

STUDY GUIDE TERM 3 2025

better.

JESUS IS GREATER

HEBREWS 1-7

Welcome to Term 3

While it's been good to do a thematic series (Reasons to Share Jesus) and finish off 2 Samuel, it's great this term to return to working through a New Testament book of the Bible in smaller chunks.

Great because it lets God set the agenda. We don't go to the Bible looking for our questions to be answered or demanding God solve our life issues. We go waiting to hear what God is revealing our hearts most need. So often we start out confused how what we read is relevant for us, but end encouraged in ways we never expected.

Great because to do it well, we need each other. Each of us brings different wisdom and skills to reading God's word. But we are promised that God equips his church with all we need to both understand his word and put it into practice as we build each other up in love (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Great because it reminds us how valuable Home Groups are. They are more than a Bible Study. They're a place where we not only gather to encourage each other (which we do on Sundays), but work together to listen to God speak in his word - learning together to hear him speak in the Bible.

And great because no matter where we are in the Bible, we are being lead to Jesus. Growing in our wonder at his power and his love, and discovering his Father's heart for us revealed in his gift of life to us on the cross. Especially this term, it's going to be great to hear week in, week out, that Jesus is "Better". And to find our hearts changed by what we hear.

This term it'll also be great to run Taste & See again. Run across four Sunday evenings from Sunday 20th July to Sunday 10th August, we look forward to time discussing Jesus and over good food and good company. Following Taste & See is the Where Hope Comes From evangelistic event with Glen Scrivener. Details of these events are in the pages ahead.

Finally, later in Term 3, Josh and his family will be heading away for Long Service Leave. So, while they're enjoying their break, we'll have a few visiting preachers to help with our Sunday services.

In the joy of serving Jesus,

Sam, Jen, & Josh

Term 3 Calendar

JULY

18 th July	Redlands Youth resumes
20 th July	Lords Supper
20 th July	Kids Church resumes
20 th July	Taste & See begins (first four weeks finishing 10 th August)
26 th July	Growing Together (Kids and Youth training day)

AUGUST

2 nd August	GROW Women's Conference
15 th August	Youth Combo Night - Glen Scrivener
16 th August	Where Hope Comes from - Glen Scrivener
17 th August	Compassion Letter Writing Sunday

SEPTEMBER

1 st September	Josh and family begin Long Service Leave (till 9 th November)
7 th September	Lords Supper
29 th September - 3 rd October	Fun and Adventure Camp

Taste & See



Taste & See is a course where people meet Jesus over good food, good conversation, and good company. The aim is that people might "taste and see that the Lord is good". Each week we walk through the Bible's story about Jesus over a meal that illustrates an aspect of that story. This is an evangelistic opportunity for our church to reach our community with the good news of Jesus.

We would love for you to be praying for this course, which runs over 4-consecutive Sunday evenings:

July 20th | July 27th | August 3rd | August 10th

Please be praying for outsiders to come to the table. Pray for open hearts to hear the good news of Jesus, and opportunities for those seeking to ask their questions in a non-threatening environment. Pray that those seeking would find answers through God's Word. Give thanks for Night Church and many others in our church family who are contributing to make this event possible. Pray that the organisation would go smoothly, and those present would be encouraged through this outreach event.



Pray especially that those who visit for the course would consider joining our church community, that the conversations at the table wouldn't end there but would continue beyond the Taste & See course.

If you would like more specific prayer points regarding Taste & See (e.g. names of those who are participating in the course) please contact me (Sam) as the course commences.

We appreciate your prayers and partnership in this important outreach ministry. May God be glorified and may many come to "taste and see that the Lord is good."


Glen Scrivener Evangelistic Events




Glen Scrivener is a gifted evangelist born in Australia who now lives in the UK. In August this year, Ann Street Presbyterian is hosting Glen for several evangelistic event. He directs the evangelistic ministry Speak Life (<https://speaklife.org.uk/>) and is the author of several books, including *The Air We Breathe: How We All Came to Believe in Freedom, Kindness, Progress, and Equality* and *3-2-1: The Story of God, the World, and You*.

