

HEBREWS

BETTER SAVIOR. BOLDER SAINTS.

HEBREWS OUTLINE

DATE	TOPIC	TEXT
4-7-24	1. The Superiority of Jesus	
4-10-24	2. Hebrews and the Old Testament	
4-14-24	3. Who Are the Hebrews?	
4-17-24	4. Despising the Shame	
4-21-24	Evangelism Bootcamp with Ricky Shanks	
4-24-24	5. The Son of God	Hebrews 1:1-2:4
4-28-24	6. The Sons of God	Hebrews 2:5-18
5-1-24	7. Take Care Brothers	Hebrews 3:1-18
5-5-24	8. Enter God's Rest	Hebrews 4:1-13
5-8-24	9. A Great High Priest	Hebrews 4:14-5:10
5-12-24	10. Breaking The Cycle of Grace	Hebrews 5:11-6:12
5-15-24	11. Patience and Promises	Hebrews 6:13-20
5-19-24	12. The Superior Priest	Hebrews 7:1-28
5-22-24	13. A Better Covenant	Hebrews 8:1-13
5-26-24	14. The True Tabernacle	Hebrews 9:1-28
5-29-24	15. One and Done	Hebrews 9:23-10:18
6-2-24	16. The New and Living Way	Hebrews 10:19-22
6-5-25	17. Need of Endurance	Hebrews 10:26-39
6-9-24	18. By Faith, Part 1	Hebrews 11:1-22
6-12-24	19. By Faith, Part 2	Hebrews 11:23-40
6-16-24	20. The Disciple's Discipline	Hebrews 12:1-29
6-19-24	21. The Sin of Esau	Hebrews 12:16-17
6-23-24	22. A Word of Encouragement	Hebrews 13:1-25`
6-26-24	Hebrews Singing (Teacher Prep Night)	

LESSON 1

THE SUPERIORITY OF JESUS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Imagine you are in marketing and it is your job to sell a TV. How do you convince someone to buy your product?
2. What comparison is made in each of the following verses?
 - 2:2-3
 - 3:3
 - 4:14
 - 7:7
 - 7:19
 - 7:22
 - 8:6-7
 - 9:11
 - 10:34
 - 12:9
3. This is the encouragers sales pitch. By these comparisons, is he trying to make the Old Testament look bad or Jesus to look better?
4. What impact should the message of a better Jesus have on our faith today?

LESSON 2

HEBREWS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The author of Hebrews frequently quotes the Old Testament. Use the following verses to construct a list of Old Testament figures. (1:4; 3:2, 16; 4:7, 8; 5:4, 6, 13; 7:9, 11; 9:2; 11:4ff; 12:16, 22, 24)

2. What do the following verses reveal about his beliefs about the Hebrew Scriptures?

1:5-13

2:4

3:7

4:7

1:1-2

3. Sometimes the quotations sound strikingly different from the original. Compare Hebrews 10:6-7 to Psalm 40:6-8. What accounts for the differences?

4. What are some helpful hints or strategies you would recommend to better understand the use of the Old Testament within our study of Hebrews?

LESSON 3

WHO ARE THE HEBREWS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Use the following verses to construct a short biography of the recipients of this book.

2:1-4

10:32-39

6:10-12

2. What do the final greetings reveal about the author and the recipients (13:18-19, 22-25)?
3. These sections leave a lot of questions about the author and the recipients. In class, list some of the things that are unknown.
4. How do you manage a book in which you don't know who wrote it or to whom it was written?

LESSON 4

DESPISING THE SHAME

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What would it take for you to reject your faith? At what point would the prize no longer be worth the price?
2. Complete in class the diagram about honor, shame, values, and significant other.
3. According to 10:32-39, what had these Christians experienced previously?
4. What possible situations could they be facing now (Hebrews 12:3-4)?
5. What do the following verses indicate about the author's goal in this book?
3:12-14
5:11-6:12
12:12-17

LESSON 5

THE SON OF GOD

TEXT: HEBREWS 1:1-2:4

INTERACTING WITH THE TEXT

Cross reference “quotations”
Underline “Son”

Parenthesize (Angels)
> Greater Sign Comparisons

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

5. In class, diagram the relationship of the two comparisons made in this section.

6. The first four verses are the initial description of Jesus, the Son. What impression do you suppose the author wanted to convey?

7. The author cites seven scriptures to prove that Jesus is greater than angels. Summarize the impact that each quotation has on this larger point.
 - a. Psalm 2:7 (1:5a)
 - b. 2 Samuel 7:14 (1:5b)
 - c. Deuteronomy 32:43 (1:6)
 - d. Psalm 104:4 (1:7)
 - e. Psalm 45:6-7 (1:8-9)
 - f. Psalm 102:25-27 (1:10-12)
 - g. Psalm 110:1 (1:13)

8. “Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard,” the author encourages (2:1). What should the reader do in response?

