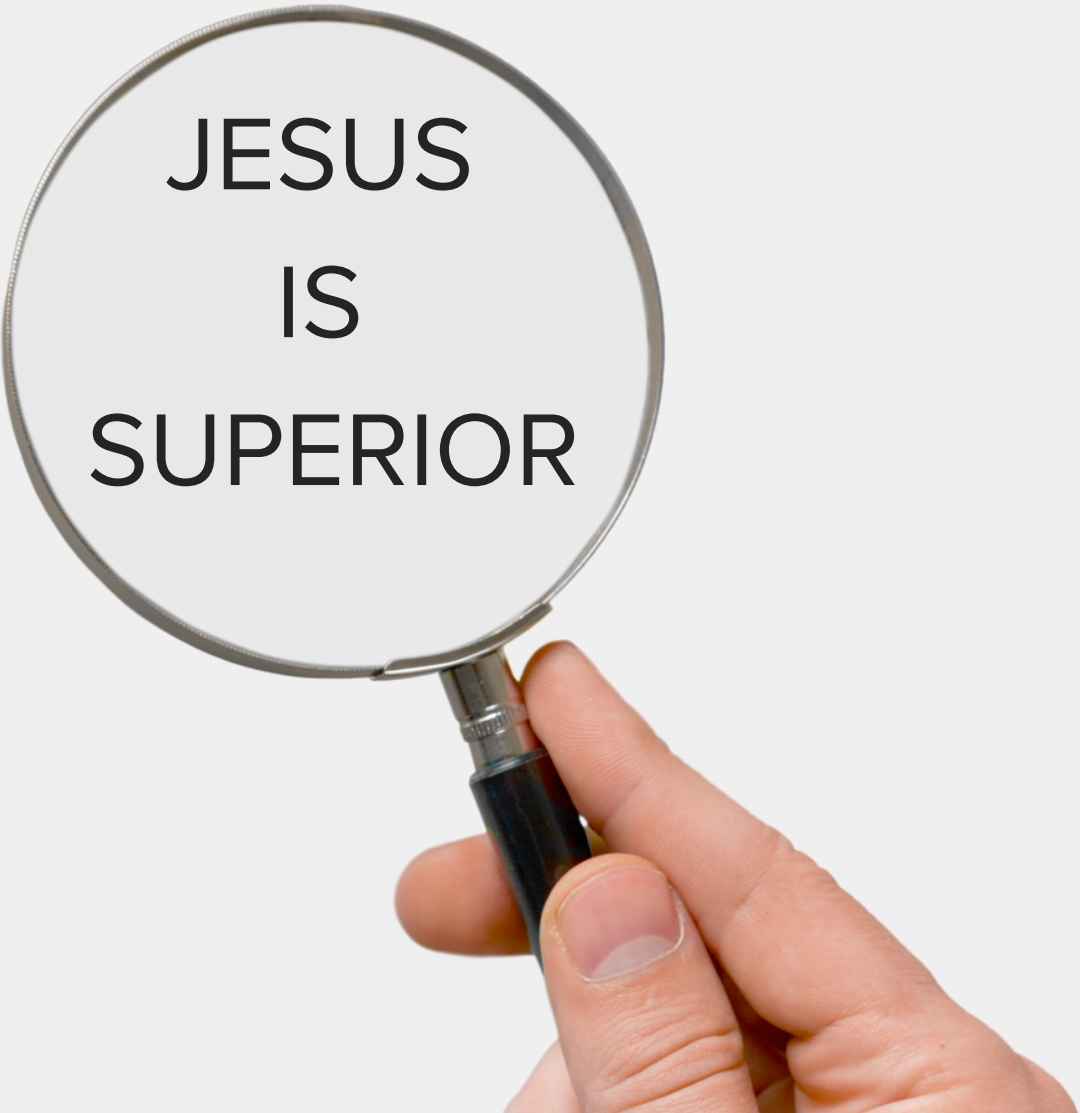


SERMON SERIES 2023



JESUS
IS
SUPERIOR

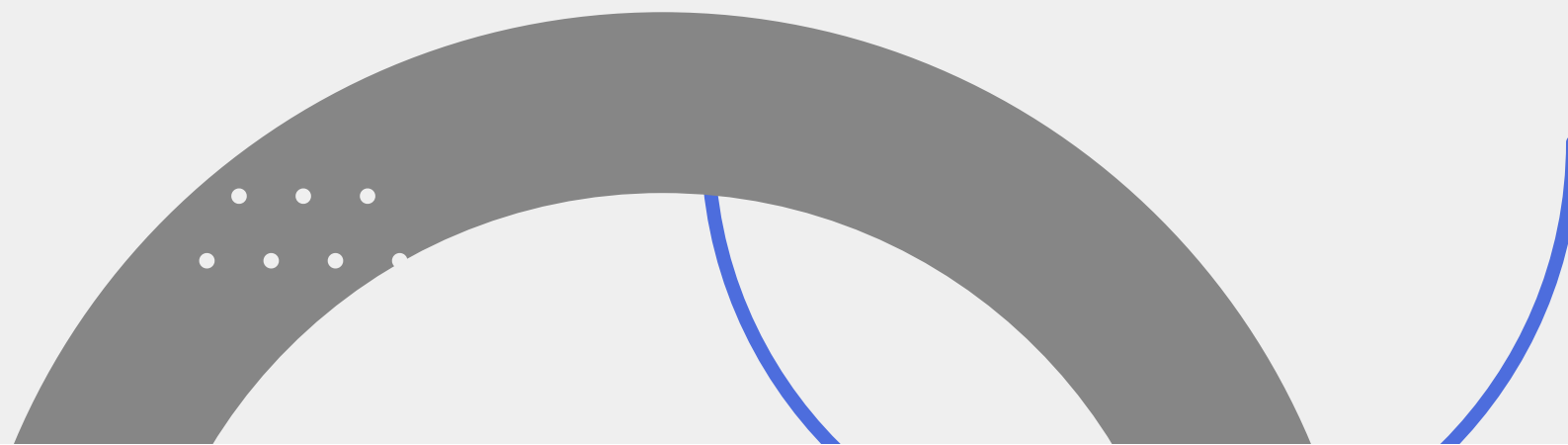
LETTER TO THE
HEBREWS

STUDY BOOKLET

St Mark's
 Malabar

HEBREWS 1:1-9

SUPERIOR TO THE PROPHETS



1. In what ways do you resemble your parents?

2. Read Deuteronomy 7:6. How would this knowledge impact Israel's self understanding?

3. Read Hebrews 1:1-3. How did God reveal himself in the past? How does that compare to the way he speaks in these 'last days'?

