

JUNE / JULY STUDIES

SUN SHAKE ABLE

a series in the book of Hebrews

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UNSHAKEABLE

Hebrews is one of the richest books in the New Testament, a beautifully constructed letter challenging Christians to stand firm in their hope of an unseen, unshakeable kingdom. It was (maybe?) written to Jewish Christians who were being persecuted for converting to Christianity. The book is an encouragement to Christians, whether they converted from Judaism or not, reminding them of all the reasons to persevere in their faith, and all the ways Jesus fulfills and is greater than the Jewish covenant, laws, sacrifices, and priests. If those ideas sound familiar, it might be because the book of Hebrews revisits many of the themes that we just explored in Exodus, showing how they are all fulfilled in Christ.

The book presents a vision of a world where the unseen is more real, more powerful, and more attractive than that which can be seen and touched and counted. It's a call to recognize Jesus as God's last Word on life, the universe and everything else: a Word which surpasses every word God has ever, and ever will, give. And part of that

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Hebrews calls us to stand firm while journeying towards our unshakeable kingdom.

recognition is the call for unqualified personal commitment, unflagging perseverance, and even a willingness to suffer.

Even though there's so much gold to be dug up in Hebrews, some of it can be hard going. There are many Old Testament stories and allusions, the writer flicks back and forth between Israel and present day Christians, and there are the challenging passages on "falling away." But there's so much gold in the book that it's worth it.

The letter of Hebrews calls us to stand unshakeable—holding fast to our faith without wavering (10:23)—while journeying towards our unshakeable kingdom (12:28). Our hope is that this series will strengthen us, as individuals and as a church, as we stand shoulder-to-shoulder on this journey.

AUTHOR: ?

- PAUL?
- BARNABAS?
- APOLLOS?



THE LETTER TO THE HEBREI

JESUS IS THE ULTIMATE

AUDIENCE: ?



SEE 10:32-34
PERSECUTION & IMPRISONMENT

THROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE



1:1-5

ANCESTORS

2 MAIN GOALS

#1 ELEVATE JESUS AS SUPERIOR

#2 CHALLENGE THE READER TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO JESUS DESPITE PERSECUTION

"THE RADIANCE OF GOD'S GLORY" → JESUS → "THE EXACT IMPRINT OF GOD'S NATURE"

THESE METAPHORS MAKE THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATION BETWEEN JESUS AND GOD

1-2 ANGELS & TORAH

SEE DEUTERONOMY 33:2

WARNING

ISRAEL vs JESUS

GOD'S GLORY vs GOD'S HUMILITY

GOD'S WORD

3-4 MOSES & THE PROMISED LAND

ISRAEL vs US

PROMISED LAND vs NEW CREATION

WARNING

HOPE FOR NEW CREATION

JESUS EQUALS...

FOLLOW GREAT MODELS OF FAITH



ER TO THE REWS

TE REVELATION OF GOD



3 IN THE PAST **GOD** SPOKE TO OUR
STORS IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS, BUT IN THESE
ST DAYS HE HAS SPOKEN TO US IN **HIS SON**

Extra tips

#1

LOOK UP OLD TESTAMENT
? QUOTATIONS 
(THERE ARE A LOT)

