

HeBrews: A Better Blend

LEADER'S GUIDE

Dear Group Leader,

I am honored you have chosen *HeBrews: A Better Blend* for your Bible study group. God's Word is life to me, and I hope it is to you as well. Trust me, you will never go wrong studying the Scriptures.

I loved writing this study because it allowed me to pull extensively from the Old Testament. *HeBrews: A Better Blend* is a study that is written in a rather unique fashion because it is impossible to understand the book of Hebrews without having a foundation of knowledge concerning the Old Testament tabernacle and priesthood, which God spoke of in detail in the book of Exodus. The study you will be leading will take you on a journey of comparison and contrast of the Old Testament, (or Old Covenant), tabernacle and priesthood, with that of the New Covenant. Your group will learn why the foreshadowing found in the Old Testament system of atonement was necessary for the Israelites of antiquity. You will also discover why that system fell short of providing the complete atonement for sin that people so desperately needed. Most every week will find your group reading from both the Old and New Testaments as you compare and contrast the two systems of atonement.

My hope for your group is that they will discover the beautiful continuity and completeness between the Old and New Testaments. What was begun in the Old Testament was completed in the New Testament in every way. I hope your students will see how Jesus truly is all we need for salvation and the covering of our sin. Over the course of the next eight weeks, I pray your heart, and those of your students, will come to love and trust Jesus more deeply as you discover He truly is the BETTER way of atonement.

This is an eight-week in-depth study that offers five days of homework each week, with each day of homework requiring approximately 30-45 minutes of study. Completing the homework is critical to gaining a full and complete understanding of the book of Hebrews. Encourage your students to complete their homework each week and come to class prepared to discuss what they have learned. With that said, please do not discourage those students who fail to complete their homework from attending the group classes. Much learning can still occur through listening to the discussion during the group meetings.

Some of the material in Hebrews is confusing, even to biblical scholars, so it will be important that your students feel comfortable asking questions. **However, you, dear leader, do not have to have all the answers.** There is much I still do not fully understand about Hebrews, but that should never preclude us from asking questions. I encourage you to engage with solid biblical commentaries. As you do, you will inspire your group to do the same. One word of caution: please keep the Bible as your primary text and main focus. Allow commentaries to be a supplement to your study, rather than the focal material.

Prayer is always the key to understanding scripture. I hope you begin praying over this material and your group the moment you decide to do the study. Ask the Lord to bring to the group the individuals He desires to participate in it. Invite the Holy Spirit to open the hearts of your small group members toward the book of Hebrews and this study. Wisdom and knowledge come from God, so ask Him for it in large measure. Ask Him to give you the words you need to lead your group. Humble your heart before Him, and ask Him to do a work in you through this study. Prepare to be blessed as you commit this study and your group to prayer.

In this leader guide are questions you may use in your small group meetings to stimulate thought and discussion. I hope they will be helpful to you; however, you are not obligated to use them. If the Holy Spirit gives you other ways to facilitate your group, by all means, follow His leading.

I am praying the Lord will bless you and your students as you study *HeBrews: A Better Blend*. It would be my privilege and honor to pray specifically for your group. Please take the time to visit my website, (www.leahadams.org) and go to my CONTACT page where you will find my email address. I would be so blessed if you would send me an email telling me when you will be doing the study, how many students you have, and where you are located. It would be a double blessing to have a picture of your group that I could place on the HeBrews page on my website.

Now, dear leader, may God encourage you and bless you as you lead others to study His Word. I pray you feel the smiling nod of God over your efforts.

