



HEBREWS 11

# SOMETHING BETTER

NWH JOURNAL | 2022



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# **SOMETHING BETTER**

Study Journal | Northwest Hills Community Church 2022

## WELCOME TO THIS JOURNAL:

Over the next eleven weeks, we are going to be diving deeper into Hebrews chapter 11, oftentimes called the “Hall of Faith” passage. In Hebrews 11, the author reminds us of models of faith in the Bible, who lived out their love for God and were often willing to live counter-culturally to those around them in order to remain faithful. They knew that there was something better to live for and Someone better to follow. As we look at each of these individuals, like Noah, Abraham, Moses, Rahab, and more, we may remember that they weren’t perfect people (they still had humanity’s curse – sin) but they were people who pursued God and lived faithfully, trusting in the one who keeps all his promises.

As we study these different people from the Bible, our hope is that we will be challenged to live out God’s call on our lives through the giftings that he has given each of us, and with living faith!

“And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.”  
(Hebrews 11:39-40)

The following pages will share how to get the most out of this journal during this series as well as deepen our commitment to practice the spiritual disciplines with a monthly spiritual discipline focus and a charge to integrate these practices into our daily lives.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 7 Introduction to Hebrews
- 12 Week One (June 26)  
– *Hebrews 11:1-3*
- 15 July Spiritual Discipline Focus: Celebration
- 16 Week Two (July 3)  
– *Hebrews 11:4*
- 19 Week Three (July 10)  
– *Hebrews 11:5-6*
- 22 Week Four (July 17)  
– *Hebrews 11:7*
- 25 Week Five (July 24)  
– *Hebrews 11:8-16 Pt. 1*
- 28 Week Six (July 31)  
– *Hebrews 11:8-16 Pt. 2*
- 31 Spiritual Discipline: Reflection
- 32 August Spiritual Discipline Focus: Simplicity
- 33 Week Seven (August 7)  
– *Hebrews 11:17-21*
- 36 Week Eight (August 14)  
– *Hebrews 11:22*
- 39 Week Nine (August 21)  
– *Hebrews 11:23-28*
- 42 Week Ten (August 28)  
– *Hebrews 11:29-31*
- 45 Spiritual Discipline Reflection
- 46 FINAL WEEK: Week Eleven (September 4)  
– *Hebrews 11:32-40*
- 49 Final Reflection

## INTRODUCTION TO HEBREWS 11



### Author, Date, and Recipients

The author of Hebrews is unknown. He knew Timothy (13:23). He was not an eyewitness of Jesus (see 2:1, 3). The letter was probably written before A.D. 70. Early manuscripts bear the title “To the Hebrews,” which reflects the ancient assumption that it was written to Jewish Christians as well as Gentile Christians who previously had been drawn to the Jewish religion. The author knew his readers and wanted to see them again (13:19).

### Theme

Jesus Christ is greater than any angel, priest, or old covenant practice. Christians must not forsake the great salvation that Jesus has brought about. They must hold on by faith to the true rest found in Christ, and they must encourage others in the church to do the same.

### Purpose, Occasion, and Background

Hebrews has two primary purposes: to encourage Christians to endure, and to warn them not to abandon their faith in Christ. These warning passages appear throughout the book (2:1–4; 3:7–4:13; 5:11–6:12; 10:19–39; 12:1–29). The author encourages faithfulness, love, and sound doctrine. He does so by carefully teaching the OT in light of God’s revelation in Jesus Christ.

The author shows the superiority of Christ and his new covenant over angels, Moses, the OT priesthood, and the OT sacrificial system. These are so inferior to Christ that it is futile to return to them—or to go anywhere else. Rather, believers should hold fast to their faith, because that faith is grounded in the most superior revelation.

The background of such exhortations must have been the readers’ need to continue enduring amid persecution and the trials of life (e.g., ch. 12). They appear to have grown less attentive to Christian instruction (5:11–14), and some apparently have ceased regular attendance at their meetings (10:25). The author reminds them of their past faithfulness and love despite persecution (10:32–34).

Ultimately, the author’s words of encouragement and exhortation

are rooted in his teaching about Jesus Christ. The Son of God became the heavenly high priest, who offered himself as a sacrifice once for all. Christ obtained salvation for all who approach him in faith (6:1; 11:6; compare 4:2), and such faith perseveres until it receives the promised eternal reward (6:12; 10:22, 38–39).

## Key Themes

- I. Jesus is fully God and fully man (1:1–14; 2:5–18).
- II. Jesus, the Son of God, reveals God the Father. He is the creator and he sustains all creation (1:1–14). Ruth and Naomi’s desperate conditions changed for the better (4:13–17) when Boaz agreed to be their kinsman-redeemer (4:9–10). This resulted in blessing for Ruth (marriage and motherhood; 4:13) and for Naomi (happiness in her old age; 4:14–15). Redemption also brought blessing to the community (4:11–12) and, through David, to the nation (4:14, 17). Ultimate redemption would finally come through David’s “son,” Jesus the Christ. In him, redeemed people of all nations, no longer strangers and aliens, become fellow citizens in God’s household (Eph. 2:11–22).
- III. Jesus is the eternal high priest. As a man, he sympathizes with human weaknesses, and he offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin (1:3; 2:10–18; 4:15–16; 9:11–10:19).
- IV. Jesus is superior to angels, to Moses, to the Mosaic covenant, to the earthly tabernacle, and to the priesthood (1:4–2:18; 3:1–6; 5:1–10; 7:1–10:18).
- V. All humanity faces eternal judgment for sin (4:12–13; 9:27–28; 10:26–31).
- VI. Faith is necessary to please God and to participate in his eternal salvation. Faith requires confidence about the unseen realities of God and his promises. Such faith produces perseverance (6:1; 10:22, 38–39; 11:1–40).
- VII. Perseverance is necessary in the Christian life; believers are warned against a lack of endurance (2:1–4; 3:7–4:13; 10:19–39; 12:1–29).
- VIII. God’s promises are trustworthy, including his promise of eternal salvation (6:13–20).
- IX. With the coming of Jesus Christ, the last days have begun. They will be completed when he returns (1:2; 9:9–28; 12:22–29).

## Outline

- I. Jesus Is Superior to Angelic Beings (1:1–2:18)
- II. Jesus Is Superior to the Mosaic Law (3:1–10:18)
- III. Call to Faith and Endurance (10:19–12:29)
- IV. Concluding Encouragements and Remarks.

Introduction to Hebrews. “ESV Bible”, Crossway,  
[www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-hebrews/](http://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-hebrews/)

## WHAT IS IN THIS JOURNAL?

This journal has been put together by NWH to help guide us through Hebrews chapter 11 in our own personal study throughout the week. This journal shouldn’t replace the Sunday gathering but rather serve as a helpful, supplemental resource to engage more deeply both in God’s word and with the spiritual disciplines. This summer we will be focusing on celebration and simplicity.

## JOURNAL STRUCTURE

### Each Week

We will be taking a deep dive into chapter 11 of Hebrews throughout an 11-week period. Take time to look at the different heroes of faith throughout this single chapter.

At the beginning of each week, there is space to take notes during the Sunday message. Then, Monday through Friday, explore the stories of each of these individuals and reflect on how God worked through their lives and how God continues to work through ours!

### Each Month

At the beginning of each month, we will focus on one of the disciplines. We encourage you to write out a plan for how you want to try to incorporate this discipline into your daily life throughout the month. We also encourage you to look at additional resources for these disciplines to learn more about how to practice them. Check out our resource list at the end of this Introduction for some of our favorite books and helpful study materials.

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

- *BibleProject Videos: bibleproject.com/learn/hebrews*
- blueletterbible.org
- biblegateway.com

## HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR PRACTICING SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

### **YouTube Resources**

- *What are Spiritual Disciplines (Desiring God) - <https://youtu.be/N3NFC-UHqc0>*
- *Consistent Spiritual Discipline is Not Legalism (Desiring God) - <https://youtu.be/pJG8EWLEjQo>*
- *How Do I Know If I'm Doing the Spiritual Disciplines Right? (Desiring God) - <https://youtu.be/9y12FjZbjI>*

### **Books**

These resources can be found in our NWH Bookstore in the lobby!

- *Celebration of Discipline by Richard F. Foster*
- *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality by Peter Scazzero*
- *The Spirit of the Disciplines by Dallas Willard*



## WEEKLY REFLECTION: WEEK ONE

*Read Sunday's passage and the following passage(s). What is God showing you through his Word about Himself? How should it change you?*

### **"ASSURANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR"**

**Hebrews 11:1-3**, Hebrews 6:11 & 18, Hebrews 10:23, Genesis 1:1, Psalm 33:6, Psalm 9, Psalm 90:2, John 1:3, Acts 14:15, Romans 4:17

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## JULY

### **Spiritual Discipline Focus – CELEBRATION**

Richard Foster calls celebration "the heart of the way of Christ". When Jesus came, he came with "great joy" (Luke 2:10) to bring true joy to all people through his saving act of redemption! Celebration, as a discipline, is a response to the joy that we have in Christ and what he has done in our lives through singing, dancing, laughing, thanksgiving, and enjoying the goodness of God with others! The spiritual discipline of celebration could be hosting an extravagant feast or party with fellow Jesus followers or even just being intentional about celebrating Easter or Christmas! We celebrate abundantly because of the abundant love Christ as shown us. We gather with others and share the blessings we've been given, living out our joy together. There is joy in His strength and in celebrating because of who God is as we continue pursuing loving Jesus, living like Jesus, and making Him known!

#### **Ideas for practicing this discipline:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Now make a commitment. Over the next couple weeks, how do you want to try and create a space for this discipline?**

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Community Church