Combo Night

In Partnership with Presbyterian Youth & Kids

 Friday 15th August

 7:00pm

 Living Church Carina, Cnr Creek & Fursden Roads


 <https://www.pyk.org.au/combo/>



Where Hope Comes From

Hosted by Ann Street Presbyterian Church

 Saturday 16 August

 7:00pm

 Albert Street Uniting Church
(across the road from Ann Street Presbyterian)

 <https://aspc.churchsuite.com/events/ttv0qqrw>



Launch Camp

Launch Camp is for students in Year 10-12 who have been encouraged by their home church to consider Christian leadership. It is an opportunity to hear from the Bible, be equipped in ministry skills and connect with peers from other churches who love Jesus and want to serve him.

This year, Launch Camp ran from June 30-July 4, and was attended by five of our youth from RPC/Shore Hope: Tessa, Anna, Benaiah, Jacob and Jonathan.

Here is a quick snapshot of Jonathan's experience at Launch Camp this year:

Q1. *In your own words, why does Launch Camp exist?*

Launch camp exists to provide a way for the next generation of Christians to learn useful, and necessary skills for going into ministry, or becoming future, well-educated laity.

Q2. *What ministry skills were you being equipped in at Launch Camp this year?*

The focused skill that I was equipped with, was walk up evangelism, with an eye to learning evangelism in general, and utilizing these skills for people within my life. However, the camp is also designed to equip many other ministry skills, and even some theological training.

Q3. *What aspects of the camp encouraged you?*

The largest encouragement was that there were close to 100 others there. The fact that so many people were so willing to go to a camp like Launch camp (which doesn't have any dedicated time to traditional forms of 'fun', [it does have a very large block of free time, don't let the lack of managed fun scare you off]), was very encouraging.

Q4. *What would you say to youth considering this camp in the future?*

Go. The camp was really good. Besides, a camp can't bite, and the people there are really nice (also the food was great).

PRAY

Pray for Tessa, Jonathan, Benaiah, Anna and Jacob who attended Launch Camp from Redlands/Shore Hope. Pray for them as they grow from the Bible teaching they heard and learn how they can use the ministry skills they learned in their daily lives. Pray for opportunities for our youth to serve Jesus in our local churches.

Women's Teaching Day 2025

What will we do with our messy lives? Should we polish them up and sort them out before we try to love God and love others? This was the question that the women who attended the teaching day wanted to grapple with.

On May 25th at the Women's Teaching Day, Clare Deeves helped us to think through how to have good expectations about our lives as followers of Jesus. We really appreciated her clear and faithful teaching from Romans 8 and Psalm 38 and her encouragement to be real with God. She reminded us that God is for us in Christ and to trust him. We also heard from other women in our congregation as they shared their experiences of trusting God with hard things and how he had continued to be faithful to them in all kinds of ways.

Around 75 women from Capalaba, Shore Hope, Wynnum and Manly-Lota Presbyterian churches as well as the Reformed Church in Ormiston joined together. We enjoyed incredible food and great fellowship throughout the day. It was so encouraging to sit under God's word, pray and sing together.

Next year we are planning to hold the Women's Teaching Day on Saturday, 23rd May. If you are a woman, we hope you join us; if you aren't, we hope you can pray for us and enable the women in your life to attend!



Hebrews – “Better”

Built into our culture is a longing to be “Better...” To achieve faster speeds, settle distant planets, run cleaner technology, develop more powerful technology, become better people...

Can we do the same in our relationship with God? How can we be “better” spiritually?