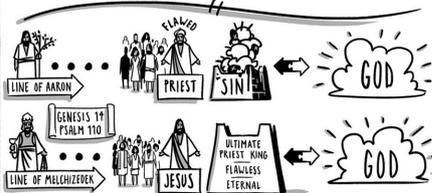
#2

THE POINT IS
TO FEEL A BIT
UNCOMFORTABLE,
BUT NOT
AFRAID



5-7

PRIESTS & MELCHIZEDEK



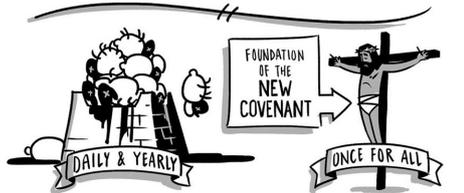
WARNING 

REJECTING JESUS = REJECTING RECONCILIATION WITH GOD

ETERNAL PRIEST

8-10

SACRIFICE & COVENANT



WARNING 

OFFER OF FORGIVENESS

PERFECT SACRIFICE

— DESPITE —
HARDSHIP & PERSECUTION
GOD WILL **NOT**
ABANDON HIS PEOPLE

13



ISAAC

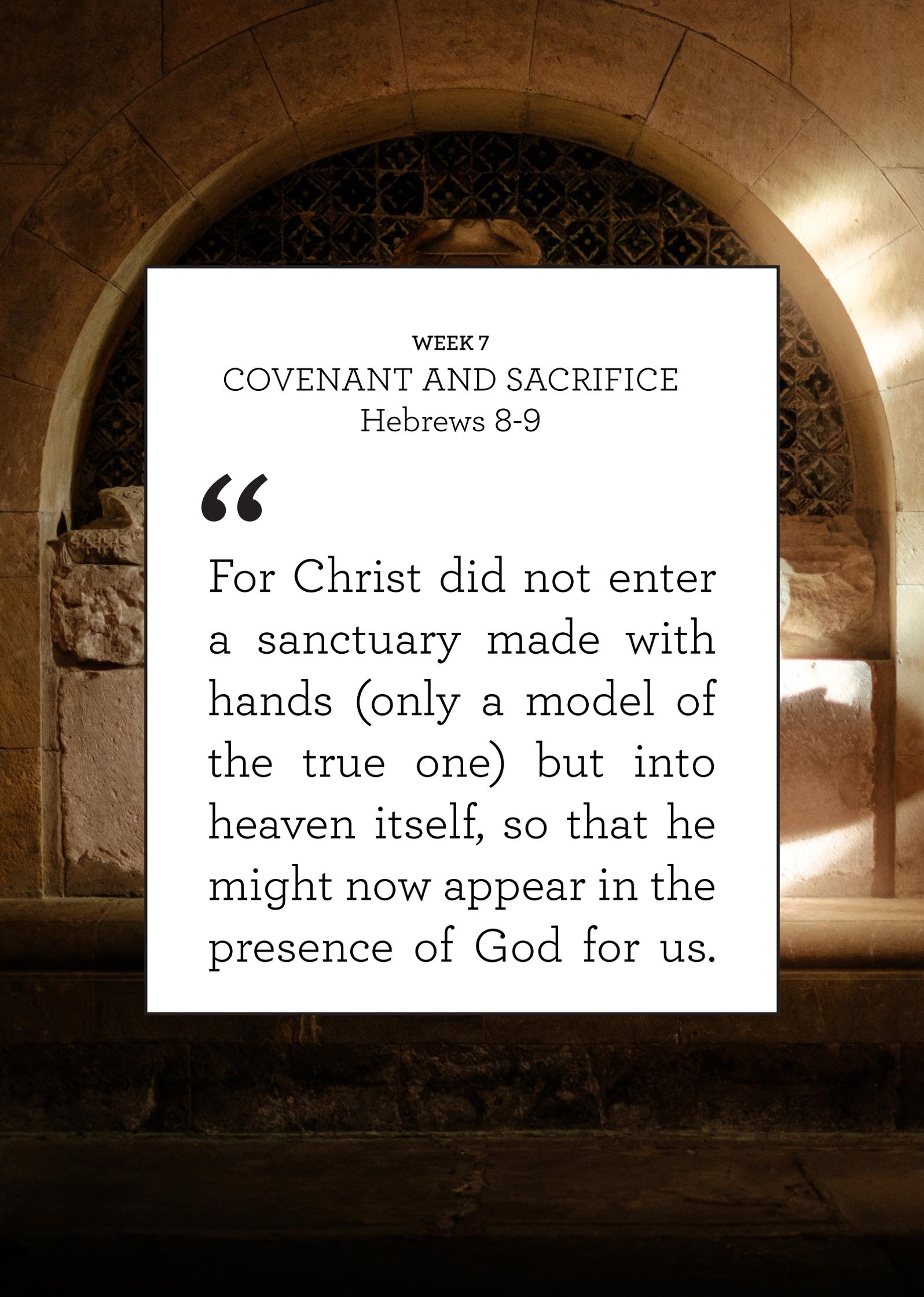
JACOB

JOSEPH

MOSES

RAHAB

created by
the Bible Project



WEEK 7
COVENANT AND SACRIFICE
Hebrews 8-9

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For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with hands (only a model of the true one) but into heaven itself, so that he might now appear in the presence of God for us.

