

rockypc SERIES COMPANION 2026

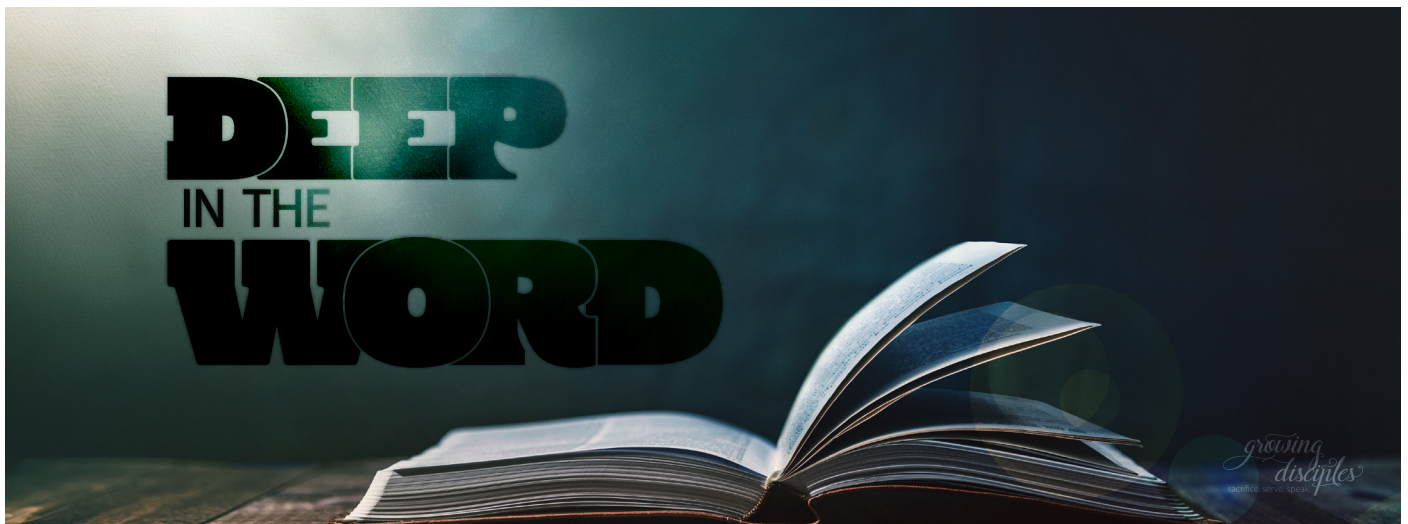
TERM 2

DEEP IN THE WORD



*growing
disciples*
sacrifice. serve. speak

*growing
disciples*
sacrifice. serve. speak



THE WORD

At **rockypc**, we talk a lot about the Word of God. It's a key part of our CORE VALUES, to get DEEP IN THE WORD, and our VISION STATEMENT of being growing disciples who SPEAK for the sake of others. Our understanding of God's Word is vital for how we understand our salvation. As the 16th Century Reformers stated, we know salvation by Scripture Alone (along with their other maxims of in Christ Alone, by Faith Alone, through Grace Alone, to the Glory of God Alone). We're going to spend 4 weeks thinking about God's Word, and understanding how God speaks to us in his Word. We will see that God's words are written down for us in the Bible, but that ultimately, his word comes to us in a person. Jesus, the eternal Word become flesh, reveals his Father to us in grace and truth. He is all we need to be able to know God and live for him. And we need to respond to him with soft-hearted faith and obedience.

PLAN

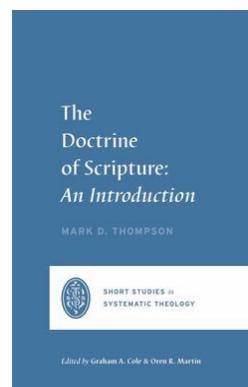
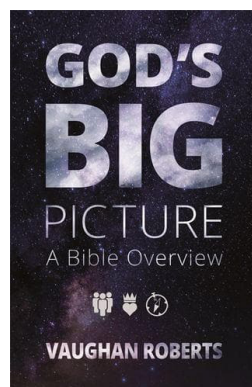
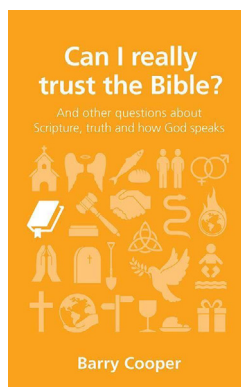
Week 1 — The Word become Flesh — John 1v1-18

Week 2 — The Final Word — Hebrews 1v1-2v4

Week 3 — The Divine Word — 2 Peter 1v12-21; 3v15-18; 2 Timothy 3v10-17

Week 4 — The Living Word — Hebrews 3-4

Check out these book recommendations for further reading about God's word and how to learn from it.



HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS SERIES COMPANION

ON YOUR OWN— If you have time, work through the questions before your GROWTH GROUP so that you've started thinking about the passage before you arrive.

WITH YOUR GROWTH GROUP—Don't be afraid to stop and talk about things that grab your attention or raise questions for you.

ON SUNDAY—Make sure you bring your SERIES COMPANION along with you, so that you can keep track of any questions you have and record the way that God's Spirit is helping you to understand His Word and grow in your love for Jesus.

These series companions are designed to be used as either a print version, or interactively on a device. Use whichever method is most helpful for you.

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

JOHN 1v1-18

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

Something I Never Knew:

Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

GROWTH GROUP STUDY

Would your family describe you as a talker? In what context do you talk the most?

We're starting off this new series on the Word of God in John 1. We hear about a person who is described as God's Word in the flesh.

READ JOHN 1v1-5

1. What do you notice about this Word?

READ GENESIS 1v1-5

2. How do you think John is reflecting on the creation narrative as he thinks about this Word?

READ JOHN 1v6-8

3. What is John's role?

Note: This is John the Baptist, not the author of the book, who is John the disciple of Jesus.

READ JOHN 1v9-13

4. What do you think it means that the Word is also the True Light?

5. What are the different reactions to the light coming to his world, and to his own people?

READ JOHN 1v14-18

6. How does the Word reveal God the Father?

7. What does the Word reveal about the Father (in a different way from Moses)?

8. What do you think the phrases 'full of grace and truth', 'grace in place of grace' and 'grace and truth came through Jesus' mean?

growing disciples

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As we've read about Jesus today, what has been precious to you, ?

What drives you to want to know him better?



If God had never spoken through his Word, what would we lack?

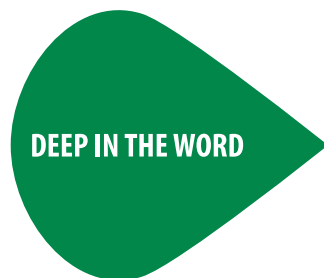
If his Word had never become flesh and dwelt among us, what would we lack?



What blessings are there for those who receive Jesus and believe in his name? Has this been your experience?



How would you respond to someone who says, 'The God of the Old Testament is harsh and cruel, but Jesus is kind and gentle in the New Testament'?



PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that he is a speaking God and that he wants us to know him. Praise him that Jesus reveals him to us.
- Praise the God who is full of grace and truth and that we can see this most clearly in the One and Only Son, who is God himself.
- Praise Jesus, the eternal Word of God, who has life in himself. Praise him as the Word of creation, who made everything, as he spoke it into being.
- Praise Jesus as the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us. Ask that we might see how glorious he is.
- Thank God that Jesus is the light of all mankind. He is not overcome by darkness but shines his glory and truth into our world.
- Pray that we might receive Jesus, believing in his name. Thank God that as we believe, we become his children. Thank him for the abounding grace we receive.
- Ask that we might want to know God better, through his Word, as we delight in Jesus.
- Pray for those in our city who have not yet recognised Jesus. Ask that we would keep proclaiming him to friends and family, and that God might grant them the light of life.

THE FINAL WORD

HEBREWS 1v1-2v4

IN THE SPACE BELOW YOU CAN TAKE NOTES FROM THE BIBLE TALK. (IF YOU'RE USING THIS ON A DEVICE YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLICK AND START TYPING.)

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Something I Was Reminded About:

A Question I Still Have:

Something I Was Challenged To Think Differently About / Do Differently:

Something I Can Share:

A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

GROWTH GROUP STUDY

How do your not-yet-believing friends and family think God speaks to us? How do they wish he'd speak? (Is this any different to you, or your other Christian friends?)

Last week, John told us of the Word of God who became flesh to dwell among us and reveal the grace and truth of the Father. Hebrews 1 explores a different angle of the Word spoken by God. This book is written to Jewish Christians who are in danger of turning back to Jewish law and practices, and being drawn away from Jesus. The anonymous author explains beautiful truths about Jesus in Ch 1 and then exhorts his listeners to action in 2v1-4.