LESSON 6

THE SONS OF GOD

TEXT: HEBREWS 2:5-18

INTERACTING WITH THE TEXT

Cross reference “quotations”

Underline “Son”

Circle Faith

Zigzag Suffering

Parenthesize (Angels)

> Greater Sign Comparisons

Square Priests

Squiggle Perfect

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The quotation in Hebrews 2:6-8 is originally found in Psalm 8:4-6. Read the original passage. What is significant about differences between the original and the quotation?
2. The author has consistently argued that Jesus is the Son, but now the author shifts to “many sons” (2:10), saying also, “That is why he is not ashamed to all them brothers” (2:11). What is your reaction to Jesus calling you his brother?
3. But the implication is that those who are brothers of Jesus are those who suffer alongside him (2:18; 5:8; 12:7-8). What suffering should Christians today reasonably expect?
4. “He is able to help those who are being tempted,” the author asserts (2:18). How does Jesus help or comfort you in times of distress?

LESSON 7

TAKE CARE, BROTHERS

TEXT: HEBREWS 3:1-18

INTERACTING WITH THE TEXT

Cross reference “quotations”

Underline “Son”

Circle (Faith)

Dot “Rest” ●

Parenthesize (Angels)

> Greater Sign Comparisons

Square (Priests)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Imagine that you're a business owner; your son and one other employee have served the company faithfully for two decades. As you near retirement, who do you choose as your successor? Why?

How is the comparison between Jesus and Moses (3:1-6) similar?

2. The quotation from Psalm 95 (3:7-11) refers to what happened at Meribah. Read Exodus 17:1-7 and Numbers 20:2-13, where those events are first recorded. Use three words to describe the people of Israel in those stories.
3. What similarities did the author see between the Israelites at Meribah and the dangers facing his audience? (cf. 3:12-4:3)
4. What is our responsibility to ourselves and to one another so that we don't come to the same fate as the Exodus generation (3:12-13)?

LESSON 8

ENTER GOD'S REST

TEXT: HEBREWS 4:1-13

INTERACTING WITH THE TEXT

Cross reference "quotations"

Dot "Rest" ●

Circle (Faith)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Summarize the two "let us" statements (4:1, 11). What does the author hope Christians will do with this chapter?
2. The author argues for the Christian hope based on the chronology. Put the following three events in order:
 - The Exodus Generation
 - David Writes Psalm 95
 - Joshua's Conquest

How does this chronology prove the Christian hope for rest?

3. What do the following verses reveal about God's rest?
 - a. 4:3
 - b. 4:4,9
 - c. 4:8 (11:10)

Based on these descriptions, what is the "rest"?


4. While the description of God's word is certainly vivid and memorable (4:12-13), how is it relevant to the point the author is making?

LESSON 9

A GREAT HIGH PRIEST

TEXT: HEBREWS 4:14-5:10

INTERACTING WITH THE TEXT

Cross reference “quotations”
Underline “Son”
Squiggle Perfect 

Bracket {Sacrifices/Offerings}
Square Priests

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Some of the most comforting words in scripture are found in 4:14-16. Summarize these verses in your own words.
2. The author’s main assertion is that Jesus is our high priest (4:14). He then offers a description of high priests according to the Levitical tradition (5:1-6). In what ways is Jesus similar to the Levitical priests, and in what ways is he different?
3. What event in Jesus’ life is being described in 5:7? How did God answer Jesus’ prayer?
4. Once again, the author links the themes of sons, suffering and perfection (5:8-9; 2:10). What kind of “perfection” is accomplished through suffering?

LESSON 10

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF GRACE

TEXT: HEBREWS 5:11-6:12

INTERACTING WITH THE TEXT

Underline “Son”

Circle Faith

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The author is disappointed with the Hebrews’ failure to mature (5:11-14). From this section, what attributes should define a mature Christian?
2. The author paints a sad picture of those who fell away, despite their full Christian experience (6:4-6). How does the land analogy (6:7-8) help to explain the situation?
3. The Hebrews are heading down a dangerous path, but the author states that he is confident of “better things” for them (6:9-12). How could he be so confident that they would turn around?

