

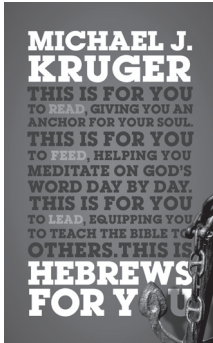
Michael J. Kruger

Hebrews

An Anchor for the Soul



 **8-Session Bible Study**



Hebrews For You

These studies are adapted from *Hebrews For You*. If you are reading *Hebrews For You* alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *Hebrews For You*:

Study One > Ch 1	Study Five > Ch 6
Study Two > Ch 2-3	Study Six > Ch 7-9
Study Three > Ch 3-4	Study Seven > Ch 9-11
Study Four > Ch 4-5	Study Eight > Ch 11-13

Find out more about *Hebrews For You* at:
www.thegoodbook.com/for-you

Hebrews: An Anchor for the Soul

A Good Book Guide

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Contents

Introduction	4
Why Study Hebrews?	5
1. Jesus in All His Glory <i>Hebrews 1:1-14</i>	7
2. A Great Salvation <i>Hebrews 2:1 – 3:6</i>	13
3. If You Hear His Voice <i>Hebrews 3:7 – 4:13</i>	19
4. Holding Fast <i>Hebrews 4:14 – 6:12</i>	25
5. A Sure and Steadfast Anchor <i>Hebrews 6:13 – 7:28</i>	31
6. A Better Covenant <i>Hebrews 8:1 – 10:25</i>	37
7. The Life of Faith <i>Hebrews 10:26 – 12:2</i>	45
8. A Kingdom That Cannot Be Shaken <i>Hebrews 12:3 – 13:25</i>	53
Leader's Guide	61



Introduction

One of the Bible writers described God's word as "a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105, NIV). God gave us the Bible to tell us about who he is and what he wants for us. He speaks through it by his Spirit and lights our way through life.

That means that we need to look carefully at the Bible and uncover its meaning—but we also need to apply what we've discovered to our lives.

Good Book Guides are designed to help you do just that. The sessions in this book are interactive and easy to lead. They're perfect for use in groups or for personal study.

Let's take a look at what is included in each session.

Talkabout: Every session starts with an ice-breaker question, designed to get people talking around a subject that links to the Bible study.

Investigate: These questions help you explore what the passage is about.

Apply: These questions are designed to get you thinking practically: what does this Bible teaching mean for you and your church?

Explore More: These optional sections help you to go deeper or to explore another part of the Bible which connects with the main passage.

Getting Personal: These sections are a chance for personal reflection. Some groups may feel comfortable discussing these, but you may prefer to look at them quietly as individuals instead—or leave them out.

Pray: Here, you're invited to pray in the light of the truths and challenges you've seen in the study.

Each session is also designed to be easily split into two! Watch out for the **Apply** section that comes halfway through, and stop there if you haven't got time to do the whole thing in one go.

In the back of the book, you'll find a **Leader's Guide**, which provides helpful notes on every question, along with everything else that group leaders need in order to facilitate a great session and help the group uncover the riches of God's light-giving word.

Why Study Hebrews?

As you read the book of Hebrews, you very quickly become aware that its author just loves Jesus Christ. He thinks he is amazing, magnificent, extraordinary; he thinks he is all in all.

We all experience times when we stop feeling like that—when we are following Jesus out of duty instead of delight in how wonderful he is. At those times it is easy to look over at something else—some other person, situation, or way of living—and think, “That looks better.”

But the book of Hebrews shows us that Jesus is better.

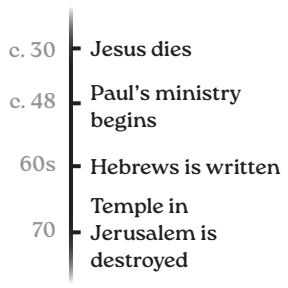
The book, which has an unnamed author, was likely written in the early AD 60s. It is a letter to the “Hebrews”—which is just another name for the Jewish people. The audience is primarily Jewish Christians who grew up in Judaism but have believed in Jesus. They have embraced him as the Messiah but are thinking about turning back to the old ways: animal sacrifices and worship at the temple.

