

A Guide Through Hebrews

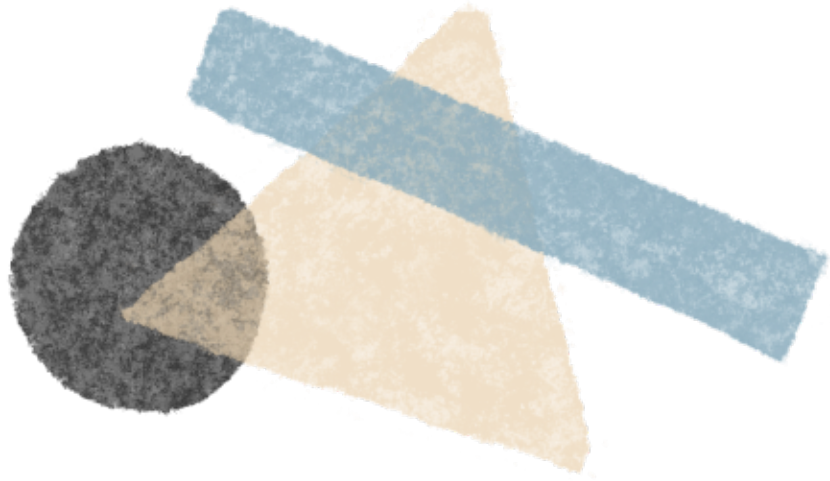
PART 3: CHAPTERS 9 - 13



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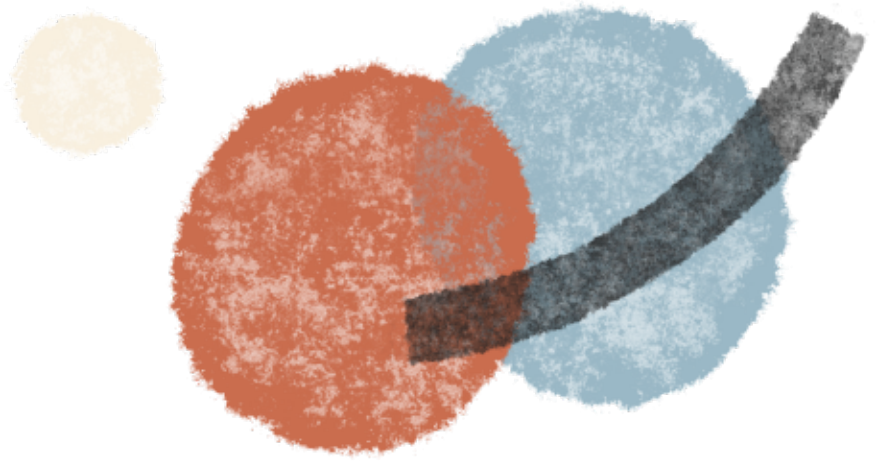


RECAP - PART 2

In the previous section of Hebrews, the author walks us through the significance of the priesthood, comparing King Melchizedek to Jesus. The priest acts as a mediator between man and God, allowing God's people to commune with Him. We see the way Jesus surpasses the requirements of a priest and secures the new covenant so that we may have a relationship with Him. He became the ultimate sacrifice and mediator between us and God when He died on the cross. Additionally, we are reminded to endure, to preserve, and to pursue spiritual maturity. We do this by walking in obedience as we rely on the Holy Spirit.

INTRODUCTION - PART 3

In Hebrews 9-13, we continue to see the differences between the old covenant and new covenant under the priesthood of Jesus. The author illustrates how Jesus conclusively satisfies Yom Kippur, or the Day of Atonement, the holy day we learn about in the Old Testament. In an effort to remind the reader to remain faithful, the author emphasizes stories of incredible faith from the Old Testament, such as Noah building the ark and David defeating the giant Goliath. Also, we see how God disciplines His children out of His amazing love. We are reminded to take this discipline seriously and to press into God's guidance. The book of Hebrews concludes with a final word of exhortation and a remembrance of the Lord as our helper.