STUDY QUESTIONS

How has the lesson last week impacted your mind, heart and actions over the past week? What has God been doing and teaching you?

Read Hebrews 8

What's the difference between the job Jesus did at high priest, and those who came before? (8:1–6)

From through the Jeremiah 31 quote (Hebrews 8:8–12), what does it tell us about the differences between the old covenant and the new?

If you were to base your life on the new covenant, what benefits would that give?

Read Hebrews 9

Describe the old covenant? (9:1–10). What was the problem with it for us (9:8–10)?

Hebrews 9:11–28 talks a lot about blood. What's the importance of blood in our relationship with God?

What effect does Jesus' blood have that nothing else does?

While many look at Christianity as a set of rules, this passage tells us that Jesus' death has made a fundamental change in the way God relates to his people, and in the way they relate to him. Eternal forgiveness is on offer, and we can have new hearts that are inclined towards God, and not away from him.

What do you think it looks like to have God's law written on our hearts?

STUDY QUESTIONS

What needs does Hebrews 8 and 9 expose that are common to all people? How do we sometimes see these needs? How do we sometimes ignore them or downplay them?

How does the person and work of Jesus in Heb 8 and 9 answer the needs the Pastor exposes? How are they brought out by the way he talks about the Levitical ministry?

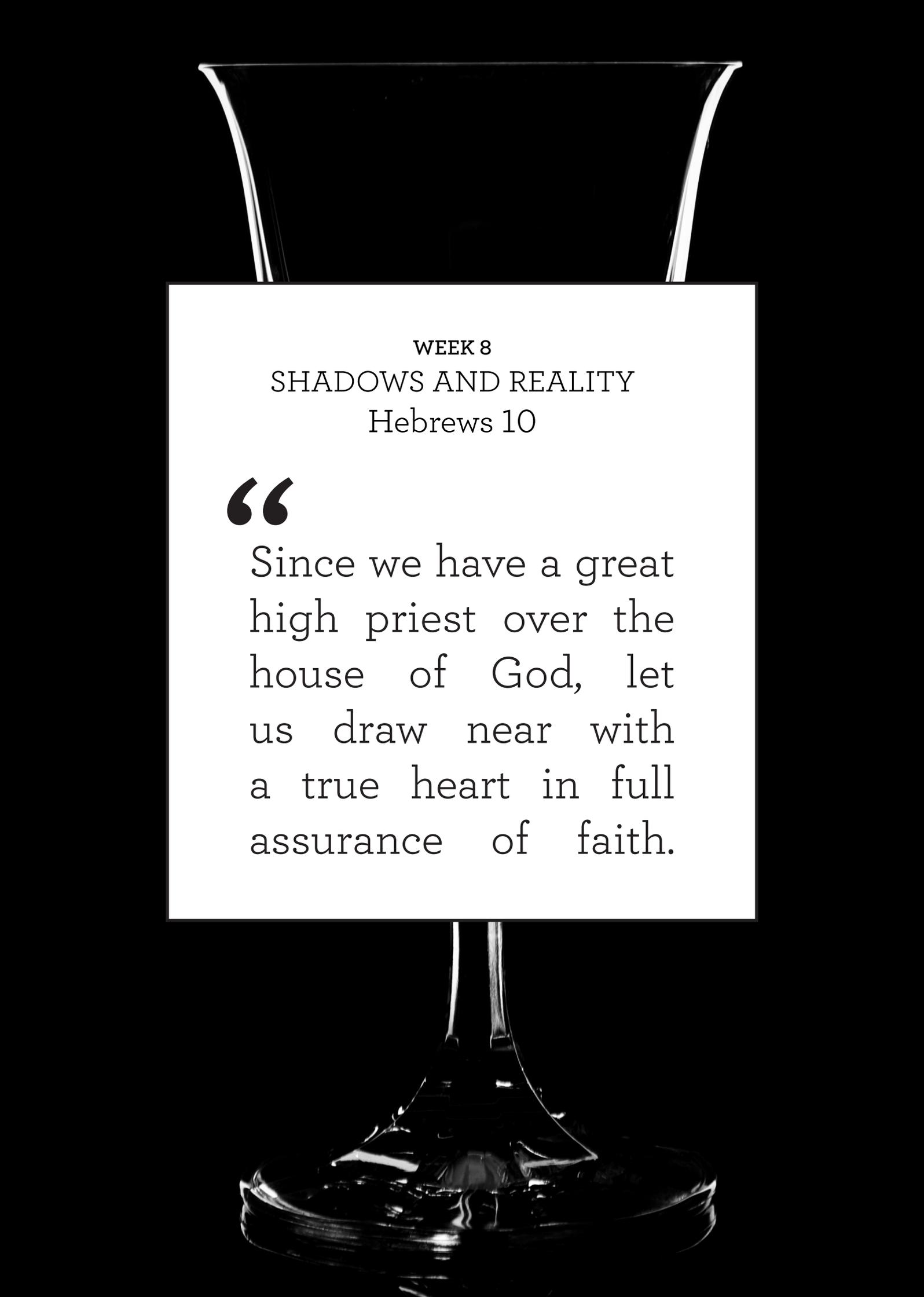
Hebrews 8 and 9 assume that access to God and knowing God are the highest blessings of the Christian life. Why does the Bible speak this way? Why is it tempting to make other things the goal of the Christian life and what might these things be for you? For us as a church?

