city CHURCH

LEADERS GUIDE



Hebrews: Jesus is Better

October 25
-
December 27

AN EXPOSITIONAL STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

October 25 - December 27

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LEADERS GUIDE



Hebrews: Jesus is Better

October 25

"Better Messenger" - Hebrews 1:1-2:18

Sermon Series

October 25, 2026	Hebrews 1:1-2:18	Better Messenger
November 1, 2026	Hebrews 3:1-4:13	Hold on to Jesus
November 8, 2026	Hebrews 4:14-7:28	Better High Priest
November 15, 2026	Hebrews 8:1-10:18	Better Sacrifice
November 22, 2026	Hebrews 10:19-39	Better Guarantee
November 29, 2026	Hebrews 11:1-39	Better Reward
December 6, 2026	Hebrews 12:1-17	Better Example
December 13, 2026	Hebrews 12:18-24	Better Covenant Mediator
December 27, 2026	Hebrews 13:1-25	Better Life Now

Book Overview

There is no exact understanding of who the author of Hebrews was, due to the author not mentioning himself and not mentioning who he is writing to. The book is called “the book of Hebrews”, because it reflects the ancient assumption of who is tradition thinks it was written to. Some people think it was written by Barnabas, Paul Clement, Luke, or Apollos. But the early church father Origen says: “only God knows who wrote this book”.

From what we know, the author did know the recipient of the letter and longed to be with them (Hebrews 13:19). They even had a mutual friend – Timothy (13:23).

The book was probably written before 70 AD (destruction of the temple), as it speaks about the Jewish sacrificial system as one that is still present there.

The main theme of the book is just like our sermon title: that Christ is better then any sacrificial system, angel, priest, or old covenant institution. The book encourages believers to hold on through faith to rest in Christ and encourages other church members to persevere.

This is the only book that doesn’t have an introduction that any other epistles have. However, it does have greetings and blessings at the end, as well as author identification of writing to someone (13:22). Most of the scholars agrees that it is more of a sermon than of a letter.

The book encourages believers to endure and warns against leaving Christ by remaining faithful. The big part of the book shows that Jesus is superior to angels, Moses, the tabernacle sacrificial system, and priesthood. So it would be a failure for those who believe in Jesus to return to them. The author encourages believers to hold on to faith that is grounded in the most superior revelation.

This makes us think that the church was going through the persecution and trials of life (12), and needed to grow more attentive to the Christ instructions (5:11-14), as well as not to forget to meet with other believers (10:25). They are also encouraged to continue to love each other even in the midst of persecution (10:32-34).

Sermon Overview

This week we begin a nine-week sermon series in the book of Hebrews. The focus of the entire work is the superiority of Jesus to the systems established under the Old Covenant, the Law of Moses. This “word of exhortation” as the writer refers to his letter was meant to encourage early Jewish believers to hold fast to their faith in Jesus because of who he is and all that he has done.

This book is especially relevant for contemporary Christians as it assists us in understanding the relationship between the Old and the New Testaments. Yet, it is far more than academic or intellectual, replete with practical application that helps shape how we live today, transcending differences in time and culture.

Before plunging deeper into specifics in later chapters, the writer devotes his introduction to comparing Jesus with the angels. The angels were the messengers of the Old Covenant and Jesus is the messenger of the new. While this may be an overlooked element today, establishing the credibility of those whom God entrusts with his message for the world matters. God has sent his Son to both announce and execute his redemptive mission, a far greater hope for the people of God than the message declared by the angels at Mt. Sinai. We look forward to seeing you this Sunday as we reflect on the supremacy of God’s Son, the one through whom our great salvation comes.

Ps Zach Mazrim

Sermon Outline



Spoken to us by his Son

Text: Hebrews 1-2
Title: Better Messenger
Proppsition: Jesus is the supreme messenger of God, so we must reckon with who he is and what he has done.

