

# **Lent Course on Hebrews 2021**

## **Study Guide**

To accompany Bishop Donald's video teaching series on the Letter to the Hebrews, the much-ignored New Testament guide to following Jesus in a world where religious tradition could so easily lead us to miss the point.

These seven half-hour video talks could be used by churches or individuals as an online Bible Day (with appropriate breaks for coffee, pastries, or whatever else keeps you alert), or they could be used as the basis for an online study course, with one talk and study each week in Lent.

# Session 1: Jesus – greater than religion

Download the Session 1 [video files](#) or [audio-only files](#).

## **Listen:**

1. The Introduction
2. Reading: Hebrews chapters 1-3
3. Talk: Jesus - greater than religion

## **Discuss:**

1. From the passages and talk, what surprised you, jumped out at you, or didn't you understand about **Jesus**?
2. What leads *you* to God?
3. How does Jesus fit into that?

## **Weekly Challenge**

The challenge for Christians is to discover that Jesus is more important than anything else.

- In which areas of your daily life might this be obvious?
- How might you seek to become more aware of and responsive to Jesus, so that he *is* the most important focus?

Be prepared to discuss this next week.

## **Further reading**

Billy Graham's "[Angels: God's Secret Agents](#)"

## Session 2: Jesus – a great high priest

Download the Session 2 [video files](#) or [audio-only files](#).

### **Share:**

How did you get on with putting Jesus first last week?

### **Listen:**

1. Reading: Hebrews chapters 4-5
2. Psalm 95 (optional)
3. Talk: Jesus - a great high priest

### **Discuss:**

1. From the passages and talk, what surprised you, jumped out at you, or didn't you understand about **hope**?
2. God's people were hoping to have their own land, salvation from Egypt, security, and safety from enemies. God's promise is bigger than these. Where do you put your hope? (Examples might be church buildings or traditions, retirement, family, health...)
3. How does Jesus fit into that?

### **Weekly Challenge**

Each day this week:

- pray for ways to refocus your hope
- pray for those people and places where hope seems lost
- [pray for places of conflict, especially in the Middle East](#)

### **Further reading**

Bishop's nominated Charity for 2021: [Embrace the Middle East](#)

## Session 3: Jesus – made perfect

Download the Session 3 [video files](#) or [audio-only files](#).

### **Share:**

How did your prayers last week change your perspectives on hope?

### **Listen:**

1. Reading: Hebrews chapters 6-7
2. Talk: Jesus – made perfect

### **Discuss:**

1. From the passages and talk, what surprised you, jumped out at you, or didn't you understand about **Melchizedek**? Read or listen to Genesis 14.18-20 for more about him.
2. Hebrew Christians were used to priests making sacrifices on their behalf for the atonement for their sins, and to try and make things better with God. How does Jesus challenge that?

### **Weekly Challenge**

We are not perfect, but that is not a reason to give up and stop growing in Christ: we don't need to strive for perfection or work for salvation because Jesus has done that for us.

At the end of each day this week:

- reflect on where you may have let yourself down, or where someone else has let you down, and invite Jesus in – He is perfect: *don't wrestle; just nestle - in Jesus*

## Session 4: Jesus – mediator of a new covenant

Download the Session 4 [video files](#) or [audio-only files](#).

### **Share:**

How did last week's challenge affect your relationship with others, your relationship with Jesus, and / or how you feel within yourself?

### **Listen:**

1. Reading: Hebrews chapters 8-9
2. Talk: Jesus - mediator of a new covenant

### **Discuss:**

1. From the passages and talk, what surprised you, jumped out at you, or didn't you understand about **the Old Testament system of offering sacrifices?**
2. What have we lost, as a result of covid, which might be comparable to the Hebrew Christians losing their sacrificial system?
3. Where does Jesus fit into that?

### **Weekly Challenge**

Read chapter 9 v16-17 again. Each day this week:

- identify and reflect on the inheritance you have received from Jesus during the day
- give thanks in prayer
- consider what you might do with it or how you might make use of it: today, tomorrow, and going forward

## Session 5: Jesus – a finished work

Download the Session 5 [video files](#) or [audio-only files](#).

### **Share:**

What did you do with your inheritance last week?

### **Listen:**

1. Reading: Hebrews chapters 10
2. Talk: Jesus - a finished work

### **Discuss:**

1. From the passages and talk, what surprised you, jumped out at you, or didn't you understand about **Jesus' death and resurrection**?
2. What excites or scares you most about having free access to God?
3. How might you approach him in full assurance and faith?
4. How does Jesus fit into that?

### **Weekly Challenge**

Each day this week:

- find someone to mutually encourage in faith
- find a way to encourage someone to spend time with Jesus

### **Further reading**

Read John 4 about Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well

# Session 6: Something better - by faith

Download the Session 6 [video files](#) or [audio-only files](#).

## **Share:**

How were you encouraged, or otherwise, last week?

## **Listen:**

1. Reading: Hebrews chapters 11
2. Talk: Something better - by faith

## **Discuss:**

1. Which character(s) did you most identify with, or not know at all?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13:10-13. God chose some fairly unsavoury characters, yet they came to faith. How does this passage and Hebrews 11 encourage or challenge you in your faith?
3. Where does Jesus fit into that?

## **Weekly Challenge**

During this this week:

- look up the stories of the different characters mentioned and let God speak to you through them

# Session 7: Looking to Jesus

Download the Session 7 [video files](#) or [audio-only files](#).

## **Share:**

You may not have known all the stories or characters – did any strike a chord with you, for any reason, and if so, why or how?

What did you learn about yourself as you reflected on them?

## **Listen:**

1. Reading: Hebrews chapters 12-13
2. Talk: Looking to Jesus

## **Discuss:**

1. What encourages you in **keeping going with Jesus**?
2. Read Chapter 13v1 again. What does Jesus' love look like day to day, or what might it look like: personally, locally, nationally and internationally? Give specific examples.
3. How might this affect how you live out the rest of your life?

## **Final Challenge**

Reflect on what you have discovered over the past seven weeks.

- pray about those things which have struck you most about faith in Jesus
- reflect on and pray about what you might do differently during Easter and beyond in the context of where you find yourself at present with Jesus