

BETTER»

Encouragement to endure from **HEBREWS**



GUIDE BOOK 2

BETTER»

Encouragement to endure from

HEBREWS

Discouragement. All of us know what it is to have the wind sucked out of our sails. Dashed hopes, sickness, a rebellious teen, or the increasing sense that your trust in Jesus puts you on the outer. And when these things are severe, or ongoing, it can challenge your faith.

The original readers of Hebrews were Jewish Christians going through tough times. Possibly they were living in Rome in the early 60s A.D., suffering from state sanctioned persecution. Though they hadn't yet experienced bloodshed (12:4), things were heating up. They faced mockery, financial loss and imprisonment (10:32-35). And martyrdom seems to have been a threat.

In this context, some were beginning to "drift" (2:4). They were "giving up meeting together" (10:25) and were tempted even to "shrink back" into Judaism (10:38-39). The comfortable rites of Judaism and the fact that it was legal under Roman law, no doubt contributed to its attraction.

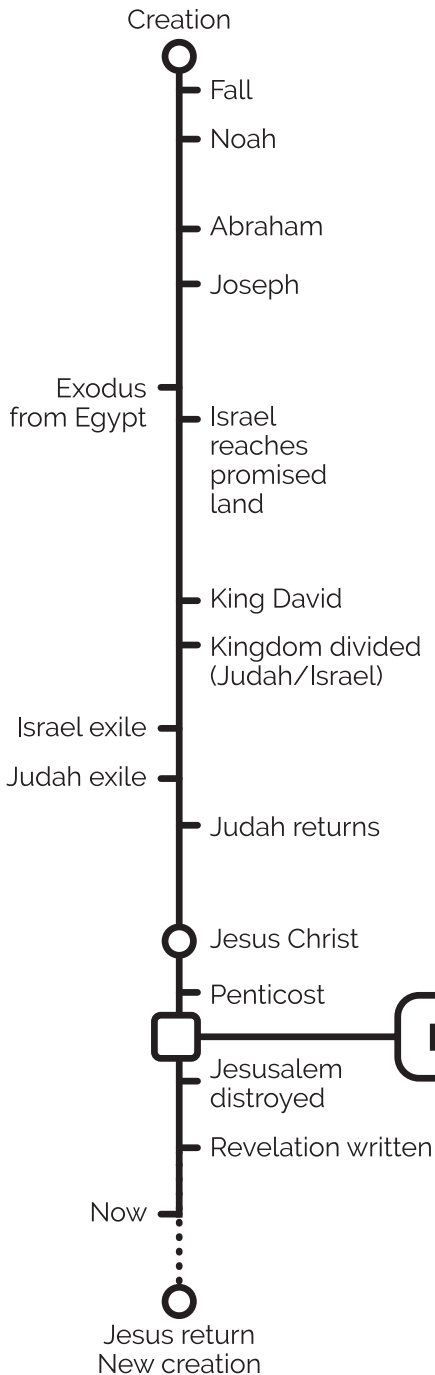
And so the author of Hebrews writes to encourage them (and us!) to endure. You must "not grow weary and lose heart" but are to "strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees" (12:3; 12:12). It is a fearful thing to fall away from Jesus (10:26-27). And why would you!? Because what we have in Jesus is so much better! We have the supreme King, a sure word, an ultimate rest, a sympathetic high priest, a once for all sacrifice, a secure covenant, and an unshakeable Kingdom! In Jesus we have reason to "hold our original conviction firmly to the very end" (3:14)!

Acknowledgement

A few questions in this booklet were from

Justin Buzzard, *Hebrews: Consider Jesus*

Joshua Ng, *From Shadow to Reality: Hebrews*



BIBLE TIMELINE

Where does the book of Hebrews fit into the whole story of God's word?

HEBREWS EARLY 60s AD

STUDY 10 »

Seeing Something Better

HEBREWS 11:1-40

» STARTER

1. What is the value of a role model? Can you think of someone you have looked up to as a role model?

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🔍 INVESTIGATE

Chapter 11 is about faith and its role in helping us keep going. Faith involves looking forward (*confidence in what we hope for*) and upward (*assurance about what we do not see, v1*) – and it pleases God (verse 6). And the writer puts flesh and bones onto faith, by giving us role models - a great list of those who, for all their imperfections, weaknesses and troubles, persevered through faith.

READ HEBREWS 11:1-29

2. Look at verses 7-12, 17-29. Find examples of:

a. Faith in God to deliver though it is not yet seen

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b. Faith that reveals values

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c. Faith that shapes fears

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3. Verses 13-16 describe the patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – and their families. How did they live a life of faith?

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READ HEBREWS 11:30-40

4. Compare the outcomes of faith in verses 30-34, with what we see in verses 35-38. What can we learn from this?

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APPLY

5. The characters of Hebrews 11 keep us both hopeful and realistic. What is the value of this? (What happens when you have one without the other?)

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6. What might it look like to live as a faithful pilgrim today? How will our lives be different from those of the people around us?

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7. In what ways might courage be needed in the life of faith today? How does your faith help you in such circumstances?

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8. Look back over the characters of Hebrews 11. Are there any that particularly encourage or challenge you in your own walk?

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9. God has “planned something better for us” in Christ (v40). Can you think of a time when that truth has been particularly meaningful to you?

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PRAY

Pray for one another that we might look forward with confidence to our future, trusting in God who keeps his promises. And, that we might continue to live faithfully in those times when the promised blessings are still to be seen.

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ABIDE IN ME
Jesus' departing words

grow **QCCA**
Praying on the word

Saturday 5 August 2023

Registrations Close this Friday 21 July



BIBLE TALK NOTES

Sunday 23 July

HEBREWS 12:1-17

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO LUNCH?