1. Superior Name (1:1-14)
- **A. Identity (1:2,5)**
- **B. Status (1:3, 6)**
- **C. Essence (1:4, 7-14)**

2. Superior Message (2:1-4)
- **A. Content (2:1-3)**
- **B. Confirmation (2:3-4)**

3. Superior Mission (2:5-18)
- **A. Incarnate (2:5-8, 14, 17)**
- **B. Suffer (2: 9-10**
- **C. Help (2: 16-18)**

Sermon Notes

Sermon Applications

1. Pay Attention and Have Faith

2. Assess the Alternatives

3. Testify to Jesus' Supremacy



Discussion Questions

1. Which comment on Jesus' superiority from chapters 1 and 2 do you find most fascinating and why?

Note to a leader: Guide your group members to consider how Jesus is superior: He reveals God fully (1:1–3), is greater than angels (1:4–14), sustains creation (1:2–3), accomplished purification for sins (1:3), became human to defeat death (2:9–15), and serves as our merciful High Priest (2:17–18). Ask why this truth fascinates them.

2. The writer lists several aspects of Jesus' mission, including his incarnation, suffering, atonement, and ascension, among others. Which of these do you understand the best and which do you understand the least and perhaps would like to learn more about?

This is something you can research more, if you are not sure how to answer:

- *Incarnation: Jesus, the Son of God, became fully human (2:14). What does this teach us about God's love?*
- *Suffering: Jesus experienced suffering and death (2:9, 18). How does this help us trust Him in hardship?*
- *Atonement: Jesus died to deal with our sins and reconcile us to God (2:17). How does His sacrifice bring forgiveness?*
- *Ascension: Jesus returned to His heavenly glory and authority (1:3, 13). What does His reign mean for us?*

3. What types of circumstances in your life, or that you have seen in the lives of others, might lead to drifting away from faith in Jesus?

Encourage honest, nonjudgmental sharing. Possible circumstances include suffering, unanswered prayers, busyness, work pressure, disappointment with other Christians, isolation, temptation, or gradually neglecting prayer and fellowship. Invite members to share personal experiences or observations without pressure. Ask: "What makes these circumstances spiritually challenging, and how can we help one another remain faithful to Jesus?"

4. The encouragement here is to pay attention. Come up with at least three practical ways for you, both as an individual and as a community of believers, to pay closer attention to the gospel message that you have heard.

Encourage the group to suggest specific, realistic practices. Examples include daily reading and reflecting on Scripture, praying regularly, discussing the gospel in small groups, reminding one another of Jesus' promises, participating in church fellowship,



Discussion Questions

and applying God's Word in daily decisions. Ask each member to identify one personal action and one way the group can support one another.

5. In what specific ways has Jesus helped you when facing temptation? Who can you share this testimony with outside of your small group to also encourage during the coming week?

Encourage members to share how Jesus has helped them resist temptation, through Scripture, prayer, the Holy Spirit, or support from other believers. Remind them that sharing is voluntary and confidentiality matters. Ask whom they could encourage this week by sharing their testimony and reminding them that Jesus understands and helps us in temptation.



Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports

LEADERS GUIDE



Hebrews: Jesus is Better

November 1

Hold on to Jesus - 3:1-4:13

Sermon Overview

Life as a foreigner in Beijing can be challenging. Between the pressures of daily life, study/work, and the struggles we carry, it can be easy to slowly drift away from God, from fellowship, and from the daily spiritual disciplines that help us grow in faith. Often, we don’t drift away all at once; it happens little by little.

The book of Hebrews speaks to this very struggle. When hardship comes and our hearts are tempted by sin and unbelief, how do we keep holding on to Jesus? And how do we help one another remain faithful along the way? This Sunday, we will be reminded why Jesus is worth holding on to, why we need one another, and how the hope of the rest He promises gives us strength to Hold on to Jesus.

Holding on to Jesus with you
Elder Bemnet

Sermon Outline



Title: Hold on to Jesus.
Text: Hebrews 3:1-4:13
Proposition: Hold on to him, because he is our apostle and high priest. Hold on to him, because unbelief will slowly turn your heart away. Hold on together, because none of us can do this alone. And hold on, because God's promise of rest still stands.