Leah

HeBrews: A Better Blend

Introductory Session

- Please be sure you have completed your homework before each class, so you can set a good example for your group. You cannot lead effectively if you have not prepared appropriately by doing your homework.
- Before your group members arrive, please pray over each member.
- At least for this first session, you will want to have nametags available for the group members if there are people participating who do not know each other.
- If possible, arrange the seating for the group in a circle or semi-circle. This encourages discussion, and helps group members get to know one another.
- Make sure to have an adequate number of member handbooks available so each group member has his or her own book. Also, have extra pens or pencils available in case someone forgets to bring writing utensils.
- You will notice there is a recipe for a delectable dessert or coffee cake at the beginning of each week of study. You might want to prepare the suggested recipe to share with your group, or you could ask one of the group members who likes to bake to prepare the recipe.
- If possible, have coffee and water available for the group.
- As members arrive, greet them and introduce yourself. Provide a book for each person. (You may need to have them sign up earlier for the Bible study, so you'll have plenty of books on hand. Also, will they each pay for their own, or will it be provided? Those are decisions that need to be made before you start.)
- Please make every attempt to begin each session on time.
- Once everyone is seated, spend a few minutes allowing each group member to introduce him or herself.
- Ask if there are any prayer needs in the group. Make certain you note each need, and commit to pray for them during the week.
- Spend time praying as a group, especially praying for the needs that were mentioned.

QUESTIONS and IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION

The following questions and thoughts can be used to lead your group into the study. They will give you a feel for how much the group knows about the book of Hebrews, as well as encourage the group to interact. Feel free to use as many of the ideas and questions as you like.

1. In your own personal study of scripture, are you more drawn to the Old Testament or the New Testament?
2. Is the book of Hebrews located in the Old Testament or the New Testament?
3. When you think of the book of Hebrews, what are some thoughts, verses, or concepts that come to mind? *(Take as much time as you need on this question, but please keep your group focused on the question.)*
4. The title of this Bible study is *HeBrews: A Better Blend*. Discuss why the concept of something that is better would be used in the title? (HINT: It has to do with Jesus.)

Finally, although your group will read the entirety of Hebrews 1 in their first day of homework, it is of such importance that I ask you to read it to your group, or have various group members read it aloud. Then ask the group:

- Who is the chapter about?
- What ideas or concepts stand out to you?

As you close, remind the class that the book of Hebrews is all about Jesus and the work He did on the cross, as well as the work He continues to do in heaven right now. Encourage them to keep that most important of ideas at the forefront of their thoughts as they do this Bible study.

Tell your class there are five days of homework that need to be completed before you meet again next week. Encourage them to be faithful to complete the homework, because that is where they will experience growth in their faith and knowledge of scripture. Challenge the class to pray and ask the Lord to show them something new from Scripture as they do their homework. Also, remind them to faithfully pray this week for the needs that were shared.

Close in prayer.

Week 1

You have completed one week of the study, and I hope you are eagerly anticipating leading your group in discussion of the material. The discussion time is such a key part of this Bible study. This is the time where you will encourage your class to share how the week of study impacted them.

There may be members who did not complete the homework. That's okay. They can still benefit from the discussion. Be sure and love a little bit extra on those class

members who did not complete the homework. No judging, please. Life is busy and tough for many people. Celebrate what they did, and encourage them to stay on track. They need to know that they are an important part of your class.

Check off each item on the list below as you complete it.

- Please be sure you have completed your homework before each class, so you can set an example for your group. You cannot lead effectively if you have not prepared your own homework.
- Before your group members arrive, I hope you will spend some time praying over each member.
- Please make every attempt to begin each session on time.
- Ask if there are any prayer needs in the group. Make certain you note each need, and commit to pray for them during the week.
- Spend time praying as a group as you begin the meeting, making sure to pray for the needs that were mentioned.