So our author gives them—and us—a doctrinal anchor: a clear, detailed understanding of why Jesus is better than anything else. He includes six warnings, which follow the same simple theme: don’t drift away. The book is designed to keep us walking with him on the right path—the path to life.

Before embarking on this journey, you should know that the book of Hebrews is not a light appetizer. It is more like a porterhouse steak. The author talks a lot about how Jesus’ sacrifice is superior to the sacrifices made in the Old Testament—requiring us to think hard about the structure and complexity of the old-covenant system. It’s meaty stuff. But it’s wonderful stuff. The book of Hebrews ranges across the Old Testament and shows us how Christ fulfilled it all. As you will see in each of these eight studies, he is the crescendo of God’s work on earth. My prayer for you is that, in a fresh and new way, as you read Hebrews, you will fall in love with Christ all over again.



Hebrews 60s AD



1

Jesus in All His Glory

Hebrews 1:1-14

Talkabout

1. Do you think people in our world today expect to hear from God? If they do, how do they think he will speak?

Investigate

 Read Hebrews 1:1-4

DICTIONARY

Heir (v 2): inheritor.

Radiance (v 3): brightness.

Imprint (v 3): exact likeness.

Purification (v 3): cleansing.

2. The first two verses tell us twice that God has spoken. What are the differences between the way God spoke in verse 1 and the way he spoke in verse 2?

3. What do verses 2-3 tell us about the Son's power?

4. What do these verses tell us about how the Son reveals God?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

Do you ever wish God would reveal himself more clearly? In Jesus, God has given you a clearer, fuller revelation of himself than he gave to the Old Testament prophets—even Moses or Elijah. We have seen more than they ever imagined, because we are witnesses to the glory of Christ revealed on earth.

Given that this is true, what will you do next time you are seeking God's guidance? What about when you are talking to someone about how we know God exists?

5. What do these verses tell us about what the Son came to do?

Apply

6. We think of Jesus as our Savior from sin. But these verses remind us that he is also the sovereign King of everything. How will it change our lives if we remember this?

Investigate

7. What is the comparison in verse 4?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

It seems as though the audience of this letter had begun to honor and venerate angels so that they took the place of Jesus for them. This may seem irrelevant to us at first, but in fact it doesn't matter what the particular distraction is.

What impresses you? What do you prize above other things? Is there anything you tend to think would make your life just right?

Think back to these answers as you read the rest of Hebrews 1, and examine your heart. Is there any way in which you are too easily pleased by the things of the world? How do they compare to Christ?

 **Read Hebrews 1:5-14**

DICTIONARY

Begotten (v 5): become the father of.

Scepter (v 8): a symbol of royal power.

Anointed (v 9): in ancient times, oil was smeared or poured onto a

person's head (especially a king's) as a sign of honor or celebration.

Perish (v 11): die.

Garment (v 11): piece of clothing.


Ministering (v 14): serving.

8. In verses 5-6, how do we know that Jesus is better than angels?

Explore More | OPTIONAL

Verses 5-6 could make it seem as though there was a time when Jesus was not the Son, and then a point when he became the Son. If God can say, "Today I have begotten you" and call Jesus his "firstborn," doesn't that imply that Jesus is secondary or inferior to the Father?

Nothing could be further from the truth. The Son shares in the same eternal, divine nature as the Father. He has always been the Son.

 **Read Acts 13:32-33 and Romans 1:4**

- What, for Paul, is the key event that declares Jesus to be God's Son?

9. What is the Son's role in Hebrews 1:8?

10. What role do the angels have, meanwhile (v 7, 14)?

11. Reread verses 7-14. How else do we see Jesus' superiority?

Apply

12. What do we tend to value the most—and how do those things compare to Jesus? How will this comparison change the way you think about or act toward those things?

Pray

Make a list of all the ways in which Jesus is described in this chapter—the roles and qualities he has and the things he has done.

Pray through your list together, worshiping Jesus for all that he is.