PRAYER FOR GOSPEL PARTNERS



Keith and Marion Birchley

- Give thanks for the Lord helping us in our return, after 6 months away from PNG. The older students who know us have been very welcoming, Praise God!
- Praise God that we're really feeling back home. We've had many demonstrations of a significantly increased TRUST between our students and us. Just this afternoon one brave student has unburdened himself of something which last year was only ever obliquely hinted at: this year it is out on the table, confessed, prayed about, and put behind us. Praise God!
- Praise God that 4G is newly available in PNG! This is very exciting and we have already experienced Facetime with family and friends without having to leave our home, for the first time in 3 years... But, we could only be delighted with it for the grand total of five days. What happened, you may ask? Answer: some of the guys working on the infrastructure for this years' APEC meeting CUT THROUGH THE RECENTLY INSTALLED 4G CABLE!! (if you don't laugh you cry). Pray for repairs, so we can Facetime our families again soon.
- Our next Bible Course exists only in our heads at this stage. Please PRAY that 'Hearing the Gospel in the Old Testament' would take shape quickly and well over the next few weeks, while the students are studying and doing their exams. Our projected date – God willing – is Mon 18 to Fri 22 June.



WEEK 8
SHADOWS AND REALITY
Hebrews 10

“

Since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.

STUDY QUESTIONS

How has the lesson last week impacted your mind, heart and actions over the past week? What has God been doing and teaching you?

What do you picture when you hear the word “community”? [If you're so inclined, free to draw what you think of]

Read Hebrews 10

What was the “shadow”? What is the “reality”? (verses 1–4) What do these descriptions telling us about these things?

Spot the difference:

Psalm 40:6-8	Hebrews 10:5-7
“You do not delight in sacrifice and offering; you open my ears to listen.”	“You did not desire sacrifice and offering, but you prepared a body for me.”

How do you account for them being different?

How would you communicate Hebrews 10:19–22 to someone who doesn't know anything about Christianity?

What are we called to do in 10:22–25? What might these things look like in the community life of Village Church?

STUDY QUESTIONS

Read through the warning of 10:26–31. How do you feel reading this?

Why does he use such strong words to warn them against rejecting Jesus?

We live in a pluralistic, individualistic, and materialistic culture. How should Christians approach these values?