DISCUSSION IDEAS

- On Day 1 you were asked to read Hebrews 1:1-4 and note words or phrases that stand out. Ask your group to share their answers.
- Hebrews 1 reminds the reader that Jesus is better than the angels. If someone were to remark that Jesus was an angel or was equal to angels, how would your group use the information in this chapter to prove or disprove the person's remark?
- On Day 2 students were asked to list every name or reference to Jesus in Hebrews 2. Ask the group to share what they found.
- You may not know the salvation status of each of your group members. Ask your group to share about the time when Jesus became their Lord and Savior. If there are group members who are not saved, take the time to review the verses provided that would assist in bringing a person to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- The focus in Day 3 of the study is on hardened hearts. Hebrews 3:8 and 15 warn the readers not to allow their hearts to be hardened. Ask your group what might cause their hearts to be hardened.
- The group was taken into the Old Testament book of Leviticus to examine a few of the many rules and laws the Israelites had to abide by. Ask your group to share what they found. Is it possible to keep every law found in the book of Leviticus?
- If works, or keeping the law cannot make a person righteous before God, ask your group what hope there is for getting to heaven.
- The focus of Day 5 of the study is Hebrews 4:12. Review this verse with your group. Make sure they understand that the Scriptures are being referenced in this verse. Then take the students to John 1:1. Ask them what this usage of "Word" means and to whom it refers.

- Review the verses from Psalm 119 at the end of Day 5. Ask group members to share any ways they have experienced these benefits of spending time in the study of Scriptures.

Great work, dear leader. Be sure to encourage your group to dig into the homework for Week 2. In Week 2, we begin to slow down and examine the book of Hebrews in greater detail. I know your heart was blessed as you led your group to discuss this week of the study. I'll say it as long as God gives me breath....time spent in the study of God's Word is *never* wasted time. Press on!!

WEEK 2

Ten days in God's Word. Two weeks of study. Congratulations! I hope you have learned some new things and been encouraged in your faith. I also hope you are encouraging your class in their study. Food is a huge encouragement, so make use of those recipes I've given you. This week we began to learn about Jesus, our High Priest. I hope your group completed their homework and are ready for a lively discussion.

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- Please be sure you have completed your homework before each class, so you can set an example for your group. You cannot lead effectively if you have not prepared your homework.
- Before your group members arrive, please spend some time praying for each member.
- Please make every attempt to begin each session on time.
- Ask if there are any prayer needs in the group. Make certain each need is noted, and commit to pray for them during the week.
- Take time to pray as a group at the start of the meeting, especially praying for the needs that were mentioned.

DISCUSSION IDEAS

- Ask your group to share what they learned about the Old Testament priesthood from Day One.
- Ask if the priesthood was a permanent or temporary job for each man serving in the role.
- From Day Two, discuss everything you learned about Melchizedek from both the Old and New Testament references. Ask the group for opinions or conclusions they made about this character in regard to who he might have been.
- Discuss the group member's answers to the Meditation Moment for Day Two.

- In Day Three you learned about the Old Testament Holy of Holies. Have the group relate who could enter the Holy of Holies, how often, and for what purpose.
- Ask your class to turn to the beginning of Day Four and summarize from this passage what made Jesus the BETTER priest. Today's study is crucial. Please make sure you fully discuss all the qualifications of Jesus as the BETTER priest today.
- In Day Five the students were reminded that Jesus is an eternal priest, able to save us completely. How does this make Him different from the human Old Testament priests?
- Lead your group in a time of prayer and meditation, encouraging them to ask the Holy Spirit to show any area of their lives where they might still be relying on works to make them righteous before God, rather than trusting in the work that Jesus, our BETTER High Priest, did on the cross.

Week 3

What a good work you are doing, dear leader! I know your students are benefitting from your leadership and love. This is not an easy-peasy study, but rather one that requires much of the learner. Please encourage your group to stay the course, even when they do not understand the material or feel they cannot come up with the correct answer. God promised that His Word would never return empty, so claim that promise for your group as you press on in the study of Hebrews.

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DISCUSSION IDEAS

- From Day One discuss with your group the definition of *beriyt*, the Hebrew word for covenant. Make sure they understand the broad scope of who can enter into a covenant and the three key components of a covenant: signs, sacrifices, and a solemn oath. All three will be important in discussing this week's study.
- Remind the group that there are promises of blessing for those who are obedient to the covenant, as well as curses for those who are disobedient.

Review the verses from Deuteronomy on Day One and discuss the conditions that brought about either blessings or curses.

