



KiNDRED
主裏一家親

RELATIONSHIP RESTORATION REDEMPTION RECONCILIATION

**LiViNG OUT THE
PECULiAR REST**
活出神應許的安息

DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP + EVANGELICAL CHINESE CHURCH + UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EMBRACING THE MULTI-ETHNIC FAMILY OF GOD
擁抱上帝的多民族家庭



RELATIONSHIP RESTORATION REDEMPTION RECONCILIATION

LIVING OUT THE PECULIAR REST

活出神應許的安息

STUDY INTRODUCTION:

The letter to the Hebrews is a message of admonishment and encouragement. It is admonishing the Multi-Ethnic Family of God to hear the reminders of hope in the gospel message of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit uses the message of the gospel to wake us up to the requirements of TODAY. This message of hope is powerful enough to reignite our confidence in God's faithfulness in the midst of their uncertainty and unrest. Being confronted with God's greatness, goodness, and glory always draws the believer into a space of self-reflection, which brings with it a moment of awareness of one's weakness and a value for the need to surrender.

This knowledge of one's shortcomings can feel painful and can cause the feeble to give up and turn away. However, the writer of Hebrews reminds us that this process of awareness is necessary, calling it discipline for those who are children of God. In God's loving-kindness, He keeps us from falling into despair by rehearsing the message of our identity and purpose that is found in Him through His victorious Son, Jesus Christ. We are reminded in the letter of Hebrews that the same God who said to the people of Israel, **"You must be holy, because I, the Lord your God, am holy." (Leviticus 19:2b)** is the same God who said, **"[You] have been made holy by God's will through the offering of Jesus Christ's body once for all." (Hebrews 10:10)**. Being holy as God is holy requires us to **"do what we see the Father doing" (see John 5:19)**. It requires us to obediently respond to God's covenant by **"doing justice, embracing faithful love, and walking humbly with our God" (see Micah 6:8 & Leviticus 19)**. Therefore, if the Father cancels our debts, then we must cancel the debts of our debtors. If our Father provides for us, we must provide for one another. If our Father liberates us, we must liberate one another. If our Father restores us to our rightful place, we must restore one another. This rhythm of remembrance, reflection, repentance, and rehearsal draws us into **"a new and living way" (see Hebrews 10:20)** where we are invited to reimagine the meaning of radical rest. The radical rest, "the Sabbath mindset" God invites us to enter into, is not a state of complacency. It is a place where the people of God gather to remind themselves that God is our God and that we are His people. A place where that which has spiraled off track is realigned with the purposes of God. A place where things are made right. As we boldly rehearse the rhythms of radical rest, everything within us becomes amplified—our hope, our faith, our trust, our confidence, our faithfulness, our love, our unity, our compassion, and our graciousness—until we reach a place where our rhythm becomes an expression of jubilant justice born out of gratitude and resounding praise to the one who is supreme above all, that is Jesus!

– Pastor Chipso Johnson
Damascus International Fellowship

Kindred Sermon Series Lead:

Pastor Chipso Johnson – *Damascus International Fellowship*

Kindred Pastors:

Pastor James Broughton – *Damascus International Fellowship*

Pastor Chipso Johnson – *Damascus International Fellowship*

Pastor Alex Cui – *Evangelical Chinese Church*

Pastor Solomon Liu – *Evangelical Chinese Church*

Pastor Bin Qian – *Evangelical Chinese Church*

Pastor George Hinman – *University Presbyterian Church*

Pastor Aaron Williams – *University Presbyterian Church*

Study Guide Team:

Angelique Collins – *Damascus International Fellowship*

Dennis Lee – *Evangelical Chinese Church*

Chris Hui – *Evangelical Chinese Church*

Jim Garras – *University Presbyterian Church*

Kristie Garras – *University Presbyterian Church*

Cover Art Design and Kindred Theme Logo:

Hava Skovron – *University Presbyterian Church*

Layout:

Sara Larson, Sara Larson Design – *University Presbyterian Church*



RELATIONSHIP RESTORATION REDEMPTION RECONCILIATION

Grasping the Saving Work of Christ

Hebrews 1:1-4 & 2:9-15

KINDRED 2025 STUDY GUIDE - WEEK 1

Grasping the Saving Work of Christ | Hebrews 1:1-4 & 2:9-15

INTRODUCTION:

When I look at my smartphone, I wonder how I even communicated with landlines and fax machines. Modern communication seems so much more effective! It seems as if there is a new device or app that allows us to communicate more efficiently every day. In previous times, God used many ways, including prophets, to communicate with the ancestors. Then, God sent Jesus as the ultimate messenger and redeemer. He was set above all angels and the exact representation of God. Unlike the gadgets and conveniences of modern society, Jesus will not be replaced by a bigger and better model. His love and His mercy are enduring and everlasting. Even though there never will be a replacement for Jesus, we sometimes forget Jesus is the perfect channel for connecting with God. So we need to reconnect with what God has already told us before we move forward. As we set off on our Kindred journey, we start at the base camp remembering Jesus and the work he has already accomplished on our behalf.