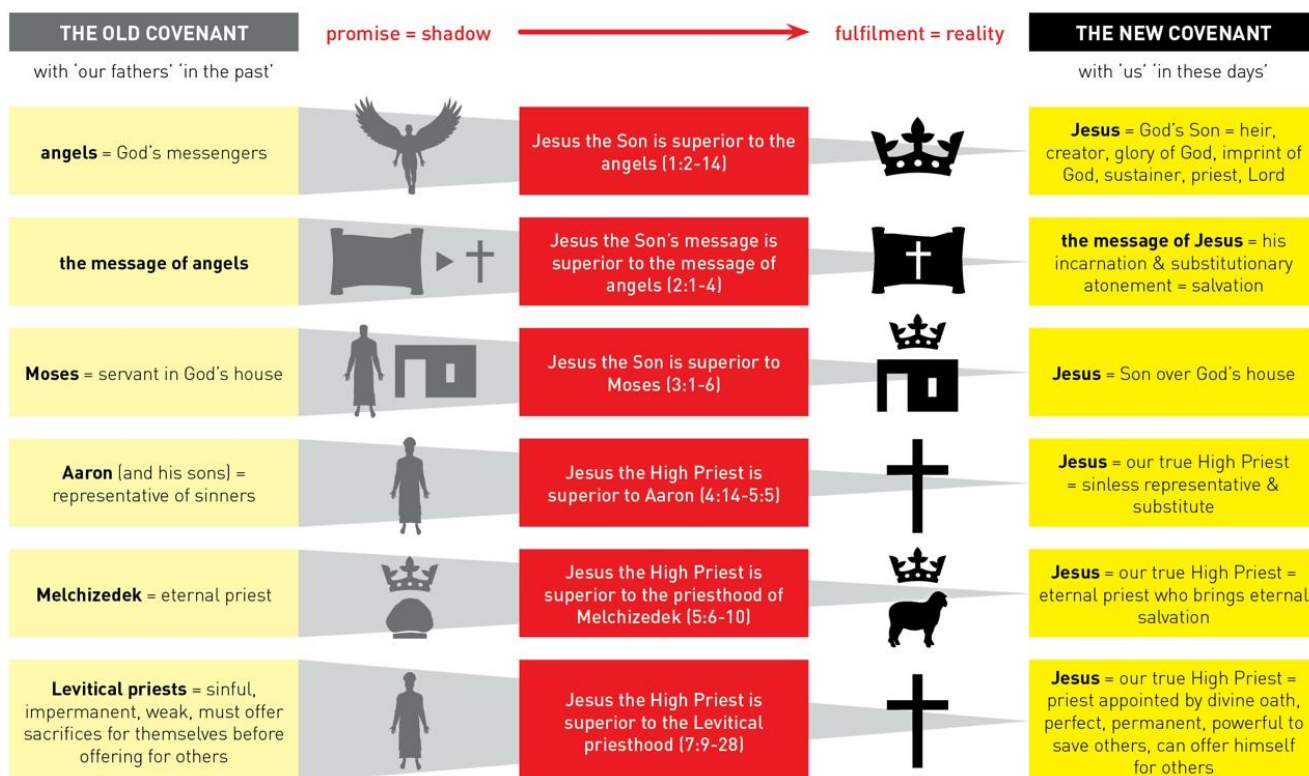
That was certainly the concern of the author of the book of the Bible we’re studying this term. Writing to Jewish Christians (Hebrews) who were feeling pressure to abandon Jesus and stick to only being Jewish, the letter to the Hebrews insists there’s a real difference between following Jesus and any other religion. Jesus is better.

Especially, he’s better than any other way God had provided before Jesus for knowing him and being right with him. (Check out the diagram over the page to see how the letter holds together.)

While we aren’t tempted by Jewish religious practices, there’s plenty of times we’re tempted to think that today there’s something better than Jesus. That peace of mind, a successful life, satisfaction in our relationships – that our modern insights and wisdom offer something better than we’ll find in the Bible. So, we still need the message of this ancient wisdom, preserved for us: Jesus is Better.

JESUS IS BETTER THE SHADOW & THE REALITY IN HEBREWS

© 2008 Mark Barry. Please do not republish without permission, but feel free to copy for personal use.



Warm-up

Can you think of times when you have been told something very clearly, and then proceeded to ask questions as though you had not been told?

Study

Read Hebrews 1:1-4

1. Discuss the idea that God speaks. In what ways should it surprise us? In what ways shouldn't it surprise us?
2. Verse 1 can be more accurately translated: "...through the prophets in many parts (i.e. in a fragmented /piecemeal manner) and in many ways". What is this saying about the way God spoke to people in the Old Testament?

How might the ancestors have interpreted these words God spoke in the past:

Gen 3:15

Gen 14:17-24

Leviticus 16:1-5

Deuteronomy 5:22-27

2 Samuel 7:10-16

Psalms 110

3. What/who is the difference between the way God spoke to the ancestors and the way he speaks to us in these last days (for last days see Isaiah 2:2; Dan 10:14; Mic 4:1)?
4. There are seven huge statements in verses 2 to 4 outlining the attributes and work of the Son. List them and discuss them.

5. According to verse 3, why is Jesus uniquely qualified to be the revealer of God?
6. What is the significance of Jesus sitting down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven?
7. What role did the angels play in the past (see Acts 7:38-39)? This passage is another way of saying Christ is the supreme revealer of God to us. The author finishes his opening exhortation by reminding us that this makes complete sense, as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. What does verse 5 tell us the name he has inherited is?

Interact

8. As we experience different things in our world and in our life today so many questions come up that we would like to ask God. How has does God's Son answer these questions for us?
9. Quite often Christians say things like, 'I'm waiting for a word from the Lord'. According to this passage what does God have left to say to us? And why might we not be satisfied with what we have heard?