1. Fix your eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 3:1-6)
- **a. Consider Jesus, our apostle and high priest (Hebrews 3:1)**
- **b. Jesus Is Greater Than Moses (Hebrews 3:2-6)**

2. Lesson from Israel: Unbelief Can Keep Us From God's Rest (Hebrews 3:7–19)
- **a. Do Not Harden Your Heart (Hebrews 3:7–11, 15)**
- **b. The Warning Is for Us (Hebrews 3:12, 16–19)**

3. How to Hold on Jesus
- **a. Hold on together (Hebrews 3:12–14)**
- **b. God's Word Is Our Greatest Tool Against Sin's Deceit (Hebrews 4:12–13)**
- **c. God's Promise of Rest Still Stands (Hebrews 4:1–11)**

Sermon Notes

Sermon Applications



Discussion Questions

1. Hebrews 3:1 says to "consider" Jesus, which means to look steadily and think carefully. Which pressures in Beijing compete for a believer's attention? What tends to pull your eyes and attention away from him in a normal week?
In Beijing, work pressure, long commutes, financial responsibilities, family demands, social activities, and the pursuit of success can compete for our attention. Busyness, tiredness, worries, and excessive phone use can distract us from Jesus. We must intentionally make time for Scripture, prayer, and fellowship to keep our eyes fixed on Him

2. Read Hebrews 3:7–11. A hard heart rarely happens overnight. Can you think of a time, in your life or someone else's, when you slowly drifted from God? What did the early signs look like?
Drifting from God often begins gradually: skipping prayer and Bible reading, missing fellowship, becoming consumed by work, or allowing disappointment to weaken trust. Early signs include losing spiritual enthusiasm, making excuses to avoid God's Word, and relying more on ourselves than on God. Recognizing these signs early helps us return to Him.

3. Read 3:12–14. What danger do these verses name (v. 12), and what is God's remedy (v. 13)? Why do you think the writer says "daily" and "as long as it is called today"? Who has encouraged or lovingly corrected you when you were drifting? What did they do, and how did it help? Why is it hard for us to speak up when we see another believer drifting?
The danger is an unbelieving heart that turns away from God. The remedy is daily encouragement to prevent sin's deceitfulness from hardening our hearts. "Daily" emphasizes consistency and urgency. Loving correction helps us recognize spiritual dangers. Speaking up is difficult because we fear offending others, being misunderstood, or damaging relationships.

4. Read 4:12–13. What words does the writer use to describe God's Word, and what does it do to us? How has God's Word worked on you recently? Is there an area God's Word has been gently pointing to that you have been putting off dealing with? What step could you take this week? *God's Word is living, active, sharper than any double-edged sword, and judges our thoughts and intentions. Invite members to share how Scripture has recently challenged or encouraged them. Gently ask what they may be avoiding and what practical step they can take this week. Encourage honest sharing without judgment or pressure.*



Discussion Questions

5. Read 4:3 and 4:11 together. 4:3 says we "who have believed enter that rest", while 4:11 says "strive to enter that rest". In your own words, how do these two statements fit together? What do you think "striving" looks like here? Look at 3:6, 3:14 and 4:1. Is it earning rest, or something else?

We enter God's rest through faith, not by earning salvation. Striving means persevering in faith, trusting Jesus, resisting unbelief, and obeying God's Word rather than drifting away. Hebrews 3:6, 3:14, and 4:1 emphasize holding firmly to our confidence in Christ until the end, relying on God's grace.

6. Read Hebrews 4:13–16. When you look at Jesus, what encourages you to keep holding on to him and fixing your eyes on him?

Encourage members to reflect on Jesus as our compassionate High Priest who understands our weaknesses and invites us to approach God's throne confidently for mercy and grace (4:14–16). Ask how knowing Jesus understands their struggles encourages perseverance. Invite personal examples, allowing everyone to share openly without pressure or judgment.



Prayer & Praise

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Prayer Requests

Praise Reports

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Hebrews: Jesus is Better

November 8

A Better High Priest - 4:14-7:28

Sermon Overview

What do you do when temptation feels overwhelming? When your faith is weak and you're struggling to keep going? When life as a Christian seems overwhelming and perhaps too difficult in this secular age? The faith you once held so firmly seems cold, lifeless, and unsatisfying?

Do you try harder? Rely on your own strength to push through? Do you begin looking elsewhere, to other faiths, other philosophies, other systems, other loves, that might make life easier, better satisfy your longings, or more closely align with the current cultural milieu?