[Continue Study Lesson >>>](#)

KINDRED 2025 STUDY GUIDE - WEEK 1

Grasping the Saving Work of Christ | Hebrews 1:1-4 & 2:9-15

READ: Hebrews 1:1-4 & 2:9-15

OPENING PRAYER: *Lord Jesus, as we open your Holy Word together open our hearts to your Spirit and our ears to your voice. Thank you that we do not have to purchase the salvation you have obtained for us. Help us to trade the old model of ourselves for the better version you are transforming us to become. Amen.*

DISCUSSION:

1. How has God spoken to His human creations? What is His purpose?
Who did God choose as His messenger in this age? What does Jesus say?
2. What does this passage say about what Jesus has done for you?
Why was Jesus' suffering necessary for salvation?
3. How are you living out freedom from fear and death because of what Jesus has done?
How are you still living in fear?
4. What can you do to remember what Jesus has done for you?
What can you do to remember daily?
5. How did Jesus sharing our humanity ("being of flesh and blood") empower Him to break the power of sin and death (2:14) and what did that obtain for us?
6. Verse 17 says that Jesus had to be "made like them". How does Jesus set the example for us to "step into someone else's shoes"? In Kindred, how do we live in each other's shoes vs being just a "good neighbor"?

CLOSING PRAYER: *Jesus, thank you for lowering yourself to becoming one of us. Grant us the humility to stoop down to lift up those you place in our lives who need your loving touch. Amen.*

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RELATIONSHIP RESTORATION REDEMPTION RECONCILIATION



RELATIONSHIP RESTORATION REDEMPTION RECONCILIATION

Surrendering to and Obeying God's Will

Hebrews 3:7-14 & 4:11-16

KINDRED 2025 STUDY GUIDE - WEEK 2

Surrendering to and Obeying God's Will | Hebrews 3:7-14 & 4:11-16

INTRODUCTION:

A battle with external forces is also a battle with our internal selves. We are reminded that the Israelites faced the external challenge of the wilderness and struggled internally with fear, apathy and disobedience. Rather than turning their hearts and actions to God, the Israelites grumbled about the food, they looked wistfully back at what they left behind, seeking the comfort of familiarity, forgetting that they were slaves and now they are free. Attaining the promised land requires work. God calls us to not fear this work but to "hold steadfast" to our faith. We are called to encourage our fellow brothers and sisters in the battle. To make it to the promised land, we must overcome the barriers in our own minds - our fear of the unknown and unwillingness to trust God.

This week we will talk about surrender and obedience as the necessary next step of our journey. Doing so will allow us to experience the peculiar rest that we can only receive from the gracious hand of God.

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KINDRED 2025 STUDY GUIDE - WEEK 2

Surrendering to and Obeying God's Will | Hebrews 3:7-14 & 4:11-16

READ: Hebrews 3:7-14 & 4:11-16

OPENING PRAYER: *Lord Jesus, guide us as we seek the truth found in your Word together. Enable us to hear you and one another clearly. Amen.*

DISCUSSION:

1. Verse 3:7 says, "Don't have stubborn hearts" (CEB) What is a stubborn heart like? What choices does a stubborn or hard heart make? What is the opposite of a stubborn heart? What should our hearts be like?
2. What's the relationship between obedience and faith? What does it look like if you have obedience without faith? What about faith without obedience?
3. In v3:9-10, the author speaks about ancestors and generations. What are some familial and generational patterns that you seek to continue? To break?
4. The author describes God's rest in 3:18-4:1 referencing the entry into the promised land. Yet, that entry starts with warfare. Referencing Matthew 11:28-30, what does Jesus say about rest? How does this rest differ from the ideas of flip-flops and the beach? What does this kind of rest look like in your life?
5. How does the fact that you serve a Living God who gives us a Living Word (v4:12), help you submit and obey?
6. What are the idols God exposed in your life (thoughts and attitudes of the heart v.4:12b) that you need to be able to surrender to him? How does surrendering interact with God's grace and mercy (v4:16)?

CLOSING PRAYER: *Lord Jesus, help us loosen our grip on our pride so that we can surrender ourselves into your merciful hands. Amen.*

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Standing Firm on Christ's Victory

Hebrews 10:10-25

KINDRED 2025 STUDY GUIDE - WEEK 3

Standing Firm on Christ's Victory | Hebrews 10:10-25

INTRODUCTION:

What is the foundation of hope? The certainty of a victorious outcome provides us hope. God does not state "I might". Rather, He says that "I will place my laws in their hearts..." and "I won't remember their sins". The language is definite and final. We don't have to rely on the blood of lambs and goats slaughtered by a human high priest to obtain cleansing. This kind of assurance is heartening and motivates us to continue the work.