Chapter 9

READING

The beauty of the new covenant is so magnificent, that the writer continues to expound on what it means to be a family brought together by this new covenant. As the writer appeals to the Jews further, he reminds them of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. On this day, the high priest would enter the holy of holies of the temple and offer sacrifices to atone for the sins of Israel. The blood of animals atoned for their sins temporarily, as this was a ritual that was performed every year. The blood of Jesus, however, provided permanent and complete atonement. We now have eternal redemption in Him. Jesus is the new and better Day of Atonement. We are cleansed from our sin forever. As a result, we are free to worship God and partner with Him on mission in our world (9:14). We are a family that has been made clean and holy. We are a family that worships God together. We are a family that has been brought from death to life, free to serve the living God.

Chapter 9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

UPWARD

At the beginning of **Hebrews 9**, the author describes the old covenant under the law and the new covenant under Jesus. What differences do you see between the two covenants? Why are these differences important?

If the old covenant could not provide eternal cleansing, why did God establish it?

INWARD

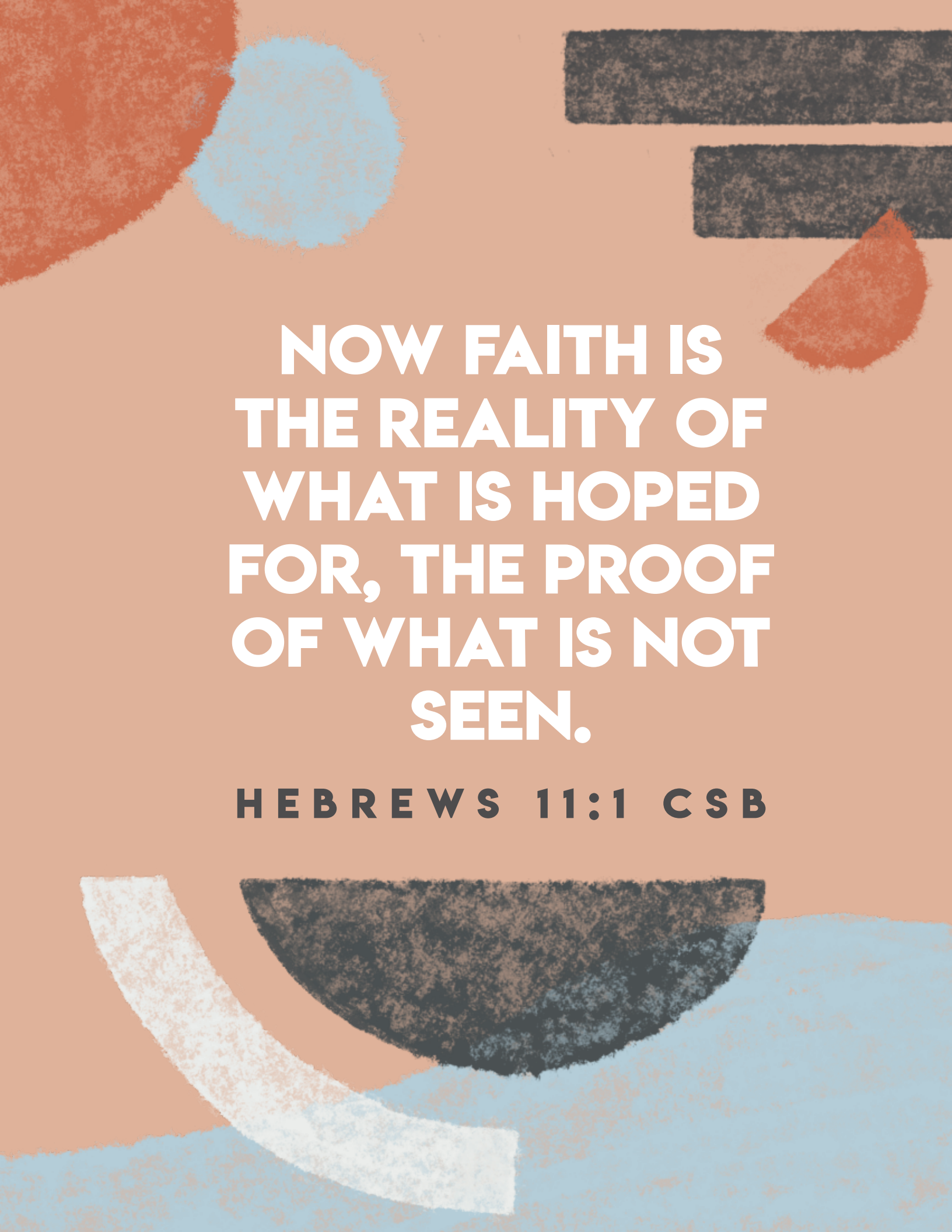
The main purpose of the Day of Atonement, was not to punish people's sins so that they could enter God's presence, but to cleanse every trace of sin and death from the people and the sanctuary so that God could dwell among them. How does this important distinction change the way you approach God?