- Read the Ten Commandments from Exodus 20 aloud with your group. Talk about how often each is kept and broken in our world today.
- On Day Two you reviewed a small fraction of the hundreds of laws the Jewish people were required to keep. Talk with your group about the impossibility of keeping all the law. God's purpose in the Old Testament law was to point out the fact that no one could keep all the law. They needed a new way to be right before Him. Ask someone to read Romans 5:20-21.
- It is only because of the law that the Israelites knew what was right and wrong. The same was true for Paul (Romans 7: 7). The same is true for your group. Romans 7:7—8:4 is a marvelous passage detailing the human struggle with sin and the victory that is found in Jesus. Have someone read this passage, and then lead your group to pick out the key concepts in it.
- On Day Three of the study your group spent time examining Jeremiah 31:31-34. This is a key passage in making the transition from Old Covenant to New Covenant. Please ask someone in your group to read this passage aloud. Ask the group to identify to whom this prophecy is directed, and what would be different about this "new covenant."
- On Day Three, the students were asked to review the Abrahamic Covenant detailed in Genesis 15. Please review that portion with the group, and cover the questions they were asked to complete concerning this key covenant.
- Focus your group on Hebrews 8:7-13 from Day Four homework. Ask your group if they recall where verses 8-12 were originally recorded. Also, lead the group to discuss the issue of the Old Covenant becoming obsolete in the presence of the New Covenant. Refer to Hebrews 9:11-14 to help complete this discussion.
- The Jewish nation remains God's chosen people. The church of Jesus Christ, i.e., Christians who have accepted Jesus as their Savior, have been grafted into Christ's lineage. Be sure to cover all of the material in the Day Five lesson from Romans 11. This material is important in helping people understand the relationship of Christians to the Jewish people and vice versa.

Editors' Note: Paul says in **Romans 2:28-29**, *A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God.*

- Please take time at the end of your session to pray for the Jewish people to come to know Christ. Pray, also, for the peace of Jerusalem, as is commanded in Psalm 122:6.

WEEK 4

Can you believe it? Your group is halfway through *HeBrews: A Better Blend*. I have prayed that your class would see how the Old Testament points forward to a BETTER everything in the New Testament. A BETTER priesthood, a BETTER covenant, and in week 4, a BETTER tabernacle.

Continue to encourage your members to complete their homework and be present in class. I hope they are finding that time spent in the Word is valuable time that feeds their faith. Cut yourself a slice of pie, pour a cup of coffee, and dig into Week 4 with your Bible study friends.

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- ☐ Ask for prayer needs from the group. Make certain you note each need, and commit to pray for them during the week.
- ☐ Spend time praying as a group as you begin the meeting, making sure to pray for the needs that were mentioned.

DISCUSSION IDEAS

- As your group begins to look at the Old Testament tabernacle, ask someone to read Exodus 25:8-9. Who was the architect of the Old Testament tabernacle? Who was the earthly builder? What purpose did the Old Testament tabernacle serve among the Israelites?
- In Day One the students were asked to read about the tabernacle and write out descriptions of it. Spend some time reviewing the specifics of the structure.
- Day Two took you into the Holy Place in the tabernacle. Encourage your class to share what they learned as they marveled over each of the three pieces of furniture there.
- According to your study on Day Two, there was great significance in the materials used to build the furniture in the Holy Place, as well as the food that was placed in this room. Don't pass over this. It is a section of this week of study worth discussing.
- Lead your class in sharing their answers to the Meditation Moment on Day 2.
- Day Three brings you into the Holy of Holies, the place where God's Presence dwelt among the Israelites. Refer back to the Exodus 25 and Hebrews 9 passages to remind the group of the specifics of this Holy room. Don't leave out any details as you discuss this most important part of the Old Testament tabernacle.