Prayer

What can we pray in response to what we have learned?

What can we pray for each other?

What can we pray for our community?

What can we pray for our world?

God rules the universe through his Son Study 2

Warm-up

Have you ever underestimated someone's power and authority? What helped you see it as you should have?

Study

Read Hebrews 1:5-14

1. How do verses 5-14 continue the argument from verse 4?
2. In verses 5-13, the writer uses seven quotes from the Old Testament to demonstrate the supremacy of Jesus over angels (verse 4) and the whole universe. What specific quality of Jesus is being addressed by each quote that shows his supremacy?

Quote	Jesus' Supremacy
1. Verse 5a - Psalm 2:7	
2. Verse 5b - 2 Samuel 7:14	
3. Verse 6 - Psalm 97:7	
4. Verse 7 - Psalm 104:4	
5. Verse 8-9 - Psalm 45:6,7	
6. Verse 10-12 - Psalm 102:25-27	
7. Verse 13 - Psalm 110:1	

3. What does it mean that God's Son, Jesus, sits at God's right hand (verse 13, see verse 8 for help)? Is there anything in creation that has supremacy over him?

4. How would you summarise the relationship between the angels and Jesus?
5. One of the key warnings in Hebrews is that Christians shouldn't retreat back into Judaism and away from Christ. How does the writer's appeal to the Old Testament strengthen his argument?
6. Christ has already been described as the inheritor of all things and the one served by angels (verses 2, 6 & 7). Who else does verse 14 say the angels serve? How do they do this?

Interact

7. What would you say to a Christian who believed the Old Testament wasn't really that important or helpful? How might this passage suggest otherwise?
8. Do you believe in the omnipotent power of God's Son over the universe? If so, how is this belief reflected in (a) your prayer life, (b) your daily decision making, and (c) your concerns about the crises of the world?

Prayer

What can we pray in response to what we have learned?

What can we pray for each other?

What can we pray for our community?

What can we pray for our world?

Warm-up

Have you ever failed to pay careful attention to something that you should have? What was the end result?

Study

Read Hebrews 2:1-4

1. What is the specific danger being raised in verse 1 (read in the context of chapter 1)? What is the remedy to avoid the danger? And how does the remedy suggest the danger arose in the first place?
2. Verses 2-3 uses a "lesser to the greater" argument. What is the "lesser" message mentioned in verse 2 (see Deuteronomy 33:1-2)? What is the greater "salvation" mentioned in verse 3?
3. There's a chain of announcing the greater salvation in verse 3? Who is it first announced by, who was it announced to, and who have the current readers heard it from?
4. What was the just punishment for disobeying the law that verse 2 speaks about (see Deuteronomy 30:17-18)? How shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation spoken by Jesus?

5. What are the “signs, wonders, and various miracles” and “gifts of the Holy Spirit” that testify to such a great salvation?

Interact

6. How do you know whether you have paid careful attention to the gospel you have heard (see 2 Corinthians 13:5)? What kinds of questions would you ask yourself?
7. What kinds of pressures tend to make you drift away from “what we have heard”? How might our use of technology play a role in us drifting away? What activities and influences help you hold firm?
8. What disciplines could you put into practice to ensure that you “pay careful attention” to the great salvation of Jesus?

Prayer

What can we pray in response to what we have learned?

What can we pray for each other?

What can we pray for our community?

What can we pray for our world?

Warm-up

How would describe the dignity of humanity in the world to someone who had no knowledge of the Bible?

Study

Read Hebrews 2:5-9

1. In verse 5, the writer again refers to angels. Why would the writer been so concerned to show Jesus' supremacy to angels (see also 1:4,5,6,7,13,14)?
2. In verse 5, the writer says that it's not to angels that God subjected the world (although they do have a role to play in the world). He then quotes Psalm 8:4-6. Who did God subject to the world to? What other parts of the Bible teach this?
3. What is the glory and honour that we have been crowned with (verse 7-8)? How should this be expressed in the world (see Genesis 1:27-29; 2:15)?
4. What does it mean that "at the present we do not see everything subject to them (humans)" (verse 8)? How do we see this in our world?
5. How is Jesus both "made lower than the angels" and also "now crowned with glory and honor" (verse 9)?