This passage concludes by emphasizing the value of Christian community to encourage and strengthen one another. Change happens when people work collectively towards a common goal and have a desire to make a difference in their world. This community benefits us individually, us in our community, and the wider world around us. As the Kindred community, we are stronger together.

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KINDRED 2025 STUDY GUIDE - WEEK 3

Standing Firm on Christ's Victory | Hebrews 10:10-25

READ: Hebrews 10:10-25

OPENING PRAYER: *Lord Jesus, may our confidence in you and the victory you have obtained for us be strengthened as we study and discuss your Word together. Be our teacher and our guide. Amen.*

DISCUSSION:

1. Describe the difference between the sacrifice offered by ordinary priests (“every priest”) and Jesus.
2. The sacrifices made by the priests remind us of two things - (1) God’s providence and (2) our inability to meet God’s standard of holiness. Even though Jesus’ perfect sacrifice covers our sinfulness, what practices do we have as Christians, both individually and collectively, help us remember God’s providence and pursue holiness?
3. The Holy Spirit affirms the covenant made with us as believers (v16-17). What does God promise us through this covenant? How do each of these promises give you confidence? How does this confidence relate to the warning against stubborn hearts in last week’s scripture? (Hebrews 3:8).
4. In v19-25, the author uses the collective pronoun “us” a lot. How do you think we can “draw near to God” (v22) and “hold unswervingly to faith” (v23) as a community (vs individually)? How have communal practices benefited you personally?
5. How have you sparked love and good deeds in others? How can we do that better? How can we do that as Kindred?

CLOSING PRAYER: *Lord Jesus, remind us this week that you have given us Kindred companions with whom to seek you and serve you. Thank you for never leaving us alone. Amen.*

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Rejoicing in God's Goodness

Hebrews 12:28-13:16

KINDRED 2025 STUDY GUIDE - WEEK 4

Rejoicing in God's Goodness | Hebrews 12:28-13:16

INTRODUCTION:

"Those who trust in the Lord are as unshakable as unmovable Mount Zion!"
Psalm 125:1

As we continue our Kindred journey, we are moved toward grateful service together in the cause of Christ in the world. Jesus has strengthened us to stand against the powers of the enemy and our own weakness.

This passage provides a roadmap for how to continue to push forward together rather than settling for the territory we've achieved so far. The orders are simple, yet complex. The simplicity of the commands lulls us into a false sense of confidence until we start trying to put them into practice. But thanks be to God, we are not alone. Not only do we have one another as companions, we meet Jesus himself outside the camp, a place He is already familiar with working. Our work, therefore, can be marked by rejoicing and not by fear.

[Continue Study Lesson >>>](#)

KINDRED 2025 STUDY GUIDE - WEEK 4

Rejoicing in God's Goodness | Hebrews 12:28-13:16

READ: Hebrews 12:28-13:16

OPENING PRAYER: *Lord Jesus, thank you for the joy and privilege of seeking you together through your living Word. Grant that each of us will receive what you have to give us as we study and discuss. Amen.*

DISCUSSION:

1. How do we avoid being consumed by all the things that are happening now and focus on 'city of the living God, the new Jerusalem'? Verse 13:6 emboldens believers not to abandon their faith because of fear. Think about the things that you feel called to do in ministry and in service. What is hindering you from doing those things? How does this verse aid you in being a catalyst for change?
2. What advice does this passage have for living and serving in God's family? Which of these commands is hardest for you to carry out? Why is that? In what way can obeying a specific command be considered a way to express gratitude? Which of these things looks like work to you and which look like rest?
3. In 13:9, the author says "Don't be misled by the many strange teachings out there". However, the teachings of Jesus can be considered strange and peculiar. How do you evaluate what teachings are strange and should be avoided and what teachings are strange but are actually peculiar to orthodox Christianity?
4. Verse 13:7 encourages us to look at our Christian leaders and examine their lives for evidence of their professed faith. Who has played a role in your faith formation in Christ? How do the commands outlined in v13:1-7 as it refers to leaders challenge the idea that the character of leaders doesn't matter?
5. When others look at your life, what stands out as evidence of your faith? What aspects of your life really exemplify your faith to others? What bears fruit?
6. What does verse 13 "go to him outside the camp, bearing his shame" mean? What does that look like for us in today's society? How does "looking for the city to come" help us do this? What work of Jesus might we join with our Kindred brothers and sisters 'outside the camp' of our home churches to further God's kingdom impact in our city?

CLOSING PRAYER: *Prayer: Lord Jesus, strengthen and encourage us to step out of the comfort of the familiar to join you where you are already at work, even if that is unfamiliar territory to us. Thank you for the companions going there with us. Amen.*

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