What role does the Christian community play in your perseverance?
(verses 23–27)

PRAYER FOR GOSPEL PARTNERS



Dan and Rachel Djamaludin

Bible Study Ministry:

- Please give thanks to God for his grace in the lives of K and P.
- Please pray for K and his wife as they have now moved to Japan (K's wife is Japanese), that they would continue to grow in Christ and settle well into their new church.
- Please pray for P as she continues to secretly go to bible study and church.

Making Disciples:

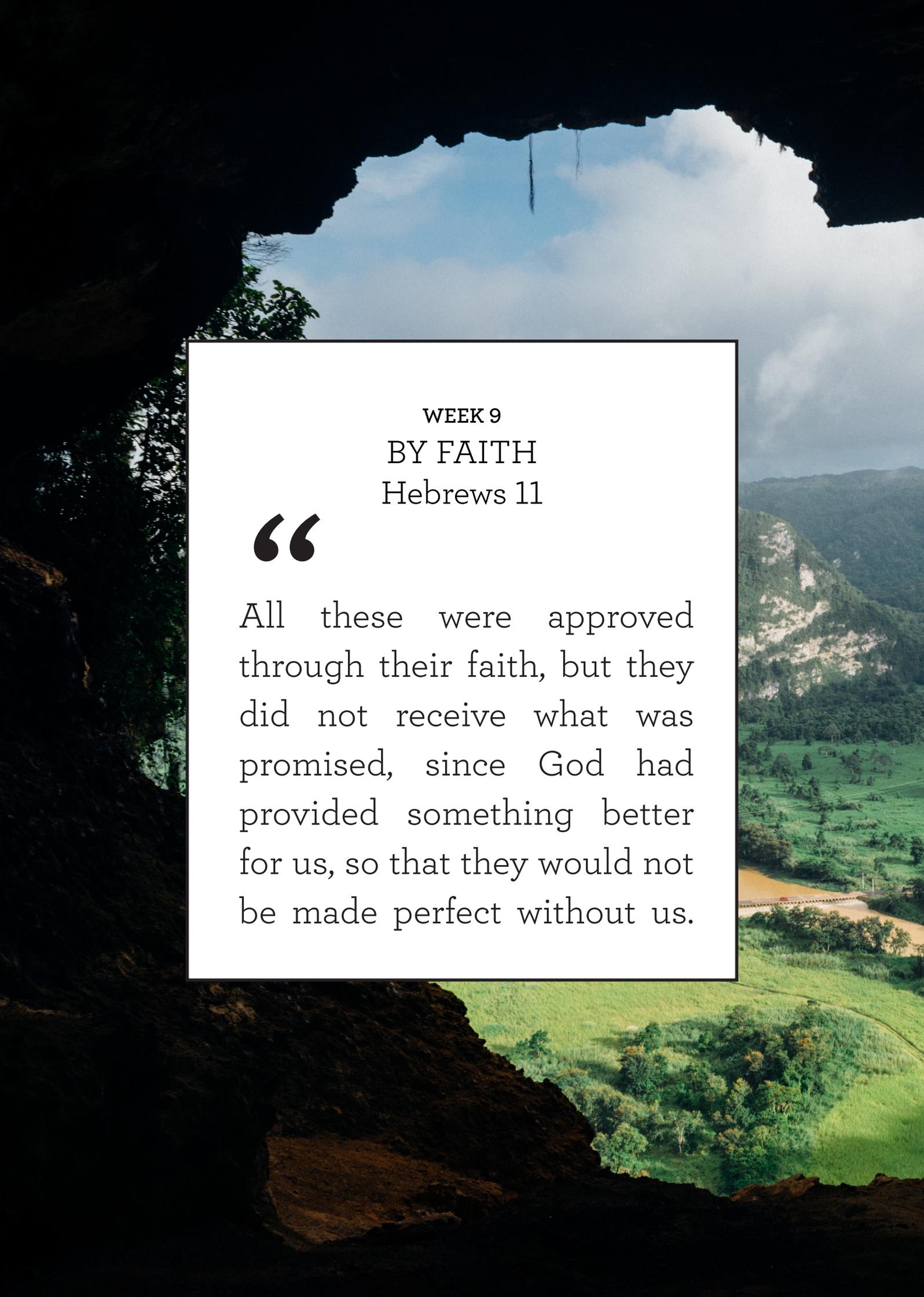
- Please give thanks to God for F and her repentance by faith in Christ Jesus.