How can you dwell with Him this week and be reminded of the way He has lovingly cleansed you?

OUTWARD

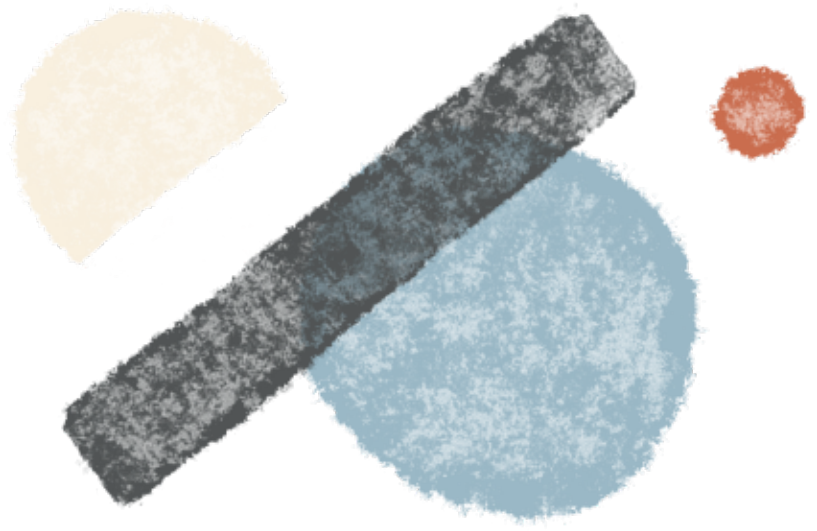
Read **Hebrews 9:13-14**. How can we, as a family, serve the living God together? What examples have you seen or experienced?

How do you want to commit to serving as a family in the future?

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**NOW FAITH IS
THE REALITY OF
WHAT IS HOPED
FOR, THE PROOF
OF WHAT IS NOT
SEEN.**

HEBREWS 11:1 CSB



Chapter 10

READING

The author continues to back up his claims that Jesus has brought a new covenant by recalling Old Testament passages. He starts off by quoting from Psalm 40 to show God's desire for the human heart and not never-ending sacrifices. Once he has successfully made his point, he calls us to faithfulness and endurance. Again, the readers of this letter are living through persecution, and he is about to show them the hope that they can hold on to. In verse 23 it says, "Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful." We can hold onto hope because He is faithful. It's not on our shoulders. He has carried us and continues to carry us. The readers are then exhorted to watch out for one another and continue meeting together. There is something special that happens when believers come together. When we feel alone, as often happens when we walk through difficult circumstances, we can be encouraged when gathered with other believers. We can remind each other of the truth, that God is with us. We can remind each other of the hope we have, that Jesus has cleansed us and saved us. We can remind each other of the power we have access to in the Holy Spirit. When walking through a valley, instead of isolating, reach out to your family in Christ. When you see a brother or sister struggling, do not leave them to limp through life on their own, reach out and walk with them.

Chapter 10

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

UPWARD

Read **Psalms 40:6-8**. Why does the writer, David, say that the Lord does not delight in sacrifice or offering?

Read **Jeremiah 31:33-34**. Since we have received forgiveness, is there still a need for sacrifice? How will we know God's law?