LESSON 11

PATIENCE AND PROMISES

TEXT: HEBREWS 6:9-20

INTERACTING WITH THE TEXT

> Greater Sign Comparisons
Check Oath/Promise ✓

Square Priests
Plus Sign Hope +

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Abraham was unsure how God would keep his promise (Genesis 15:2). After reaffirming the promises, God performs a dramatic gesture to offer Abraham certainty (15:7-21). Briefly summarize the event.
2. Those who inherit the promises must practice patience with faith (6:12, 15). How must we who continue to wait for the promises of God practice our patience?
3. Connect the two phrases: “Hold fast to our hope,” (6:18) and “A hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain” (6:19). What is author trying to tell us about the Christian hope?

LESSON 12

THE SUPERIOR PRIEST

TEXT: HEBREWS 7:1-28

INTERACTING WITH THE TEXT

Cross reference “quotations”

Underline “Son”

Check Oath/Promise ✓

Squiggle Perfect 

Bracket {Sacrifice/Offering}

> Greater Sign Comparisons

Square Priests

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. According to the introduction to Melchizedek (7:1-3), what do Jesus and Melchizedek have in common?
2. In class, complete the diagram about tithing.
3. The author argues that Jesus is not a priest from the line of Levi (7:11). He confirms that Jesus is from the tribe of Judah, “And in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests” (7:14). Is the author arguing that it’s permissible because God “didn’t say not to?”
4. What two things qualify Jesus to be priest (7:15-22)?

LESSON 13

A BETTER COVENANT

TEXT: HEBREWS 8:1-13

INTERACTING WITH THE TEXT

Cross reference “quotations”
> Greater Sign Comparisons

Bracket {Sacrifice/Offering}
Square Priests

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why would someone settle for a copy or lower quality product, rather than the real thing?
2. What are the faults with the Old Covenant (8:7-9,13; cf. Jeremiah 7:23-26)?
3. The author says that the New Covenant is superior, “since it is enacted on better promises” (8:6). List the promises of the New Covenant prophesied by Jeremiah (8:10-12; Jeremiah 31:31-34).
4. Imagine these promises were your sales pitch. How would you describe your experience of these things to a person who isn’t a Christian?

LESSON 14

THE TRUE TABERNACLE

TEXT: HEBREWS 9:1-28

INTERACTING WITH THE TEXT

Cross reference “quotations”


Asterisk “Blood” *

Zigzag  Suffering

Bracket {Sacrifice/Offering}

> Greater Sign Comparisons

Square  Priests

Squiggle  Perfect

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Diagram the layout of the “tent” or tabernacle (9:1-5).

According to the author, what did this tent represent (8:5; 9:8-9).

2. This section is again filled with comparative language: “the good things that have come,” “greater and more perfect,” (9:11) “how much more,” (9:14). According to this section (9:11-14, 23-24), what is categorically better about the ministry of Jesus?
3. It’s easy to read this section as a technical critique of the Levitical priesthood, but it is also saturated with hope. Read the whole section again and list the verses below that inform your hope as a Christian.

LESSON 15

ONE AND DONE

TEXT: HEBREWS 9:23-10:18

INTERACTING WITH THE TEXT


Cross reference “quotations”

Asterisk “Blood” *

Zigzag  Suffering

Mark 1 by “Once”

Square  Priests

Squiggle  Perfect

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What life situation would you use to illustrate the principle, “If you do it right, you only have to do it once”?
2. What contrast is emphasized between the offerings of the priests (9:25; 10:1-4, 11) and that of Jesus (9:26-28; 10:10-14)?
3. David originally wrote, “But you have given me an open ear” (Psalm 40:6 ESV; literally, “ears you have dug out for me). The quotation, however, read, “But a body you have prepared for me” (Hebrews 10:5). (We have already explored that the difference is explained by a reading from the Septuagint translation.) What do these phrases reveal about the suffering of Jesus?
4. Jesus accomplished what Jeremiah prophesied, saying, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” Read that again. What impact should this verse have on your life as a Christian?

LESSON 16

THE NEW AND LIVING WAY

TEXT: HEBREWS 10:19-22

INTERACTING WITH THE TEXT

Circle **Faith**
Asterisk "Blood" *

> Greater Sign Comparisons

Square **Priests**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. "Confidence" is something with which many Christians struggle, but the author declares it as a fact. What might lead a believer to lack confidence?

What is the true source of our confidence (10:19-21)?

2. Use the following verses to trace the history of the curtain.
 - a. Genesis 3:22-24
 - b. Exodus 26:26-35
 - c. Mark 15:38
 - d. Hebrews 10:20
3. The book of Hebrews is like a good salad; it is filled with "let us." Use the "let us" encouragements in this section to list the applications the new and living way in the life of a Christian (10:22-25).
4. What can you do to more proactively "encourage one another" (10:25) in the time we spend together as Christians?