- The Ark of the Covenant was where the very Presence of God hovered. Given what you learned about David's handling of the Ark in 2 Samuel 6, how serious was God about the holiness of this piece of furniture?
- In Day Four your students examined three important pieces of information concerning the heavenly tabernacle. Please take your group through a review of those key concepts.
- Discuss what makes the heavenly tabernacle BETTER than the earthly tabernacle built by Moses in the wilderness
- Only the High Priest was allowed to serve in the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies. Take your group to Hebrews 10:19-23 and read the passage aloud. What exciting development is found detailed here that is a game changer for Christians? The group should respond that because of Christ's death on the cross, every Christian can boldly go into heaven, the true Holy of Holies, where God dwells.
- What happened at the time of Jesus' death on the cross to signify that the way into the presence of God was no longer restricted to a single high priest? See Luke 23:44-46.
- Ask your class if they feel free to approach God boldly with their prayers and petitions. Do they celebrate that fact? If someone does not, please be sure and make time to help her understand the access she has to God through Jesus Christ.

You are doing a great job, my friend. I hope your class is learning things they did not know before beginning this study. Keep your eyes focused on Jesus as you move on in your journey. I'll meet you back here next week.

WEEK 5

This week of study, looking at the BETTER sacrifice of Jesus, should produce some interesting discussion. Comparing the Old Testament sacrifices with that of Christ in the New Testament offers the learner a startling contrast of the many imperfect sacrifices versus the one perfect sacrifice. I am praying fervently that this week of study will help solidify in the hearts and minds of many the BETTER-NESS of Jesus Christ as payment for our sin. One sacrifice for all. It truly is the BETTER way.

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- ☐ Ask for prayer needs from the group. Make certain you note each need, and commit to pray for them during the week.
- ☐ Spend time praying as a group as you begin the meeting, making sure to pray for the needs that were mentioned.

DISCUSSION IDEAS

- Begin your discussion today by asking the group to talk about sacrifices they have made. It can be sacrifices of any type, but it is important to identify something they gave up in order to do or have something else. Be prepared to offer your own example first in order to kick off the discussion.
- Have your group members read Hebrews 9:10—10:18 out loud. Ask them to identify key concepts and words in the passage. Blood, covenant, and sacrifices are the major concepts that your group should identify. Ask them to explain the significance of these concepts to the study of Hebrews thus far.
- On Day Two, the class was asked to match the Old Testament sacrifices with the Scriptures where they were found. Please be sure everyone was able to do this.
- Ask the class how they feel about the sheer magnitude of the number of lambs that were required each year to cover the sins of the people. Imagine together the scene at the tabernacle, day-after-day. The odor of blood and animal excrement, the cacophony of bleating sheep and goats, the crush of people around the tabernacle complex, the blood that ran out of the tabernacle grounds and down into the valleys of Jerusalem, the blood stained robes of the priests who supervised the sacrifices, the anguish of the sinner who had to slit the lamb's throat to absolve his sin. The scene was unimaginable, yet it was commonplace in that day.
- On Day Three, your class was to complete the exercise from Leviticus 16. Make certain they were able to do so. This is the backdrop for that day's study. Once you are sure everyone completed that exercise, turn to Hebrews 9 and ask the group to read the entire chapter. There were several verses highlighted in that day of study. Please ask your group to share what took place in each of the verses referenced.
- After having studied the sheer magnitude of the Old Testament sacrifice, Hebrews 10:11-14 should take everyone's breath away. The simplicity of the New Covenant sacrifice is stunning. There is nothing more that can be done to secure forgiveness and salvation. Ask your class if they truly understand that fact, and live in the truth of it each day.
- Day Four examines the issue of living in the will of God. Ask your class what is the greatest hindrance they find to living in the will of God.
- Compare Hebrews 10:5-8 and John 15:9-10. Ask the class to identify the things we should and should not do in order to live in the sweet spot of God's will.
- Lead your group to scrutinize Isaiah 30:15 in an effort to understand what God says is important to living in His will.
- Day Five provided an opportunity to look at Hebrews from a panoramic viewpoint. Read Hebrews 10:19-23, then lead your group to identify each portion of our study detailed in that passage, i.e. the Better Priest, the Better Covenant, etc.

- The majority of Day Five encourages students to see themselves going boldly, or confidently, before God's throne, because of the work of Jesus on the cross. Ask your class to share which of the verses from Hebrews 10:19-23 speak most intimately to them and why.