Please pray for God's protection from disturbing visions that have oppressed her since she committed her life to God.

- Please pray that God, through his Spirit, would make known to these folks what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

International Students & Refugee Friends:

- Give thanks for a good year of campus bible studies.
- Give thanks that S and his family were able to be re-settled in US. Pray as they settle in to a new life, church, culture and home.
- Pray for Q from China, that she would accept God's grace. Pray for her husband to be a faithful and patient witness to her.



WEEK 9
BY FAITH
Hebrews 11

“

All these were approved through their faith, but they did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect without us.

STUDY QUESTIONS

How has the lesson last week impacted your mind, heart and actions over the past week? What has God been doing and teaching you?

11:1-3

Why do you think the church needed to hear this definition of faith in v.1? Why do we need to hear it?

How does this definition sit in a modern Australia? How does it sit with you?

11:4-28

In what ways were Abel, Enoch and Noah righteous? V.4-7

In what ways did Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Jacob walk in obedience? V.8-16

In what ways were Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses shaped through suffering v.17-28

11:29-38

The pastor draws his congregation in. How do we continue to see the outworking of faith in the lives of the people of faith?

What do all of these examples of faith have in common? v.39 (also see v.10, 13,16,26)

How is Jesus, the Hebrews and us linked to these heroes of faith? V.40

STUDY QUESTIONS

What do you think the Pastor wanted to achieve by showing how their ancestors responded to God in faith? Does it have the same impact on us? If not, why not?

How does the pastor stir the souls of his congregation into action? (12:1-2)

How does Jesus show His church how to lace up their shoes, grasp the baton, keep running and then sprint to the finish line?

“Faith is also an outward force that says that the unseen God and His word and promises are incredibly the ultimate realities in this world.”

What is the next step that we need to take, as individuals or as a group, in response to what God has been teaching us this week? Take a minute or two to write down your answers (Try and be as specific as you can).

I need to throw off _____ that hinders and _____ that entangles.

I know that God is calling me to _____

When things go pear shaped this week I need to remember

It might mean that I suffer but _____

When I'm tempted to give up I need to fix my eyes on _____

and that means _____

PRAYER FOR GOSPEL PARTNERS



Leigh and Celia Renaud

- Have been accepted to serve with CMS, with Leigh working as a university lecturer in SE Asia. But will remain in Brisbane for a while longer to get more training in Uni ministry.
- Pray for God to be at work in the coming year to equip them "with everything good to do his will, working in us what is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13:21).
- Pray for God to be making their paths straight for wherever they will end up serving God. Pray for hearts to be softened and ready to receive the gospel of Christ.



WEEK 10
RUN WITH ENDURANCE
Hebrews 12

“

Let us run with endurance
the race that lies before
us, keeping our eyes on
Jesus, the source and
perfecter of our faith.

STUDY QUESTIONS

How has the lesson last week impacted your mind, heart and actions over the past week? What has God been doing and teaching you?

Thomas Long says “When we see the disciplined, loving, strong, merciful and faithful way that Jesus ran the race, we are motivated to lace up our running shoes, to grasp the baton and to sprint for the finish line. The only way that would cause us to “shrink back” is our old problem of weariness. The race is hard, our muscles are tired and we lose heart. If the race of faith is so joyful, we wonder, why does it have to be so hard?”

In what ways is the race hard? What are some of the hills you get tired of climbing? What are the costs? What makes you lose heart?

Following on from chapter 11, who are the cloud of witnesses? How does having them help us put aside sin?

Christians are to ‘look to’ or keep their eyes on Jesus (v. 2). How does Christ help us persevere?

How does considering Christ help us not to grow weary and give up?

Christians are adopted as God’s children. How does this relationship shape the christian life in Hebrews 12?

