Hebrews – Term 3 Daily Devotions 2019

This term’s devotionals are from the Letter to the Hebrews. This book is very technical and relies on you having a knowledge of the early books of the Old Testament. It focuses on the Old Testament Sacrificial system, the priests, the tabernacle or temple, and how the Old Testament covenant worked. Because of this, I have included several days of Old Testament Bible readings which will sometimes give you some background to the other readings nearby. This series is NOT tied to any sermon series.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week 1** |  |  |
| Day 1 | Hebrews 1:1-4 | * In what ways has God spoken to his people? * What makes Jesus the best way in which God has spoken to his people? * What is the best way for us to listen to Jesus today? |
| Day 2 | Hebrews 1:5-14 | * What makes Jesus superior or better than the angels? * How is the Son described as God in this passage? * Think about how this passage might influence your thoughts on worshipping Jesus as God. |
| Day 3 | 2 Samuel 7:4-17 | * King David wanted to build a “house” (temple) for God, but God wanted to build a house for David. What kind of house was it? * What will God do for this descendant of David? * What will be so special about this descendant’s kingdom? |
| Day 4 | Hebrews 2:1-4 | * Why should we listen so carefully to the message Jesus gave? * What is the great danger if we do not listen or pay attention to this message? * How has this message changed your life? |
| Day 5 | Hebrews 2:5-18 | * If Jesus is superior to angels, then how/why can he be made a little lower than the angels? * Why was it so important that Jesus is fully human? * How comforting is it to know that Jesus endured suffering and temptation? Does this encourage you? |
| **Week 2** |  |  |
| Day 1 | Hebrews 3:1-6 | * Why are we supposed to think carefully about, or fix our thoughts on, Jesus? * How is Jesus greater than Moses? * How can you glorify Jesus today? |
| Day 2 | Psalm 95 | * Why should God’s people praise and worship God? * What great warning does the psalm give? * How should we take this warning today? |
| Day 3 | Hebrews 3:7-19 | * Psalm 95 looks back at a historical event. What is so scary about knowing that the people who hardened their hearts were those who Moses led out of Egypt? * What happened to those whose hearts were hardened? * What kind of hardening does the writer warn us against? |
| Day 4 | Hebrews 4:1-11 | * What does the writer mean by “rest”? * How can we enter God’s rest? * Do you look forward to God’s rest? What do you think it will be like? |
| Day 5 | Hebrews 4:12-13 | * What makes God’s Word so powerful? * What is so scary about God’s ability to see all? * Do you allow God’s Word to work in your life? |
| **Week 3** |  |  |
| Day 1 | Hebrews 4:14-16 | * Why can we have so much confidence in Jesus, our great high priest? * Why is it so important that Jesus understands our weaknesses? * Are you confident to approach God’s throne? Why? Why not? |
| Day 2 | Hebrews 5:1-10 | * What was the role of the priest? * What made Jesus a priest? * How did Jesus act as a priest? |
| Day 3 | Psalm 110 | * This psalm is referenced more than any other Old Testament writing in the Letter to the Hebrews. Who was David speaking about when he says, “The Lord says to my Lord”? * How is the main character described as a King? How is the main character described as a priest? * How will God judge the nations? |
| Day 4 | Hebrews 5:11-6:12 | * How important is it to grow up and not always be like spiritual children? * What is so bad about falling away? * What should Christian growth look like? |
| Day 5 | Hebrews 6:13-20 | * What is the point of an oath? * What is so great about the oaths God makes? * How does this knowledge encourage you? |
| **Week 4** |  |  |
| Day 1 | Genesis 14:17-24 | * Who was Melchizedek and what did he do? * How did Abram honour God? * It is easy to think that God was not active in anybody’s life until Abram, as we do not hear about anybody else until we come to Melchizedek. Are there times when you do not think God is active but he actually is? |
| Day 2 | Hebrews 7:1-10 | * What do we know/not know about Melchizedek? * Why is Melchizedek considered greater than Abraham? * Why is Melchizedek considered greater than Levi and therefore greater than the priestly Levites? |
| Day 3 | Numbers 18:22-32 | * Who were the only ones who could go near the tent of meeting and why? * What would happen to those who were not Levites? * How were the Levites earn their wages? |