Dear Leader, I am so proud of you. You are running this race well, and I am confident your students know more about Hebrews than they did five weeks ago. You are to be commended for your patient endurance. Thank you for loving your class enough to stay the course.

WEEK 6

Friend, you are the bomb! You have guided your class through six weeks of the study of Hebrews, and I trust each of you has encountered Jesus in new ways. Hebrews is an intensely theological book, yet it incorporates the basics of our Christian faith. I rejoice over your willingness to lead. Have an extra piece of cake, and stay strong to the end. It will be more than worth it.

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- Before your group members arrive, I hope you will spend some time praying for each member.
- Please make every attempt to begin each session on time.
- Ask if there are any prayer needs in the group. Make certain you note each need, and commit to pray for them during the week.
- As you begin the meeting, pray as a group for the needs that were mentioned.

DISCUSSION IDEAS

- Being encouraged in our faith is so important. In Day One of the study, the students read the words of the writer of Hebrews; words that were penned to encourage faithfulness in the audience. Ask your group to share about a time when the words or actions of another person provided needed encouragement for them to persevere in their faith. Be prepared to offer your own story as a starting point.
- Ask your class what Hebrews 10:36 says is the ultimate reward for remaining faithful, and what they think the author means when he says the faithful will receive "what he has promised."
- In Revelation 21:22—22:5, John lists many rewards that await the faithful. Ask your class to name them.

- Please remind your group that there may be times when being faithful is not easy, so the time to commit to being faithful is now. Very rarely do we rise to the occasion, in life or in faith. Instead, we act on what we already know to be true. Encourage your group to decide now to be faithful to Jesus.
- Please read Hebrews 11 aloud in your group.
- Ask your group to share a brief synopsis of the life and story of Abel; then share the specifics of what Hebrews 11 says about him. Discuss the difference faith made in Abel's life and legacy.
- Ask your group to share another brief synopsis of the life and story of Sarah; then share the specifics of what Hebrews 11 says about her. Discuss the difference faith made in Sarah's life and legacy.
- As your group feels comfortable, ask them to share the specifics from their work on Days Four and Five. This is where class members can offer great encouragement to others by sharing their faith journey successes and failures. It should be a time to celebrate what God has done, and is doing, in their lives. Please be prepared to share your answers first to encourage discussion.

WEEK SEVEN

Week Seven! Wow! You are almost at the finish line. I bet you have some precious memories of leading your group through this study. Because of the nature of this study, it is bound to have brought forth some interesting and insightful comments and questions from your class. I hope that in this journey, you have found the Holy Spirit to be the ultimate teacher of your class. Check off each item on the list below as you complete it.

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DISCUSSION IDEAS

- Ask a member of your group to read Hebrews 12:1-2 from her Bible. Talk with your group about the hindrances to a well-run faith race. As you learned in Day One of your study, sin is a major hindrance. Have your group look at the section of Day One where they were asked to list hindrances to their faith walk. Lead your group in a time of prayer and repentance. Please don't skip

this exercise. It could be the difference between someone in your group remaining captive to their sin, or walking in victory over sin.

- Distraction is something that affects everyone. Whether in our personal lives, our spiritual lives, or our occupational lives, most people battle distraction. It is one of Satan's most effective tools to sideline our faith. Encourage your class to identify ways they can be, or have been, distracted by Satan in their faith walk. Then, lead your class to pinpoint ways they can combat Satan's distraction efforts.
- Two important questions were asked in Day Two of your homework: 1) What is the purpose of God's discipline? 2) How are we to react to God's discipline? Review the verses from Hebrews 12 that offer the answers to the first question.
- How we respond to God's discipline can make all the difference in our lives. Some people respond with rebellion, while others respond with repentance and change. Ask your group which of these responses is more typical for them, and why.
- Days Three and Four contain theologically intense and confusing material. Please take time to walk through this material with your group. Remind them that scholars do not agree on much of this material, so they should not feel frustrated if they cannot come to a conclusion about the Hebrews 6 material.
- On Day Five, your homework focused on peace and reconciliation. Please read the focal verses from Hebrews, and ask your class to talk about how peace and reconciliation are related. Who is the author of peace? Are each of you involved in sharing Jesus with those around you in order to bring the peace of Christ to hearts desperately in need? What would need to happen in order for your group to be more involved in sharing Christ?
- Close in prayer, asking the Lord to help each of you to be peacemakers in your generation.