What is the framework that the Pastor gives to their suffering? How does this strengthen our tired hands and weakened knees? (12:5-11)

In what way is God’s discipline good news? How might refusing to recognise it increase our pain and diminish our joy?

Do we desire holiness and righteousness? (v. 11-12)

STUDY QUESTIONS

How does this picture of suffering resonate with how you approach it in your own life?

Consider Esau, why should we persevere and not be like Esau? What should we do instead?

In our last series in Exodus we looked at Exodus 19 and 20 and the picture of God on his holy mountain giving the law at Sinai. The pastor reconsiders this imagery here in Hebrews. From verses 18 to 29 the Pastor fears that his congregation will run to Mt Sinai.

What is wrong with Mount Sinai? (v. 18-22)

How does Mount Sinai compare to Mount Zion? (v. 23-24)

How does this picture of God help us to be thankful and serve God as we persevere?

What is the next step that we need to take, as individuals or as a group, in response to what God has been teaching us this week? Take a minute or two to write down your answers (Try and be as specific as you can).

PRAYER FOR GOSPEL PARTNERS



Caleb and Katie Bjorem

- Healthy rest of the pregnancy for Katie and their baby.
- Pray for a safe and easy delivery.
- We'll be apart for about 5 weeks, so strength to get through that.
- Continued wisdom in our decisions as Outland Denim grows.
- Continued opportunities for speaking the truth with coworkers.



WEEK 11
OUTSIDE THE CAMP
Hebrews 13

“

Let brotherly
love continue.

STUDY QUESTIONS

How has the lesson last week impacted your mind, heart and actions over the past week? What has God been doing and teaching you?

Read Hebrews 13:1–6

Drifting, hesitating, holding back, shrinking back, on the back foot, retreating

What happens to a church that draws back, that retreats from the mission that God calls it to? What happens to a Christian who stops living only for Jesus but makes him one of many things that he or she lives for? What happens when Jesus is domesticated and his followers feed on a faith that is easy and comfortable on the palette?

What do each of the following have to say to us, as we seek to "let brotherly love continue":

Verse 2:

Verse 3:

Verse 4:

Verse 5–6:

The Pastor then gives the church some words to spur them on to love and good deeds in a number of different areas:

Read Hebrews 13:7–19

This section is bracketed by instructions about leaders (13:7, 17–19). Why do you think that is?

What role should leaders play in the church community?

STUDY QUESTIONS

Verses 11-14 are kind of like a summary statement of the whole book.

What happened outside the camp? (Lev 13:45-46; Lev 16:1-26; Lev 16:27-28; Josh 6:22-23)

What happened outside the city? (13:12)

How does the Pastor demolish the congregation's commitment to stay in the camp of angels, Moses, the old covenant, Mt Sinai, the Temple, Jerusalem in v.14?

"Let us then go to Him outside the camp, bearing his disgrace" Why would this have sounded so shocking?

This would mean that they would be leaving behind all the religious ritual and form that they had been dabbling with once and for all. It would require them to reinterpret what was significant and essential. It would mean identifying FULLY with Christ, willingly and knowingly moving from a place of comfort to discomfort, from acceptance to rejection, from a place of honour to disgrace.

Why do we go to this place? (v.13-14)

How might v.11-16 spur the church on to be the community that is described in chapter 13 and stick closer to Christ?

What might it look like for us to go outside the camp?

What is the next step that we need to take, as individuals or as a group, in response to what God has been teaching us this week? Take a minute or two to write down your answers (Try and be as specific as you can).

PRAYER FOR GOSPEL PARTNERS



Nick Gauci

- Pray for half a dozen guys I'm discipling. Give thanks for progress with godliness, love and sharing their faith.
- Give thanks for new Christian "D" who I'm meeting with and getting to see the lightbulb moments most weeks. Please pray he continues to live in light of the cross.
- Pray for another person to come to new life this year. We regularly have two blokes who don't know Jesus joining us.
- Pray for health over winter. Love the cold weather but my immune system doesn't.

NOTES

PRAYER POINTS



VILLAGE CHURCH
2018