| Day 4 | Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24. | * What was the first thing Aaron had to do to start his ministry? * Why do you think the sacrifices were so gruesome? * What was so important about the fire coming out from the sacrifice? |
| Day 5 | Hebrews 7:11-28 | * How is Jesus like Melchizedek? Why is it so important that Jesus lives forever as priest? * What is the biggest difference between Jesus and the other priests? * Jesus was not only the priest, he was also the sacrifice. What is so great about his sacrifice? |
| **Week 5** |  |  |
| Day 1 | Exodus 26:31-37 | * Exodus 25-27 are about the building of the tabernacle, read them if you want a fuller picture, or you can watch “Tabernacle Tour” on Youtube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgqLsnzG6gM> * What are the 3 main spaces in the Tabernacle? Why are less and less people allowed into the holier places? * What does this tell you about sin and our relationship with God? |
| Day 2 | Hebrews 8:1-6 | * Jesus is the great high priest, but he did not enter into an earthly tabernacle or temple. Where did Jesus offer his sacrifice? * What is the earthly sanctuary a copy of? * Why was Jesus not a priest on earth? |
| Day 3 | Exodus 19:1-8; 24:1-8 | * God set up a covenant with his people. What was this covenant supposed to say about the people’s relationship to God and how they would then relate to the world around them? * There are all kinds of instructions in these chapters, how were the people supposed to keep the covenant? * How was the covenant sealed? |
| Day 4 | Hebrews 8:6-13 | * Jesus was making a new covenant, what was wrong the with old one? * What is so special about the new covenant? * Reflect on how this should shape your relationship with God. |
| Day 5 | Hebrews 9:1-10 | * Again, we see that there was so much detail and meaning to the earthly tabernacle. Why do you think all this detail is so important? * How often did the high priest enter the inner room? What did he need to take with him? * Illustrations are helpful but limited, what was the limit of the tabernacle worship? |
| **Week 6** |  |  |
| Day 1 | Leviticus 16:1-10 | * Leviticus 16 is the most important chapter for understanding the Old Testament sacrifices. Why wasn’t Aaron allowed to come into the Most Holy Place whenever he wanted? * What personal preparations was he supposed to make before entering the Most Holy Place? * What were the sacrifices for? |
| Day 2 | Leviticus 16:11-14 | * What was the sacrifice of the bull for? * What was the incense and blood supposed to do? * What does this say about the problem of sin, even for the priests? |
| Day 3 | Leviticus 16:15-19 | * What happened to the first goat and why? * Why did the priest have to sprinkle blood on different things? * Why was uncleanness a problem? |
| Day 4 | Leviticus 16:20-22 | * What did the priest do with the second goat? * If the second goat wasn’t killed, what was the point of this sacrifice? * How did this help the people understand what was happening to their sin during the sacrifices? |
| Day 5 | Leviticus 16:29-34 | * How often did they have the Day of Atonement? * How did they show it was supposed to be a special day? * What was the purpose of the Day of Atonement? |
| **Week 7** |  |  |
| Day 1 | Hebrews 9:11-15 | * Where was the Most Holy Place that Jesus entered? * What kind of cleansing did the blood of animals make for people? * What kind of cleansing did Jesus’ blood make? How much better is it? |
| Day 2 | Hebrews 9:16-28 | * Why was the shedding of blood so important? * The Old Testament priests had to offer sacrifices over and over again. Why is it so important to see that Jesus’ sacrifice happened only once? * Jesus’ sacrifice means that sin has been completely dealt with. How does this encourage and help you? |
| Day 3 | Hebrews 10:1-18 | * What was impossible for the blood of animals to do? * The Old Testament priests would stand every day, serving in the tabernacle. Jesus sat down at God’s right hand. What is so important in Jesus’ sitting down? * Jesus’ blood brings eternal forgiveness. How will God see us after we are forgiven? |
| Day 4 | Hebrews 10:19-25 | * Now that we are fully forgiven, where can we enter? How often can we enter that place? * How different is this for us than it was for the Old Testament people of God? * How would this knowledge change the way we live, meet and worship? |
