-17)

3. When you think of an endurance test what type of test comes to mind?

### **Hebrews 12:1-3**

4. The principles for running and finishing an endurance race are fairly universal. That is:
- Shed unnecessary weight and hinderances.
  - Understand that this is about hanging in for the long haul.
  - Keeping your focus on the goal being the finish line.

How do these three race strategies relate to endurance in our Christian walk?

5. In the message we considered the key areas which can hinder, entangle or weigh us down. These were beliefs, behaviours, and other blockages. Discuss what you think are the common issues that slow us down or halt our perseverance in these 3 areas?

#### **Beliefs**

#### **Behaviours**

#### **Baggage**

6. What has God been prompting you to let go of or take hold of that you might run the race set before you?

### **Hebrews 12:4-13**

7. The writer then moves from the metaphor of the race to the analogy of parental discipline. The challenge of hardship and difficult times is not to interpret these things as an **'indication of God's inattention'**. Have you ever found yourself starting to think that way, and how did/do you overcome this doubting of God's love?

NT Wright says...

**Suffering can be the trowel which digs deeply in the soil of our lives, so the plant of peaceful righteousness – a life of settled commitment to live as God’s new covenant people – may have its roots deep in the love of God.**

8. When have you witnessed or experienced the truth of this from verse 11?
  
9. If the challenge of hardship and difficulty is to choose ***to follow him more closely, to trust him more fully, and to love him more deeply***, how do we do this?

### **Hebrews 12:14-17**

10. The final call to endurance comes through the (poor) example of Esau, one of foolishness. The point of the writer using this example is to remind us that **sometimes poor choices can lead to short-term relief, but result in long-term misery.**  
How do we avoid making this same mistake in our own lives?
  
11. The two key concerns here are the root of bitterness that can creep into our lives or the Church, and the impact of impurity on our concern for holiness. Left unchecked what is the impact of bitterness and impurity both individually and on community?
  
12. How can we, ***“Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy?”*** (verse 14)
  
13. In closing, go back to and discuss verse 11 which speaks of this harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. How does this encourage us to keep going and to not give up (the message of Hebrews)?

**Pray about all these things for one another.**