WEEK 8

YOU DID IT! Well done, my friend. You have led your group through eight weeks of a study of the book of Hebrews. *That* is nothing to sneeze at. It took perseverance, dedication, and a willing heart. God esteems your work, and so do I. I am profoundly grateful for you and your efforts. I would love to hear from you and your group. Email me at pointministries@gmail.com, and let me know your thoughts about the study. Stories...I want stories of what God did in your hearts as you studied His precious, living, life-giving Word. Can I get a testimony?

As we close the final chapter of *HeBrews: A Better Blend*, it is my prayer that you leave with a renewed faith and love for Jesus Christ. He is the BETTER priest, offering a BETTER sacrifice, under a BETTER covenant, in a BETTER tabernacle. Praise Him today, dear one, for He alone is worthy of that praise.

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DISCUSSION IDEAS

- It is important for your class to understand that their works are evidence of their salvation, not the bolt on which their salvation hinges. Please review the portion of Day One where passages from Ephesians, Romans and Galatians are referenced so that your class will have clarity on this issue of faith versus works.
- Hebrews 13:1-3 and 16-17 address the way Christians treat others. Review what these verses have to teach us. Compassion for others should be an outgrowth of our faith in Jesus Christ. Lead your group to think of people who would be blessed by a show of love from Christians. Perhaps your group could commit to reaching out to one or more of the people who are named.
- The material in Day Two may be difficult for some of your group if they have experienced a divorce. Please be sure you deal with the material with love, reminding the group that divorce is not an unforgivable sin.
- Discuss the importance of the marriage covenant. Ask the class how they think marriage came to be so lightly regarded in our modern day culture. Ask them what it would take to return to the place where marriage was considered sacred. Ask if they think that will happen.
- Please lead the group in considering the Meditation Moment for Day Two. Perhaps an extended time of prayer is called for at the end of today's meeting?
- Review the Scriptures from Day Three dealing with coveting. Next, remind the class of the meaning of the Hebrew and Greek words used for "covet."
- Ask the class what coveting looks like in today's society, and what they can do to prevent themselves from falling into this sinful trap.
- Fear is a colossal issue for most people today. Day Four's material is designed to help your class fix their eyes on Jesus, so they can overcome fear. Remind the group that the Hebrew Christians were experiencing persecution for their faith in Christ. Please have someone read Hebrews 13:6-9 and then Romans 8:28-39. Lead your class to discuss how they can know peace, and the absence of fear, if they truly grasp these passages.
- The final exercise on Day Four was a trip through Psalm 112. Read this passage to your class and ask them to share what benefits they discovered to clinging tightly to God.

- As we focus on praise on Day Five, ask your group to share some songs or hymns that help them get their praise on. If someone in your group is a musician perhaps she or he can sing or play some of the songs, leading the group in a praise session as you close your meeting.
- In the Meditation Moment on Day Five, I offered a prayer of praise in response to the material contained in the study. Ask your group to share what idea or concept from the study stimulated a prayer of praise for them. Perhaps some will be willing to share the prayer they wrote. This could definitely be a high and holy time for your group.
- Near the end of the material for Day Five, your group was asked to choose two passages from the Psalms, and voice a prayer of praise in response to each. Ask your class to share which verses they chose, and why. Please be prepared to offer your choices first.
- Conclude your class time by praying Hebrews 13:20 over your group.

Do you hear it? Do you hear His voice speaking over you? He says, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Thank you, dear friend, for leading this study. I pray that God will bless you abundantly for your efforts. I would love to hear from you about how the Lord worked in the lives of your class as a result of the study. It would be such a blessing to me.

Go in faith, go in peace and may God bless you.

Leah