INWARD

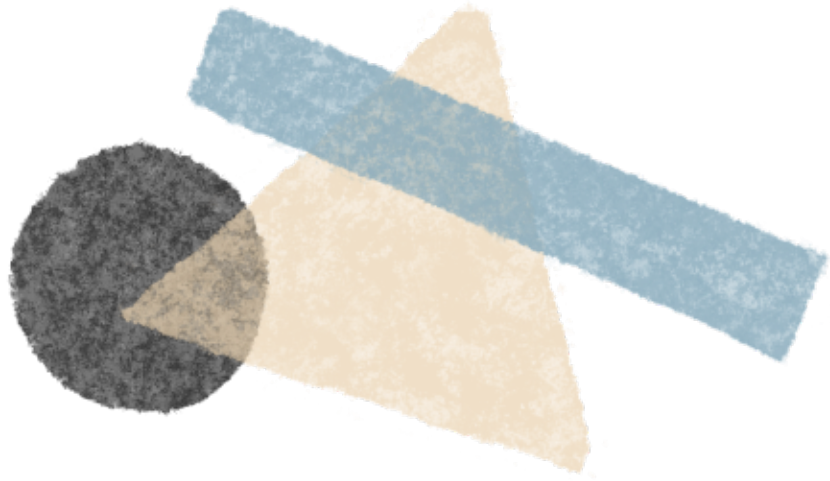
In **Hebrews 10:23**, the author writes, "let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful." How have you seen God's faithfulness in your life?

How does that remembrance spur you on during hard times?

OUTWARD

Read **Hebrews 10:24-25**. Share about a time someone has encouraged you when walking through a difficult time. What did they do? How did they encourage you?

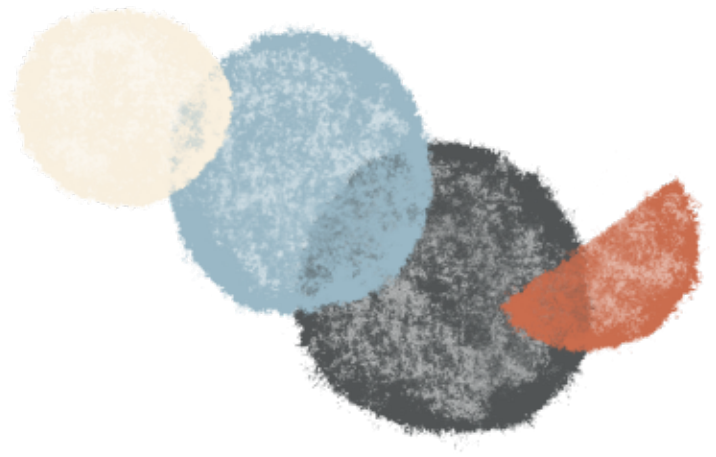
Ask God to open your eyes to see how you can encourage the people around you. Call a friend, text a neighbor, make a meal for a struggling family. The Lord will give you an opportunity. All you have to do is say yes.



Chapter 11

READING:

Hebrews 11 is often referred to as the Hall of Faith. Sometimes the greatest encouragement we can receive in our Christian walk is knowing that we come from a long line of believers who have faced challenging circumstances and responded with faith. It's in our family DNA! This chapter highlights some of the biblical heroes we know and how they were marked by faith. First, we must understand what faith is. "Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen." (11:1) We have confidence in God because we know that He is trustworthy. Dr. Tony Evans says, "If you want to increase your faith, grow in your understanding of God." As you read through this chapter, ask God to help you increase your understanding of Him so that your faith can increase.



Chapter 11

Check out the table below. Woven through each of these scripture references, we see God’s plan of redemption and faithfulness from the beginning of time. At TC, we often say that the Christian walk is less about knowing more and more about remembering what God has already done in and through us. As we read these verses, we are invited to remember the grander narrative into which God invites us, remembering what He has done and continues to do.