| Day 5 | Hebrews 10:26-39 | * God showed us amazing grace through Jesus’ sacrifice. How dangerous is it to ignore, disrespect, or insult Jesus’ sacrifice by walking away from our faith and living a life of deliberate sinfulness again? * What kind of suffering had the people the writer was writing to already suffered? * How can you continue to persevere in your faith? |
| **Week 8** |  |  |
| Day 1 | Hebrews 11:1-7 | * While this is not the complete understanding of faith, how does the writer define the word faith? * What did Noah do by faith? Notice how faith often leads to action. * What is it impossible to do without faith? How can you trust in God today? |
| Day 2 | Hebrews 11:11-19 | * Abraham’s faith was trusting in God’s faithfulness. How is God faithful to us today? * Abraham was trusting in God’s promise of a new country or land. What is the better “country” we are waiting for? * Abraham believed that God could raise the dead, even though this had never happened before. How much more confident can we be in our resurrection? |
| Day 3 | Hebrews 11:20-31 | * So much of this passage is acting on faith when people did not know the future. What kind of things did these people have to face when they didn’t know what would happen to them? * What forms of salvation can you see in this passage? * How did God bring his people into the Promised Land? What is the role of faith in this? |
| Day 4 | Hebrews 11:32-38 | * The list in this passage goes from Joshua’s time all the way through to after Jesus. What kinds of hardships did they face? * Why would people endure such suffering and persecution? * How are you challenged by these people’s faith? |
| Day 5 | Hebrews 11:39-40 | * All these people in chapter 11 were people of faith. What were they trusting in? * If they didn’t receive all the promises in their fullness, then was their faith rewarded? * What part of your faith are you looking forward to receiving in all it’s fullness when you get to heaven? |
| **Week 9** |  |  |
| Day 1 | Hebrews 12:1-3 | * All those people of faith are there to encourage us on, but who are we to follow in our faith? * What kinds of things do you need to throw off as you run the race? * How will you not grow weary and lose heart? |
| Day 2 | Hebrews 12:4-13 | * God disciplines us. What kind of discipline is he talking about? * What is the purpose of this discipline? * Have you ever thought about how the really difficult times can make you stronger in your faith? |
| Day 3 | Hebrews 12:14-17 | * Why is holiness so important? * The writer warns against selling our faith for small things. What kind of small things tempt you? * The writer warns against being sexually immoral. How easy is it for people to be sexually immoral today? How can we avoid or guard against sexual immorality? |
| Day 4 | Deuteronomy 4:9-14 | * This passage is a summary of the preparation God’s people made before entering the Promised Land. How was God pictured in this passage? * What did he expect his people to do? * How were they to pass on the memory of this and why was that so important? |
| Day 5 | Hebrews 12:18-29 | * Why did the people of Moses tremble with fear? * Given that we now have far greater access to God through the blood of Jesus, are we still expected to fear God? * Are you able to see God as kind, loving and approachable but still feel the fear and awe we ought to have for God? |
| **Week 10** |  |  |
| Day 1 | Hebrews 13:1-3 | * The writer tells the Hebrews to care for their Christian brothers and sisters. How were they to show care? * Have you ever supported a Christian in prison? Or a Christian who has been mistreated for their faith? How can you show real support? * As our world continues to work against Christianity, how can we prepare for future mistreatment, persecution and possibly prison? |
| Day 2 | Hebrews 13:4-6 | * What kinds of things can corrupt the average person/family? * Why should we be content with what we have? * How do you struggle in these areas? How can you rely on God as your helper? |
| Day 3 | Hebrews 13:7-17 | * Why should you remember/obey your leaders? * Is there any time when you should not obey them? * How can we offer our sacrifice of praise? |
| Day 4 | Hebrews 13:18-25 | * Pray for people you know, that they will have a clear conscience and live honourably. * Pray that God will equip you to do his will. * Pray for those who are struggling through persecution and tough times. |
| Day 5 | Psalm 113 | * This psalm is a psalm of praise. Spend some time praising God in prayer. * God lifts the poor and settles the barren woman. This can seem impossible. How has God helped you in tough times? * Pray for those in real emotional pain. |