READ HEBREWS 1v1-4

1. How has God spoken to their Hebrew ancestors in the past? Can you think of examples of the ways God spoke in the Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures?

2. How has God spoken in these last days?

The 'last days' is a phrase used by prophets like Isaiah (Ch 2) and Micah (Ch 4) to describe a future time of blessing when Israel's exile would be over, her temple restored and all nations would stream there in peace and blessing. This is not about a time of world-ending judgement and restoration. It is first and foremost about the coming of God's Son — primarily fulfilled in the coming of Jesus in the first century.

3. What do we learn about God's Son here?

The angels in v4 seem like a random topic change. At first glance, it's hard to see why the author would take such a sharp detour. And the rest of the chapter is going to follow this train of thought. What's going on?! Our ideas about angels may be influenced by our culture's ideas of wings, harps and personal, spiritual guardians. Or we might be unwilling to believe in them at all, because we've been taught to think about the world as having scientific causes and effects, rather than seeing a spiritual element to what happens in our physical world. It's worth trying to understand how the author and his Jewish audience thought about angels, as they read their Scriptures, so that we don't miss what is important here.

- Angels are created beings who are like spiritual courtiers in God's throne room (Nehemiah 9v6), where they give him glory and praise (Psalm 148; Isaiah 6v1-4).
- Angels are often the means by which God carries out his actions in the world, like sharing his blessing (Genesis 16); saving (Genesis 22; Exodus 14v19-20), guiding (Genesis 24; Exodus 23v20-23); or bringing his judgement (Numbers 22; 2 Samuel 24v15-27; 2 Chronicles 32v20-21)
- Angels appear to people as God's representatives, and they are so closely linked that people see the angel and speak about having seen God (Exodus 3v1-6; Judges 13)
- Angels are messengers from God, so that they speak to people on his behalf (Genesis 31v10-13; Exodus 3; Numbers 22; Zechariah 1v7-17)
 - Angels mediated the giving of the law to Moses — more on this later

So to draw all of this together, in the past times of Hebrew Scriptures, God used angels to speak his words to prophets, so that they would in turn speak them to the people.

But now, someone better has come! The writer of Hebrews goes on to quote a number of Old Testament passages to make his point.

See more about angels here:

<https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/biblical-facts-angels>

READ HEBREWS 1v5

4. What is unique about the Son? Compare with v2-3, to see more about this role. See also Psalm 2 and 2 Samuel 7v1-17

READ HEBREWS 1v6-7

5. What is the difference between the Son and angels here? See also Deuteronomy 32v36-43 (v43 is the Dead Sea Scroll/Septuagint variation) and Psalm 104v1-4

READ HEBREWS 1v8-14

6. How do these Old Testament passages describe the Son, and what the Father will do/has done for him? See also Psalm 95v1-7; Psalm 102v18-28; Psalm 110

7. What is the angels' role? How is this a status comparison with the Son? v14

READ HEBREWS 2v1-4; DEUTERONOMY 33v1-3; ACTS 7v51-53; GALATIANS 3v19-20

8. What was the particular message spoken by angels that is in focus here? How is that message described in v2?

9. How is that message contrasted with the message of the Lord Jesus?

10. How should we respond to the message of the Lord Jesus? What are the consequences for not doing this?

11. From what we've read today, what should our view be of Old Testament Scripture? What about Jesus' words and actions? And, the New Testament Scriptures as confirmed by the apostles who heard Jesus?

Today, we've focused again, on Jesus who is God's word to us. And we've started to form a link between Jesus, who is the word incarnate and the way we refer to the whole Bible as the word of God. We will focus more next week on the Bible as a divine word from God. Stay tuned! Perhaps your question is whether we should expect to hear God speak audibly to us today. There is a link below to an excerpt from a talk by Tim Keller, and a link to an article by Nancy Guthrie, to help you think that through. But this is what Jensen and Payne say in *Guidance and the Voice of God*, 2019:

"God has chosen to speak in many and varied ways in the past, but in Christ he has uttered a comprehensive and final word for the last days in which we live. In Christ, God has brought all his plans to fulfilment (see Matthew 5:17; 2 Corinthians 1:20). In him, the very fullness of God dwells (Col 2:9). He is the exact representation of God's being (Heb 1:3). In the Bible, we have this great final message of God written down. As we read it, with God's Spirit working in our hearts, we hear God's voice today—just as the first Christians did when they heard it preached nearly 2000 years ago. We hear God calling upon us to repent and put our trust in him.