6. For what reason was Jesus crowned with glory and honor? For what purpose did he suffer death?

Interact

7. Where do we see human dignity in its most glorious state? What are the main features of that dignity? How is that different from the way we might normally consider human dignity?
8. So far in Hebrews we have learnt that Jesus is truly God (1:3) and truly human (2:9). Why is it important for our salvation that Jesus is both? What problems emerge when we emphasise that Jesus is truly God at the expense of him being truly human and vice versa?
9. Have you considered the enormity of God's grace (2:9) in the incarnation, humiliation, and glorification of Jesus? How should it inform your view of God? What hope does it give us when we consider the reality that we're not who God intended us to be?

Prayer

What can we pray in response to what we have learned?

What can we pray for each other?

What can we pray for our community?

What can we pray for our world?

Warm-up

Share a distinctive “family trait” from your current family or extended family

Study

Read Hebrews 2:10-18

The word used for ‘author’ of salvation could also be translated ‘pioneer’ or ‘leader’ of salvation. It may be evoking the picture of Moses leading Israel during the Exodus (if you look ahead to chapter 3).

1. Looking at these verses, in what ways is Jesus the author/pioneer/leader of our salvation?
2. How did suffering make Jesus perfect as the author of our salvation ? (Looking back to verse 9 may help)
3. What is the glory that Jesus is bringing us to? How might it reflect the glory that Moses brought the Israelites too through the Exodus?
4. Jesus is pictured almost as our ‘worship leader’ who “makes people holy”. How is his holiness shared with us in this passage?

5. What difference does it make (in this passage, and for you personally) that Jesus is not merely acting for us, but is actually “like us” – sharing our flesh and blood – as he makes us holy?
6. What sort of help is Jesus able to give, in verses 16-18, when we are tempted?

Interact

7. You are not yet holy, yet Jesus is not ashamed of you. When has this been a comfort to you? How does it help you when you are praying, or when you turn up at church?
8. Verse 14 claims Jesus has broken the power of death and the devil. When have you found yourself fearing their power?
9. We are ‘free of the power of the devil’ yet still being ‘made holy’. How can that be challenging to live out? How have you found Jesus helps you in the face of temptation?

Prayer

What can we pray in response to what we have learned?

What can we pray for each other?

What can we pray for our community?

What can we pray for our world?

Warm-up

When are you most distracted? What is it that you're distracted by?

Study

Read Hebrews 3:1-6

1. The writer to the Hebrews spent the last chapter talking about Jesus bringing many sons to glory. Based on the start of this chapter, how does he want his readers to see themselves?
2. What is it about Jesus that we are to fix our thoughts on (see verses 1 and 2)? Where can we see this?
3. What is being said about Jesus in verses 3 and 4?
4. How does this passage depict Moses (consider 1:1-2 and 1:6-7, 14)?
5. What do verse 5-6 tell us about Christ (see 1:5 and 2 Samuel 7:12-16)?

6. How can we be part of God's house (see also Hos 8:1; Heb 8:8, 1 Tim 3:15)?

Interact

7. What do you think of Jesus' faithfulness? How has Jesus demonstrated his faithfulness over God's house?

8. What will fixing your thoughts on Jesus mean doing more of for you? What will it mean doing less of?

Prayer

What can we pray in response to what we have learned?

What can we pray for each other?

What can we pray for our community?

What can we pray for our world?

Warm-up

Why do you expect people to listen when you speak to them? How do you feel when they don't?

Study

Read Hebrews 3:7-19

1. Verse 7 is an example of the way the writer is never too specific about the exact location of his Bible quotes (see also 2:6). What could this tell us about his view of the authority of the Bible?
2. According to verses 7 to 14, what was Israel's attitude and what was the consequence of their attitude (See Numbers 14 for more info)?
3. The writer repeatedly uses the word "Today" in this passage. What does "Today" mean for us (see 1:2)?
4. How should we be different to Israel when it comes to listening? What will be the consequences if we are different (or are not!)?
5. Discuss how we hear his voice today and how we can encourage one another Today (remember 1:2).
6. Why do you think the writer to the Hebrews is so emphatic about belief (for example in verses 7, 15 and 4:7)?

7. What reason does the writer give for them falling short? Why has he put this in here?

Interact

8. How do you see the deceitfulness of sin at work hardening you "Today"?

9. How can we encourage one another to keep believing as long as it is called "Today"?

Prayer

What can we pray in response to what we have learned?

What can we pray for each other?

What can we pray for our community?

What can we pray for our world?