When a group of Hebrew Christians faced these same struggles and temptations, the writer of Hebrews encouraged them by reminding them that Jesus is our Great High Priest. For many of us today, the title High Priest may seem unfamiliar or have little significance. Yet understanding what it means for Jesus to be our High Priest is essential to living the Christian life with confidence, hope, and perseverance.

Join us this Sunday as we explore Hebrews 4:14–7:28 and discover why Jesus is a Better High Priest. Please take time to read the passage beforehand and come prepared to hear from God through His Word.

Ps TJ Johnson

Sermon Outline



Title: A Better High Priest
Text: Hebrews 4:14-7:28
Proposition: Jesus' life, death, and resurrection is a priestly work that makes us right with God by forgiving us of sin and enabling us to faithfully serve Him until death, so don't turn away, but hold fast to Jesus as you draw near to the throne of grace.

Jesus is a Great High Priest Because He is the:

1. **Ascended High Priest. Hebrews 4:14**
2. **Sympathetic High Priest. Hebrews 4:15a**
3. **Sinless High Priest. Hebrews 4:15b**
4. **Selected High Priest. Hebrews 5:5**
5. **Ceaseless High Priest. Hebrews 6:20**
6. **Sacrificial High Priest. Hebrews 7:27**

Therefore, Let Us:

1. **Hold Fast. Hebrews 4:14**
2. **Draw Near. Hebrews 4:16**
3. **Grow Up. Hebrews 6:1**

Sermon Applications



Discussion Questions

1. Read Hebrews 4:14. In what ways does Jesus' ascension and current enthronement in heaven give us confidence and hope as we face the uncertainties of life?

Jesus' ascension and enthronement assure us that He has overcome death and reigns with authority at God's right hand. He is our living High Priest, continually interceding for us. Therefore, even amid uncertainty, suffering, and challenges, we can approach God confidently, knowing Jesus understands us and holds our future securely.

2. Read Hebrews 4:15; 5:7-10. What weaknesses or struggles are you currently facing, how is Jesus able to sympathize with them, and how does knowing this encourage you to draw near to God?

Note for leaders: create a safe, nonjudgmental environment for sharing. Encourage members to identify personal struggles without feeling pressured to disclose too much. Highlight that Jesus experienced suffering, temptation, and human weakness, yet remained obedient. Ask how knowing Jesus understands their struggles encourages them to approach God confidently for help and grace.

3. Read Hebrews 4:15; 7:26-28. Why does it matter that Jesus lived a sinless life?

Jesus' sinless life qualifies Him to be our perfect High Priest and the spotless sacrifice for our sins. Unlike human priests, who must offer sacrifices for their own sins, Jesus needed no such sacrifice. His perfect obedience makes His sacrifice once for all, securing our forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

4. Read Hebrews 5:1-6. What evidence does Scripture give us of Jesus' divine appointment to His High Priestly Office? Can we be confident of this evidence today?

God Himself appointed Jesus as High Priest, declaring, "You are my Son" (Psalm 2:7) and "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek" (Psalm 110:4). We can confidently trust this appointment because it comes directly from God's unchanging Word, not human authority or choice.



5. Read Hebrews 7:1-3, 20-24. Who do you think Melchizedek was, and why is he central to the writer's argument? What is the importance of Jesus' ETERNAL priesthood (emphasis on eternal)?

Melchizedek was the king of Salem and priest of God Most High, presented as a figure pointing to Christ. He illustrates a priesthood greater than the Levitical order. Jesus' eternal priesthood means His ministry never ends, He never needs replacement, and He continually intercedes for us, securing our salvation forever.

6. Read Hebrews 7:27. Why was it necessary for Jesus to die? In what ways do you regularly meditate upon Jesus' death, and what effect does this have upon daily living in a sinful and suffering-filled world?

Jesus had to die to offer Himself as the perfect, once-for-all sacrifice for our sins, accomplishing what repeated animal sacrifices could never achieve. Remembering His death through Scripture, prayer, and communion deepens our gratitude, strengthens our fight against sin, and gives us hope and perseverance amid suffering.



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