The New Testament also urges us not to go elsewhere for revelation or to 'move on' from Christ. He is all we know, and all we need to know. Paul's exhortation to the Colossians is typical:

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. (Col 2:6-7)

Those who advocate a specially revealed 'will of God' for each Christian, or Scriptures, undercut the majesty and finality of God's revelation in Christ. God has given us 'everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness' (2 Pet 1:3). God has not left us in the dark, nor has he kept back part of his revelation for us to discover through various quasi-mystical techniques.

Jesus Christ is God's word to us in these last days. Christ fulfils the eternal plan of God to redeem his people and lead them home. He is the Good Shepherd, whose words are life. In listening to his voice, and following it, we receive sure and marvellous guidance.

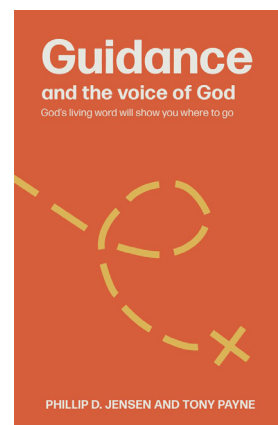
What more do we need?"

An important question to ask yourself might be: "Why do I think I need more than these words from and about Jesus?"

Humbly pray that God might grant you grace and repentance.

<https://www.facebook.com/thegospelcoalition/videos/tim-keller-answers-how-do-you-hear-from-god/27527386960193859/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/why-do-we-say-god-told-me/>



growing disciples

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SEEKING GOD

How has your view of the Son expanded today? What is precious to you about the Son?

SEEKING GOD

How have you been encouraged to pay attention to Jesus and his word today? How can you grow in this?

DEEP IN THE WORD

What would say to someone who says we focus too much on listening to Jesus, as we listen to him in the Bible?

What would you say to someone who says Jesus (in his word) is not enough to know what God wants to say to us? ie that we need words from angels, modern prophets and modern apostles?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God for his Son through whom he made the universe, who purifies us from our sins and who radiates his Father's glory. There is no one better, nor more supreme than the Son of God. Praise God that he has spoken to us by his Son.
- Praise Jesus as the Son and heir, who rules over his Father's kingdom with justice, righteousness and joy. He is unchanging and eternal. Praise the majestic God that Jesus is sitting at his right hand in heaven, in triumph over his enemies.
- Praise God that Jesus is the final word from God, as testified by the Hebrew Scriptures and the witness of the apostles who heard him and saw the signs and miracles that pointed to his Lordship. Ask that we would have confidence that Jesus and his word are all we need to hear from God.
- Confess that we often fail to pay attention to the Son and his word. Pray that we would listen to him, in the power of his Holy Spirit and not drift away.

THE DIVINE WORD

2 PETER 1&3; 2 TIMOTHY 3

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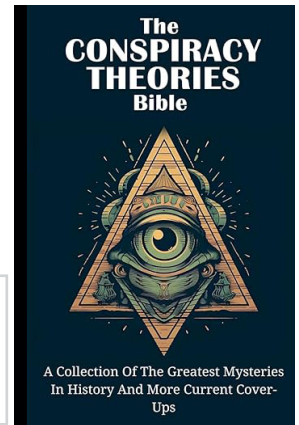
A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

Unlock the secrets of the past and present with *The Conspiracy Theories Bible: A Collection Of The Greatest Mysteries In History And More Current Cover-Ups*.

This riveting book takes you on a thrilling journey through history's most perplexing mysteries, controversial conspiracy theories, and the latest cover-ups that continue to captivate and intrigue.

Why do you think people are so fascinated by conspiracy theories about the Bible, and whether or not it's accurate?



Over the past 2 weeks, we've seen how Jesus is the Word of God, revealing the Father's grace and truth. He is the final and best way God speaks to us. Today, we're going to see how we can know Jesus, through the words of the Bible. They are God's words — reliable, clear and sufficient.

Maybe you have a question about whether we can trust what the Bible says about Jesus, just because the Bible says it. Isn't that a circular argument? Check out this short video later, just to get you started, and then come along to LIFE in Term 4, to hear more.