Sunday 13 August

830 Congregation

Register Here 



COMMUNITY LUNCH

Sunday 13 August

 Bring a Plate

1030 Congregation



STUDY 11 »

A Better Example

HEBREWS 12:1-17

» STARTER

1. What tends to happen when a team or club puts very little into training? Or, where they put in a great deal? Share any experiences you have had.

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🔍 INVESTIGATE

READ HEBREWS 12:1-11

2. What can we learn in these verses to help us "run the race" of the Christian life?

a. v1 Throw off what?

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b. v2 Consider who? (What did he do and why could he do that?)

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c. v7 Endure with what attitude? How will this help us not to give up (v8-11)?

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APPLY

3. What would it look like to throw off, not only sin, but even “everything that hinders”? What steps could you take in this way?

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4. Why do you think we need to fix our eyes on Jesus if we are to endure? What difference does that make? How can we do that practically?

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5. Can you think of when difficulties have nevertheless ‘produced a harvest’ or helped to train you in Jesus?

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INVESTIGATE

READ HEBREWS 12:12-17

6. Make a list of all the commands in verses 12-17.

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7. How is Esau an apt picture of the hollow exchange that is made by the one who gives up on Christ?

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APPLY

8. "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy." What do you find helpful about this instruction? How does it challenge you?

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9. How can bitterness cause trouble and defile many? What will it look like for us to work against bitterness in our own hearts and in our church community?

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10. The writer to the Hebrews wants us to be looking out for others that they might keep following Christ. As a Christian community, what steps could we take to see to it that no one falls short of the grace of God?

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 **PRAY**

Give thanks for our Lord Jesus who has shown us what it looks like to run the race of faith. Pray that we might endure struggles, seeing the joy and the harvest that God intends. And, that we might look out for each other, helping one another across the finish line.

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BIBLE TALK NOTES

Sunday 30 July

HEBREWS 12:18-29

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STUDY 12 »

A Better Kingdom

HEBREWS 12:18-29

» STARTER

1. 1. Have you ever ascended a mountain that was truly majestic?

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🔍 INVESTIGATE

READ HEBREWS 12:18-29

2. This passage references Mount Sinai of the Old Covenant (v18-21). What general impressions, emotions or thoughts do you get from this account of people's encounter with God? (See Exodus 19 for some more context).

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3. The writer compares the old mountain with the new mountain. What are the differences between Mount Sinai and Mount Zion? What is the writer's purpose for highlighting these?

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4. There are a few dense, yet rich, phrases mentioned regarding the New Covenant's city of God. Spend some time thinking about and discussing what each of these terms mean in verses 22-24. How do they enhance and/or expand our view of God?

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5. What does the writer wish for these people to ultimately see, know and do (See v25, 28-29)? What may "worship God acceptably with reverence and awe" mean?

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APPLY

6. What excites or encourages you about the city of God?

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7. Is the reality and goodness of Christ's eternal kingdom something that you dwell on? Why might or mightn't this be?

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8. How might a passage like this change the way you worship?

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9. What may living according to the promises of the unshakeable kingdom (rather than what will be shaken) look like this week? Have a think about your heart attitudes, thought-life, behaviours, interactions with others, daily habits etc.

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 **PRAY**

Spend some time thanking and worshipping God for the amazing truths revealed in this passage. Pray that He would work in you to live in light of the sure, glorious eternal city of God that's to come.

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Thank you to Jess Allan for writing this study



BIBLE TALK NOTES

Sunday 6 August

HEBREWS 13:1-25

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

STUDY 13 »

A Better Life

HEBREWS 13:1-25

» STARTER

1. Do you usually find hospitality easy or challenging? Are there tips that you have found helpful in doing hospitality?

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🔍 INVESTIGATE

READ HEBREWS 13:1-25

This chapter provides a bunch of practical instructions as we keep on going in the Christian life.

2. What different groups of people are we to show love for as a Christian community? Discuss what this will mean for us in practice.

People to Love	Discuss: what will this instruction mean in practice?
v1	
v2	
v3	

3. What are the danger areas for Christians that the writer chooses to focus on as he comes to the end of his letter? Discuss what each instruction will mean for us in practice.

Danger area	Discuss: what will this instruction mean in practice?
v4	
v5-6	
v9	

4. Look at 13:7, 17-19. What is the role of leaders? What responsibilities do leaders and congregation have towards each other?

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'BURNED OUTSIDE'

In the Old Testament the blood of bulls and lambs were offered inside the temple, but the carcasses were unclean and had to be disposed of outside Jerusalem.

5. Look at verses 10-14. How does the writer encourage us to be ready to suffer for Jesus?

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6. What sacrifices is God pleased with today? (v15-16)

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APPLY

7. Looking over the practical instructions here, what do you think is the most countercultural today? What is something here you want to keep growing in?

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8. What do you think it means to "forget to do good" (v16)? How does that happen? Is there a good work you would like to remember to do?

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9. "Worship is more than what you do on a Sunday morning." In what sense is this true? How should this be shaping us through this coming week?

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 **PRAY**

Give thanks for our Lord Jesus who, in his love, was willing to face even disgrace for our sake. Pray for God's help, that we might love others well – our brothers and sisters, strangers, prisoners, leaders – knowing that with such sacrifices God is pleased.

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STARTUP

Sunday Lunch

20 August 1230pm
At Petrie

christcentral.org.au/startup



MENTAL HEALTH AND YOUR CHURCH

BIBLICAL COUNSELLING AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE

Wednesday 23 August

Talk to Kirk by 6 August



CHRISTCENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH