

Draw near to God

This is a set of readings for June that invite us to draw near to God. We are working our way through the Book of Hebrews – a rich and marvellous letter. Each passage challenges us to see Jesus in a fresh way and respond to him with trust. The whole book of Hebrews is an invitation to draw near to God through Jesus.

As you read, ask God to open your eyes to the majesty of Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

The Holy Bible: Holman Christian standard version. (2009). Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.

| Day | Verses | Verse reference | Questions |
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| 1 | Long ago God spoke to the fathers by the prophets at different times and in different ways. In these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son. God has appointed Him heir of all things and made the universe through Him. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of His nature, sustaining all things by His powerful word. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. So He became higher in rank than the angels, just as the name He inherited is superior to theirs. | Hebrews 1:1-4 | How is Jesus described in this passage? What strikes you the most about the Son? How should you respond to Jesus? |
| 2 | We must, therefore, pay even more attention to what we have heard, so that we will not drift away. For if the message spoken through angels was legally binding and every transgression and disobedience received a just punishment, how will we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was first spoken by the Lord and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him. At the same time, God also testified by signs and wonders, various miracles, and distributions of gifts from the Holy Spirit according to His will. | Hebrews 2:1-4 | What is the warning in this passage? What does drifting look like in your life? How are you tempted to neglect your salvation? How should you respond to these words? |
| 3 | As it is, we do not yet see everything subjected to him. But we do see Jesus— made lower than the angels for a short time so that by God's grace He might taste death for everyone—crowned with glory and honour because of His suffering in death. | Hebrews 2:8b-9 | Humanity seems out of control, What does Jesus show us about humanity? Why did Jesus taste death for us? How should we respond to Jesus? |
| 4 | For in bringing many sons to glory, it was entirely appropriate that God—all things exist for Him and through Him—should make the source of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the One who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. | Hebrews 2:10-11 | What is the goal of the ministry of Jesus? How was Jesus perfected through suffering? What is the significance of the humanity of Jesus? How do you feel about this? |

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| 5 | Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, Jesus also shared in these, so that through His death He might destroy the one holding the power of death—that is, the Devil — and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. | Hebrews 2:14–15 | What did the death of Jesus achieve? What was it necessary for Jesus to share our humanity? How do you respond to Jesus here? |
| 6 | For it is clear that He does not reach out to help angels, but to help Abraham’s offspring. Therefore, He had to be like His brothers in every way, so that He could become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tested and has suffered, He is able to help those who are tested. | Hebrews 2:16–18 | Why is it significant that Jesus was human? How does the humanity of Jesus help his ministry? What comfort is there here for us? |
| 7 | For Jesus is considered worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder has more honour than the house. Now every house is built by someone, but the One who built everything is God. Moses was faithful as a servant in all God’s household, as a testimony to what would be said in the future. But Christ was faithful as a Son over His household. And we are that household if we hold on to the courage and the confidence of our hope. | Hebrews 3:3–6 | In what way is Jesus greater than Moses? Why is this significant for us? What is our relationship to Jesus? How should we respond to him? |
| 8 | Watch out, brothers, so that there won’t be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart that departs from the living God. But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today , so that none of you is hardened by sin’s deception. For we have become companions of the Messiah if we hold firmly until the end the reality that we had at the start. As it is said: Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion. | Hebrews 3:12–15 | What is the warning here for us? How do you develop an evil unbelieving heart? How is this a warning for you? Where is your heart at with respect to Jesus? |
| 9 | For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. Therefore, a Sabbath rest remains for God’s people. For the person who has entered His rest has rested from his own works, just as God did from His. Let us then make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall into the same pattern of disobedience. | Hebrews 4:8–11 | How do you enter the REST of God? What does the rest remind you of? How does the rest impact on how you live in the present? |
| 10 | For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart. No creature is hidden from Him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give an account. | Hebrews 4:12–13 | How is God’s Word described ? How does this encourage us to treat God’s Word? What should we expect God’s Word to do? Why should we read God’s Word? |

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| 11 | Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to the confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tested in every way as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time. | Hebrews 4:14–16 | Why is the ascension of Jesus significant for us? What comfort is there in Jesus humanity? What is the invitation of these verses? What does this look like in your life? |
| 12 | During His earthly life, He offered prayers and appeals with loud cries and tears to the One who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. Though He was God’s Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. After He was perfected, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him, and He was declared by God a high priest in the order of Melchizedek. | Hebrews 5:7–10 | What does Jesus prayer life teach us? Why did Jesus have to suffer? What does it mean that Jesus is our high priest? |
| 13 | We have a great deal to say about this, and it’s difficult to explain, since you have become too lazy to understand. Although by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the basic principles of God’s revelation again. You need milk, not solid food. Now everyone who lives on milk is inexperienced with the message about righteousness, because he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature—for those whose senses have been trained to distinguish between good and evil. | Hebrews 5:11–14 | What is the warning of these verses? What does solid food look like? What is the mark of the mature? How do you attain maturity? |
| 14 | We have this hope as an anchor for our lives, safe and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain. Jesus has entered there on our behalf as a forerunner, because He has become a high priest forever in the order of Melchizedek. | Hebrews 6:19–20 | How is the anchor word picture helpful? What is the significance of Jesus ascension into heaven for us? How do these words encourage us? |
| 15 | So Jesus has also become the guarantee of a better covenant. Now many have become Levitical priests, since they are prevented by death from remaining in office. But because He remains forever, He holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore, He is always able to save those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to intercede for them. For this is the kind of high priest we need: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. | Hebrews 7:22–26 | What do we learn about the priesthood of Jesus? What is Jesus doing right now? What comfort is there in these words? How should we respond to Jesus? |

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| 16 | Now the main point of what is being said is this: We have this kind of high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister of the sanctuary and the true tabernacle that was set up by the Lord and not man. | Hebrews 8:1-2 | What is the point of this section? Where is Jesus sitting down? Why is Jesus sitting down? What are we supposed to understand about Jesus? |
| 17 | But the Messiah has appeared, high priest of the good things that have come. In the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands (that is, not of this creation), He entered the most holy place once for all, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. | Hebrews 9:11-12 | Why did Jesus have to die? Why was a blood sacrifice necessary? What do we learn about the sacrifice of Jesus? |
| 18 | According to the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. Therefore it was necessary for the copies of the things in the heavens to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves to be purified with better sacrifices than these. For the Messiah 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. | Hebrews 9:22-24 | Why was the shedding of blood necessary for forgiveness? What does this teach us about the character of God? Where did Jesus go? Why is this important for us? |
| 19 | But now He has appeared one time, at the end of the ages, for the removal of sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And just as it is appointed for people to die once—and after this, judgment— so also the Messiah, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him. | Hebrews 9:26b-28 | Why did Jesus come the first time? What will Jesus do at his second coming? What should we do in the meantime? How does this promise shape the way we wait? |
| 20 | Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water. Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. | Hebrews 10:22-23 | In the light of Jesus once and for sacrifice, what is this passage encouraging us to do? What is the grounds we have for holding on to our hope? How do these passages encourage you to respond to God? |

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| 21 | And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near. | Hebrews 10:24-25 | In the light of Jesus once and for sacrifice, what is this passage encouraging us to do? What do these words look like in your life? How can you encourage members of your church family? |
| 22 | By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and went out to a place he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed as a foreigner in the land of promise, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, coheirs of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. | Hebrews 11:8-10 | Abraham is named among 'the cloud of witnesses', what do we learn from him about faith? What kept Abraham moving forward? What does this teach you to fix your eyes on? |
| 23 | By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest he who destroyed the firstborn should touch them. | Hebrews 11:24-28 | Moses is named among 'the cloud of witnesses', what do we learn from him about faith? Why did Moses choose affliction over treasures? How was Moses Faith expressed? How is Moses related to Jesus? |
| 24 | Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the source and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that lay before Him endured a cross and despised the shame and has sat down at the right hand of God's throne. | Hebrews 12:1-2 | What are the invitations of this passage? How does the word picture of the race spur us on? How does the example of Jesus help us to keep running? |
| 25 | No discipline seems enjoyable at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it yields the fruit of peace and righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore strengthen your tired hands and weakened knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated but healed instead. | Hebrews 12:11-13 | Why does God discipline his children? What can we learn from suffering for the Gospel? What is the fruit of discipline in our lives? How do these words encourage us? |

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| 26 | <p>Instead, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God (the heavenly Jerusalem), to myriads of angels in festive gathering, to the assembly of the firstborn whose names have been written in heaven, to God who is the Judge of all, to the spirits of righteous people made perfect, to Jesus (mediator of a new covenant), and to the sprinkled blood, which says better things than the blood of Abel.</p> <p>Make sure that you do not reject the One who speaks.</p> | Hebrews 12:22–25a | The Christian is invited to boldly approach the throne of God in our time of need, how does this picture encourage us to do that? How does this picture of God's Throne room stir you? Where do you fit in this picture? |
| 27 | <p>Let brotherly love continue. Don't neglect to show hospitality, for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it. Remember the prisoners, as though you were in prison with them, and the mistreated, as though you yourselves were suffering bodily. Marriage must be respected by all, and the marriage bed kept undefiled, because God will judge immoral people and adulterers.</p> | Hebrews 13:1-4 | True worship is offering your life in grateful service to God, how is this seen practically in these verses? How can you practise these things? How can you keep the marriage bed pure? |
| 28 | <p>Remember your leaders who have spoken God's word to you. As you carefully observe the outcome of their lives, imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Don't be led astray by various kinds of strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be established by grace and not by foods, since those involved in them have not benefited.</p> | Hebrews 13:7–9 | True worship is offering your life in grateful service to God. How are we encouraged to respond to our church leaders? What can you pray for your church leaders? What should they help you to do? |
| 29 | <p>Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Pray for us; for we are convinced that we have a clear conscience, wanting to conduct ourselves honourably in everything.</p> | Hebrews 13:17–19 | True worship is offering your life in grateful service to God. How can you show gratitude to you're your church leaders? What does the writer encourage us to pray for? How can you pray for your church leaders? |
| 30 | <p>Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus—the great Shepherd of the sheep —with the blood of the everlasting covenant, equip you with all that is good to do His will, working in us what is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ. Glory belongs to Him forever and ever. Amen.</p> <p>Brothers and Sisters, I urge you to receive this message of exhortation.</p> | Hebrews 13:20–22a | The Book of Hebrews finishes with a prayer, What are we encouraged to pray for? Where does Jesus fit in this prayer? How has this book encouraged you to boldly approach God? |

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For a visual overview of how the New Covenant in Jesus is better than the old, [click here](#).