LESSON 17

NEED OF ENDURANCE

TEXT: HEBREWS 10:26-39

INTERACTING WITH THE TEXT

Cross reference “quotations”

Asterisk “Blood” *

Underline Son

Zigzag Suffering

Bracket {Sacrifice/Offering}

> Greater Sign Comparisons

Square Priests

Circle Faith

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Reflecting on Hebrews 10:32-39, David DeSilva writes, “The price was now more on their minds than the prize” (Perseverance in Gratitude, p. 19). List the things they had suffered for their faith. At what point would you be tempted to say the price is too high?
2. Based on the following phrases, what are the recipients tempted to do in response? “Go on sinning deliberately” (10:26), “trampled underfoot the son of God,” “profaned the blood of the covenant,” “outraged the Spirit of grace” (10:29), “throw away your confidence” (10:35), “shrink back” (10:39).
3. For a group that is already dejected, why would the author be so diligent to inspire them to fear (10:26-27, 30-31)?
4. The section ends with hope, saying, “But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls” (10:39). Put yourself in the author’s sandals; rewrite this verse in your own words.

LESSON 18

BY FAITH, PART 1

TEXT: HEBREWS 11:1-22

INTERACTING WITH THE TEXT

Circle Faith
> Greater Sign Comparisons

Bracket {Sacrifice/Offering}

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Faith is mentioned eighteen times in these first twenty-two verses. Use the verses to compile a short list of the core attributes of faith.
2. The search for God's city meant that the wandering patriarchs lived "as in a foreign land" (11:9-10), and as "strangers and aliens on earth" (11:13). This is true also for every Christian (11:14).
Complete the following sentence: Because I am living as in a foreign land, I...
3. What do Abel (11:4), Enoch (11:5), Isaac (11:19), and Joseph (11:22) have in common?

LESSON 19

BY FAITH, PART 2

TEXT: HEBREWS 11:23-12:2

INTERACTING WITH THE TEXT

Circle Faith
> Greater Sign Comparisons

Zigzag Suffering

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The author notes that Moses “refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin” (11:24-25).
Imagine Moses was living today. How would he complete fill in the blanks: I would rather _____ than _____.
2. The experiences of the unnamed faithful shift from victors (11:33-35) to victims (11:35-38). Consider the whole list. What is the relationship between their triumphs and tragedies?
3. The chronicles of faith begin and end with “commendation” (11:2, 39), adding also, “Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God” (11:16), and, “of whom the world was not worthy” (11:38).
Why is it so important for Christians to know that these received God’s approval?
4. What does the author note about Jesus that makes him the ultimate hero of faith (12:1-2)?

LESSON 20

THE DISCIPLE'S DIFFERENCE

TEXT: HEBREWS 12:1-29

INTERACTING WITH THE TEXT

Cross reference "quotations"

Circle Faith

Squiggle Perfect

Underline Son

> Greater Sign Comparisons

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think of a time in which you competed, whether athletic or otherwise. What motivated you to finish or what caused you to quit?
2. According to 12:3-11, what is the roll of discipline in the life of a Christian?
3. The great thing about this race is that we don't have to do it alone. What can you do to strengthen struggling Christians around you (12:12-15)?
4. What point is the encourager trying to make by comparing the two mountains (12:18-29)?

LESSON 21

THE SIN OF ESAU

TEXT: HEBREWS 12:16-17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Go read the account of Esau's trade in Genesis 25:29-34. What did Esau give up and what did he get in exchange?
2. In contrast to Abraham (11:13-16) and Moses (11:24-26), what does Esau represent in the context of Hebrews (12:15-17).
3. Esau later came to regret his decision after Jacob was blessed (Genesis 27:30-40). The author describes him as having "no chance to repent" (12:17). What point of no return is the author trying to discourage by Esau's example?

LESSON 22

A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

TEXT: HEBREWS 13:1-25

INTERACTING WITH THE TEXT

Cross reference “quotations”

Asterisk “Blood” *

Circle Faith

Bracket {Sacrifice/Offering}

Underline Son

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The exhortations begin, “Let brother love continue” (13:1). How is brother love thematic for all of the practical exhortations found in 13:1-7?
2. Multiple times the encourager promotes good relationships with the leaders of the church (13:7, 17). Society is suspicious of leaders and those in positions of authority. How can we keep this trend from contaminating our church environment?
3. The author pleads, “Therefore, let us go outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured” (13:13). The theme of societal rejection has been consistent in the book of Hebrews. What have you learned through this study that has better prepared you to be a Christian outsider?
4. How is the final prayer (13:20-21) a culmination of the entire message of Hebrews?