Warm-up

What would your ultimate rest be?

Study

Read Hebrews 4:1-13

1. In verses 1 and 2, what prevents people from entering God's rest?
2. What examples from the past are we given as a warning in verses 3-5? (See Psalm 95:7-11 and Genesis 2:1-3)
3. What is this rest God is promising? (See Deuteronomy 12:10; Hebrews 12:22-24 and here in verses 5, 6 & 8)
4. Has this rest ever been fully reached by God's people?
5. What rest is verses 9 to 11 urging us to enter (and how did God rest from his own work according to verse 3)?
6. According to verses 12 and 13 is there any way we can enter God's rest if we do not listen and believe? To whom then should we turn?

Interact

7. How can we remind each other of the good God has in store for us?

8. Given the power and importance of hearing and trusting God's word for us to enter his rest, share how you make it an intrinsic part of your day-to-day life. What would you like to try more?

9. How could we help anyone else (both Christians and non-Christians) to enter God's rest? What could that look like?

Prayer

What can we pray in response to what we have learned?

What can we pray for each other?

What can we pray for our community?

What can we pray for our world?

Warm-up

Have you ever been in the presence of someone famous? How did you feel?

Study

Read Hebrews 4:14-5:10

1. Why should having a great high priest who has gone through the heavens be a reason for us to hold firmly to the faith we profess?
2. What is the throne of grace (See Leviticus 16:2)? Why should our great high priest give us confidence?
3. What qualifies someone to be a high priest?
4. What qualifies Jesus to be our great high priest?
5. How is Jesus the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him? What does obey mean?
6. What does it mean that he is 'in the order of Melchizedek'?

Interact

7. How would you feel if you had to stand before God's throne today? Why?

8. What place is there for priests in the church today?

9. How can we help others to benefit from such a great high priest?

Prayer

What can we pray in response to what we have learned?

What can we pray for each other?

What can we pray for our community?

What can we pray for our world?

Warm-up

When have you been a quitter?

Study

Read Hebrews 5:11-6:20

1. What is the 'this' that the writer has much to say about?
2. Why is he critical of his readers?
3. What does he mean in 6:1 when he says let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity?
4. What does it mean to 'be brought back to repentance'? Who cannot be brought back to repentance? Why is it impossible for God to bring them back?
5. Why has the writer to the Hebrews put this in here?

6. Why is the writer confident of better things in the case of his readers?
7. What confidence does verses 13 to 20 give us that it is worth holding on to God's promises?

Interact

8. What will it look like for you/our church to go on to maturity (to build on the foundations)?
9. Have you ever been tempted to give up on Christ for a while, thinking you'll come back to him later in life? Why is this such a wrong way to think?
10. Remind each other why it is worth persevering with Jesus.

Prayer

What can we pray in response to what we have learned?

What can we pray for each other?

What can we pray for our community?

What can we pray for our world?

Warm-up

Have you ever upgraded to a new product (e.g. car, iron, fridge) that was immeasurably better than what it replaced? Share with the group.

Study

Read Hebrews 7:1-28.

1. Melchizedek is one of the most elusive figures on the Bible. Read Genesis 14:18-20. From these verses and the ones in Hebrews 7, what do we know about Melchizedek?
2. In 7:4-9, the writer proposes that Melchizedek was a greater priest than the Levitical priesthood that descended from Abraham. How does he make that case?
3. How is Jesus like Melchizedek in 7:11-19? Why did Jesus need to come as a priest "in the order of Melchizedek"? What was deficient about the Levitical priesthood?
4. Jesus is a priest who enables us to draw near to God (7:19). How has he done that (see 7:27) and what privileges do we receive in drawing near to God?
5. In 7:24, Jesus' is said to have a permanent priesthood. What difference does this make in Jesus being able to serve us (see 7:25)?

6. How does Jesus “truly meet our need” in 7:26-28? Why is it so important that Jesus is a sinless?

Interact

7. Why is Jesus an infinitely better priest than Israel’s priests? What difference does Jesus’ priesthood make in daily life?
8. Do you think this passage resonates with us as much as it did with the original readers? Why or why not? Why should it still resonate with us and how does it fill us with comfort and hope?
9. The expression “draw near to God” is often used today to talk about the subjective experience of feeling God’s presence. How might this passage enlarge our view of drawing near to God?

Prayer

What can we pray in response to what we have learned?

What can we pray for each other?

What can we pray for our community?

What can we pray for our world?

