



# HEBREWS

HPUMC BIBLE READING PLAN

**GROUP GUIDE: WEEK 1**



## CONVERSATION STARTER

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Think of someone you've learned a lot from—whether in your career, faith, or personal life. What is a characteristic of theirs that you admire? What is one lesson from them that has stuck with you?

## A TRUE HUMAN

*Hebrews 1:1-3*

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Among the New Testament letters, Hebrews is unique because it is more like a sermon. A sermon that focuses on one powerful truth: Jesus is the G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time). The author of Hebrews wants to show us, step by step, that Jesus is better than the angels, prophets, priests, and everyone else who came before. And they don't just tell us; they show us, drawing from the rich history of Israel to explain that Jesus surpasses everything that came before him.

But there is a deeper motivation beneath this preacher's sermon. We don't know who they are, but we do know that they were writing to a community of Jesus followers facing persecution. They want to show that, even amidst the trials and challenges that these believers are facing in his name, Jesus is *worth it*.

The author isn't just on a mission to show us Jesus' greatness but also *why his greatness matters to us*. And that has everything to do with the image of God.

From the very beginning, in Genesis 1, God created humanity with a specific calling: to bear His image and partner with Him in ruling over creation. We were commissioned to create flourishing, beauty, goodness, and life! But all too soon, things went wrong. Beginning with Adam and Eve's fateful decision to define good and evil for themselves, humanity has abused our God-given vocation. Rather than creating flourishing, we

have often sought our own gain, at the expense of others. As a result, we find ourselves living out a distorted version of what God intended for us.

This is where Jesus enters the story—Jesus, the Truly Human One. As the Son of God, he could have remained in heaven, untouched by the messiness of our world, but Jesus chose to put on flesh and step into the mess with us. By living a sinless life, Jesus perfectly fulfilled God’s original design for humanity. While we failed in our vocation to rule as image-bearers, Jesus reflected the Father perfectly, creating flourishing wherever he went.

Through his suffering, death, and resurrection, he restores the potential we lost in the Garden and shows us what it truly means to rule—not through selfishness or force but self-sacrificial love. **He became what we are so that we might become what he is: a Truly Human One.**

So, as the author said, let’s hold fast to him. *He is worth it!* Let us run our race with endurance, keeping our eyes on the One who leads us on into the life that God always intended.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

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1. If the author of Hebrews were writing to us today, what do you think they would feel compelled to argue that Jesus is greater than? What do you think they would view as taking the place of Jesus in our lives?
2. God made us to partner with Him to create flourishing here on earth using our talents, resources, and opportunities. How did Jesus do this? How might this shape our understanding of what God wants to do in our lives?
3. God often uses everyday ordinary people to do extraordinary things as a result of their faithfulness. How have you seen this play out in your life or the life of someone you know?
4. Hebrews 4:16 encourages us to “approach the throne of grace with confidence.” What does this mean to you, and how might knowing that Jesus intercedes for us shape our approach to prayer?

## WEEKLY PRACTICE

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Throughout the month of February, we're focusing on cultivating the fruit of goodness. But that raises the question, how do you know what is good? Isaiah 5:20 says, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness." If we want to know what's good, we must go to the source of goodness. In the beginning, God is the one who declares what is good and not good. And God shares that knowledge with us through the Scriptures. As we study the Bible, we grow in our understanding of God's goodness and how that goodness can be cultivated in us.

As we read this week, begin each day by praying the following prayer. As you pray, ask God to show you what goodness requires of you this week.

*Dear Lord,  
Help us to be generous and  
Do all we the good we can,  
By all the means we can,  
In all the ways we can,  
In all the places we can,  
At all the times we can,  
To all the people we can,  
As long as ever we can.  
Amen.*