Abel	Genesis 4:2-4
Enoch	Genesis 5:22-24
Noah	Genesis 6:12-22
Abraham	Genesis 12:1-8 and Genesis 22:2-14
Sarah	Genesis 21:1-2
Isaac	Genesis 27:26-29, 38-40
Jacob	Genesis 48:15-20
Joseph	Genesis 50:24-25
Moses	Exodus 2:1-15; Exodus 3:7-17; 5:1; 12:14
Israelites	Joshua 6:16-21
Rahab	Joshua 2:8-16
Gideon	Judges 6-7
Barak	Judges 4
Sampson	Judges 14-16
Jephthah	Judges 11
David	1 Samuel 16-17; 2 Samuel 2, 5, 7-11, 23; 1 Kings 2
Samuel	1-2 Samuel
The Prophets	Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Johas, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi

Chapter 11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

UPWARD

Read **Hebrews 11:2**. How did “our ancestors” win God’s approval?

From where does this faith come?

INWARD

In Hebrews 11, we walk through the stories of Old Testament people who showed radical faith. Why is it important to remember these stories and what God has done corporately and in our personal lives?

Share a personal story that demonstrates God’s faithfulness and trustworthiness in your life.

OUTWARD

What does the reality of the new covenant mean for those around us? Your co-worker? Your mom? Your neighbor? How can this truth change their lives? We encourage you to take the next opportunity you have to share it with them.



Chapter 12

READING

After listing some of the heroes and heroines of the faith, the author of Hebrews encourages the reader to run the race with endurance, keeping their eyes on Jesus. We are not alone as we run. Envision an Olympic stadium filled with our ancestors, cheering us on as we run this race of the Christian life. We know that Jesus is the prize! The joy that we will experience at the end of the race as we collapse into His arms will be unmatched to anything we experience in this life! What a powerful word-picture!

As the author moves into teaching on discipline, we realize that any correction we receive from the Father is rooted in love. Discipline is rarely an enjoyable experience, and yet, we should not avoid it because doing so could lead to our ruin. Discipline reminds us to keep our eyes on Jesus as we run the race. It gives us strength and produces righteousness. Discipline will also help us to pursue peace with others. Grace is always a main theme in God's economy.

Towards the end of the chapter, the author contrasts Mount Sinai and Mount Zion. You may recall that Mount Sinai is where Moses received the law from God. He went up to meet with God and came back with the tablets of the Ten Commandments. The Israelites who witnessed this were filled with terror. The Ten Commandments don't bring much comfort, because as it has been established earlier in Hebrews, the law did not bring true change or salvation. The old law only served to point out our sin and weakness and it had to be replaced with the new covenant. Instead of continuing to climb Mount Sinai, filled with terror and dread, we come to beautiful Mount Zion, the new covenant in Christ Jesus. We are citizens of the new city that cannot be shaken. As the author says at the conclusion of this chapter, "let us be thankful. By it, we may serve God with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire."

Chapter 12

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

UPWARD

Read **Proverbs 3:11-12**. What is the purpose of God's discipline?

Why does He discipline the ones He loves?

What does this say about God's character?

INWARD

Read **Hebrews 12:7-11**. Discipline is usually painful to experience, but God disciplines us out of His love for us. Can you recall a time God disciplined you? How did it feel at the time?

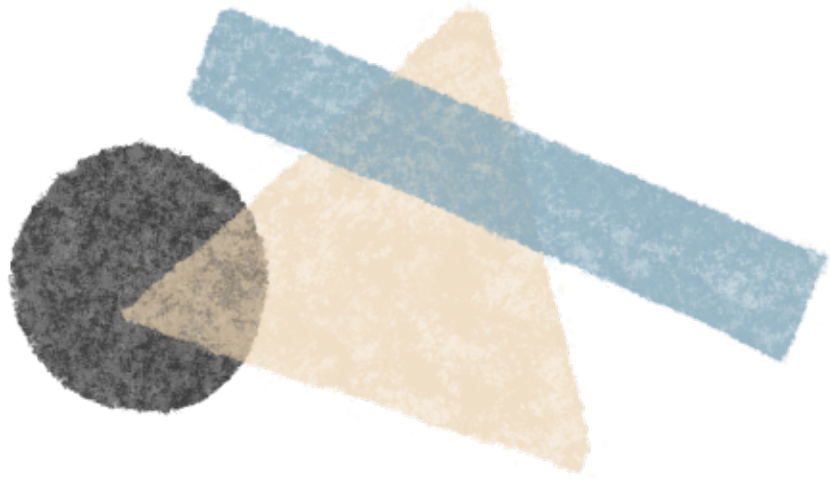
What is the fruit you have seen as a result?