Because the Bible Says So?? Apologetics and Circular Reasoning | A Christian Perspective

<https://youtu.be/7juXaugu2Y?si=l-b1p9mDHroJ12E3>

READ 2 PETER 1v12-18

1. What is so important about the things that Peter (and the other apostles) spoke about?

2. What are they testifying about?

READ 2 PETER 1v19-21

3. What else do we have, besides the apostles' words? What is it like?

4. How do we know the prophecy of Scripture is reliable?

5. How should we respond to the apostles' and prophets' words?

READ 2 PETER 3v15-18

6. How does Peter view Paul's words?

7. What do we need to do to be secure in our salvation?

READ 2 TIMOTHY 3v14-17

8. What is the purpose of the Holy Scriptures?

Note: The Holy Scriptures here are the Jewish collection of writings, which we call the Old Testament. Timothy was taught them by his grandmother Lois and mother Eunice (2 Timothy 1v5).

9. What marks these writings out as special and useful?

10. In summary, what have we seen today about the theme and purpose of Scripture?

The author/s of Scripture?

The reliability of Scripture?

The clarity and understandability of Scripture?

The sufficiency of Scripture?

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SEEKING GOD

What has struck you about what you've seen of God's Word today? Something you've learned or been reminded of?

DEEP IN THE WORD

Do you believe that God's Word is all you need to know salvation in Christ Jesus, through faith? What questions still remain for you? How will you go about answering them?

DEEP IN THE WORD

Where do you need to be corrected or rebuked in your attitude to Scripture? Where do you need to pay more attention? To be taught or trained in righteousness? Or to be warned away from error and deception?

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that he speaks to us in his Word. Thank him for breathing it out by his Spirit, and for giving his wisdom to those who wrote it down. Thank him for this precious gift.
- Praise God that he tells us in Scripture how we can be saved through faith in Christ Jesus. Pray that we might see how the whole witness of Scripture points to Jesus, the beloved Son, in honour and glory.
- Pray that we might investigate the reliability of the Bible, to see that it is true, accurate and trustworthy. Pray that our confidence in these writings might grow.
- Thank God that we have the witness of ancient prophets and those who walked with Jesus in the 1st Century.
- Ask that we might trust God when he says his Word is all we need to be thoroughly equipped. Ask forgiveness for our tendency to look elsewhere for answers, wisdom or salvation.
- Pray that we might be firmly established in God's Word, remembering the truth and growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Pray that we'd pay attention to Scripture. Pray that through it, God would teach, correct, rebuke and train us in righteousness.
- Ask God's help when we find his Word hard to understand. Pray that we might keep learning together as a COMMUNITY and helping one another to get DEEP IN THE WORD.

THE LIVING WORD

HEBREWS 3v7-4v13

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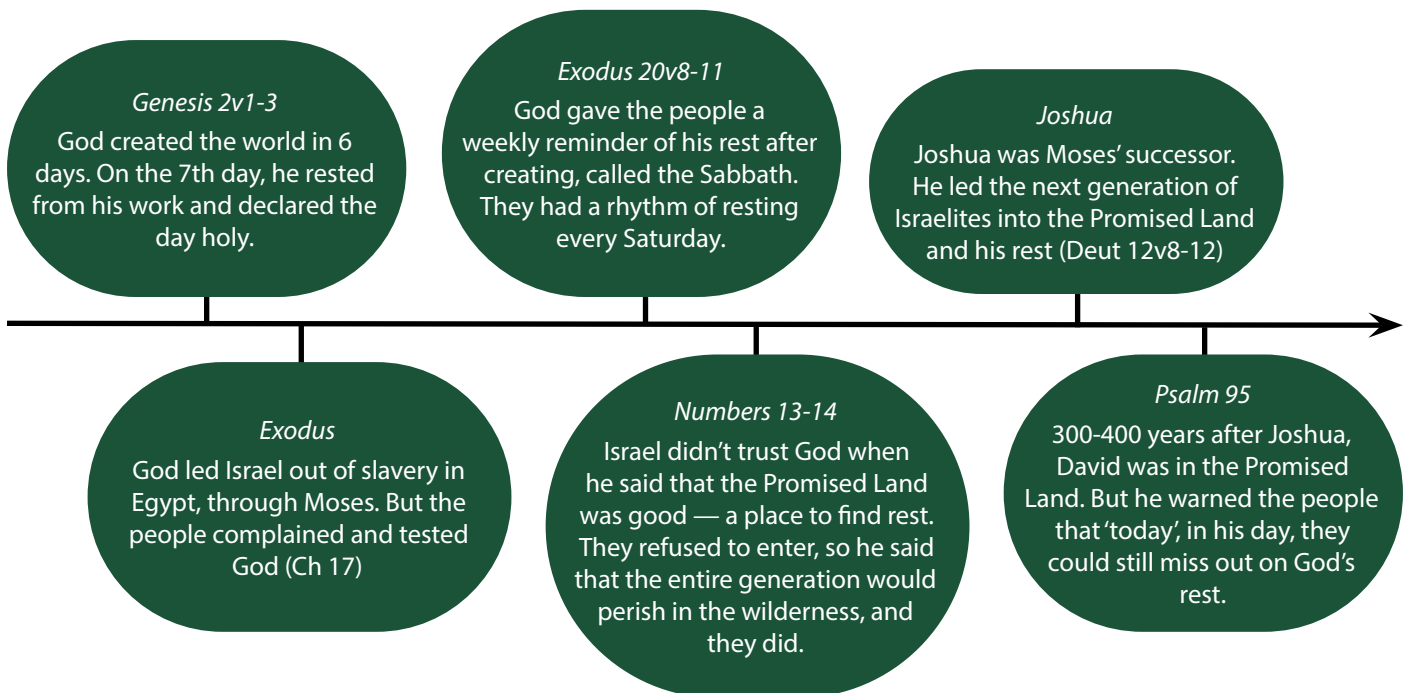
A Key Verse:

My prayer in response to God's word:

What makes for a good day of rest for you?

2 weeks ago, we read the start to the book of Hebrews. It's a letter urging Jewish Christians to stick with Jesus, rather than returning to their Jewish roots, because Jesus is superior in every way. He is the final way God speaks to us, as he announces salvation (1v1-2v4). Last week, we saw that the Bible is all about Jesus as the prophets and apostles testify to him. In our final study of the series, we will see how we should respond to Jesus and his living word, and the consequences that follow.

These two chapters in Hebrews rely heavily on the story and chronology of the Old Testament. Check out the highlights package below, to get your bearings. You can refer back to this timeline as you read Hebrews 3-4. And check out the references for yourself later.



READ HEBREWS 3v7-11

1. What is the Holy Spirit's warning?

READ HEBREWS 3v12-19

2. What danger is there for our hearts?

3. How is Israel's story a cautionary tale for us?

4. What role do we have with one another in this?

READ HEBREWS 4v1-5

5. What is similar about us and ancient Israelites?

6. What is God's rest all about in Genesis 2v1-3?

READ HEBREWS 4v6-11

7. How does Psalm 95 show that the offer of rest still remains?

Hint: Think about the timeline of the events

8. What do you think the Creation/Sabbath/Promised Land rest is, for those who share in Christ?

Hint: Check out Matthew 11v27-30 and Revelation 21v22-22v5

READ HEBREWS 4v12-13

9. What image is given for God's Word?

10. What practical difference do you think this ought to make for how we approach the Bible, both in our general reading and understanding, and in seeing its applicability to our lives today?

growing disciples

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What hope do you have in the rest to come?

What might cause you to miss out on this rest? Remind yourself of Hebrews 4v14-16, if you are struggling.

SEEKING GOD

Do you picture God's word as a sword that divides and judges us? How does this image fit with your experience? Do you think you can hide from God?

How are you responding to God and his word right now? What needs to change within you?

DEEP IN THE WORD

What would the writer of Hebrews say to someone who thinks they can be a Christian believer on their own/in isolation?

How are you encouraging others to have a soft heart towards God's word? Or warning them from going astray? Who is on your heart to speak to today?

COMMUNITY

PRAYER IDEAS

- Praise God that he offers us his rest as we share in Christ. Pray that we would make every effort to enter it, that we might rest in Christ and see him face to face in the new heavens and earth.
- Thank God that we have a good word of salvation in Christ. Thank him for warning us not to ignore it.
- Confess that our hearts are easily deceived in our sinfulness. Ask forgiveness for being prone to turn aside from believing God and his word.
- Pray that God would soften our hearts to what his Spirit tells us in his word. His word cuts to our inner being and lays it all bare before him to whom we must give account. Pray that we would hold firmly to our original conviction, as we hear and believe. Pray that we would obey God and his word.
- Ask that we would be a **COMMUNITY** who cares for one another by encouraging one another to have soft hearts towards God. Pray that we would have wisdom in warning and urging each another to keep turning to God in faith, as long as it is called Today.