Have you been trying to climb Mount Sinai instead of Mount Zion? If so, how can you leave Mount Sinai behind and come to Mount Zion?

OUTWARD

Read **Hebrews 12:14-15**. Is there someone in your life with whom you need to pursue peace? What step can you take this week in this pursuit?

Ask the Holy Spirit to remove any root of bitterness that could be a hindrance.



Chapter 13

READING:

We have reached the final exhortations in the letter of Hebrews. In this final chapter, the author wants to leave the reader feeling empowered to keep pursuing spiritual maturity by: remembering to show hospitality, remembering those who are imprisoned, remembering the mistreated and marginalized in our society, remembering to honor marriage, and remembering to love God above money. How do we do this? "The Lord is my helper..." Again, we are not alone. The very Spirit of God empowers us. As we tap into the Holy Spirit's power, we will become more like Jesus and will grow in our spiritual maturity. Pay close attention to verses 1-7. This is what love looks like.

We are also reminded and comforted by the fact that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Throughout the letter, we see an overall theme as the author talks about Israel's past, the church's present, and the future hope we have in the new Jerusalem. Jesus has remained and will remain faithful through it all; past, present, and future. Keep your eyes on Him. "Grace be with you all." (13:25)

Chapter 13

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

UPWARD

Read **Hebrews 13:7-8**. We are called to imitate the faith of our leaders while remembering that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is our ultimate example.

Why is it comforting that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever? What does this say about Jesus?

INWARD

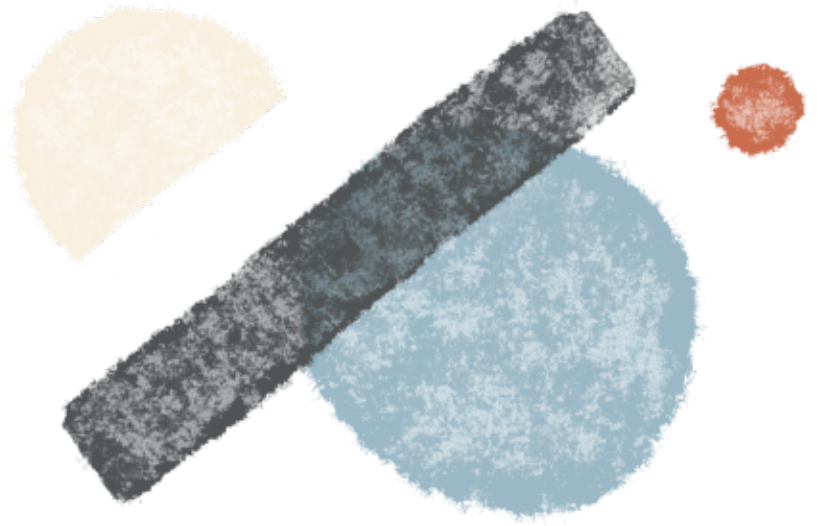
Before imitation there must be implantation. We cannot imitate Christ until He has been implanted into our lives. Take some time to read **Psalms 118:6** and pray this verse over your life.

OUTWARD

Read **Hebrews 13:1-2**. The author reminds the reader to remain aware, to continue to endure, and to “let brotherly love continue, not neglecting to show hospitality.” What does hospitality look like based on this verse?

To whom can you show hospitality?

How does community change the Christian life?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

As you study the book of Hebrews and work through the Discussion Questions, you may be interested in additional resources. Here are a few we recommend:

- *The New Testament in Its World* by N.T. Wright and Michael Bird
- The Tony Evans Study Bible or Commentary
- The Bible Project Hebrews Overview Video (<https://bibleproject.com/explore/hebrews/>)
- The Faithlife Study Bible App
- *Hebrews for Everyone* by N.T. Wright