4. How can we know God?

5. List the 'credentials' of the Son.

6. In what ways would these descriptors foil the average understanding of Jesus? Typically is his nature understated or overstated?

7. Read Hebrews 2:1. What have we heard? What could distract the reader?

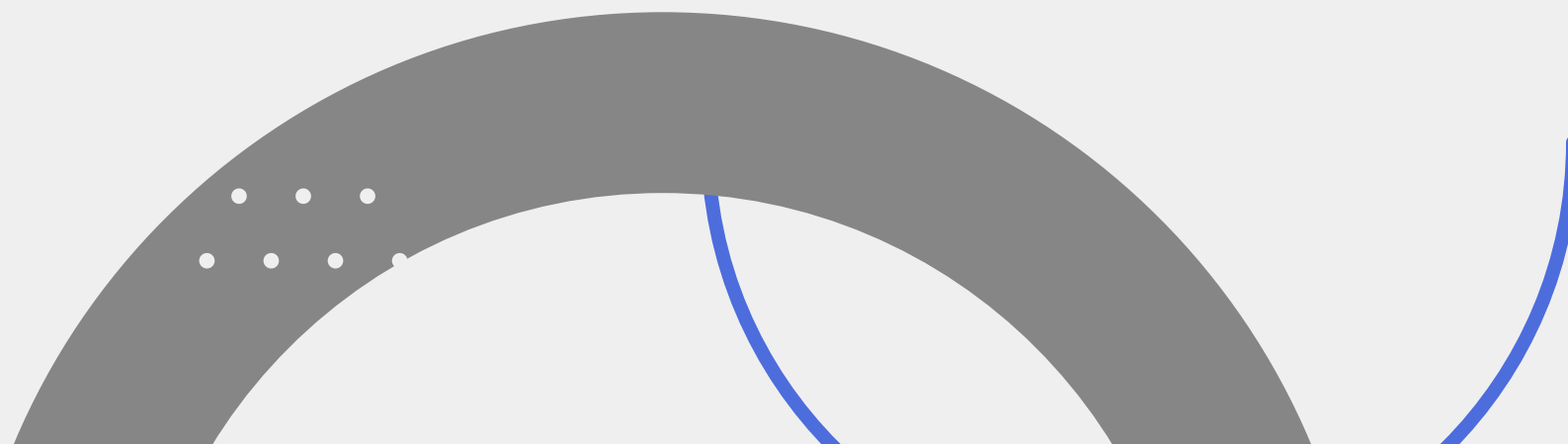
8. Why should we listen to Jesus? How do we do that?

9. What are competing voices?

10. 'Jesus is prophet, priest and king.' How do these first 3 verses of Hebrews confirm this?

HEBREWS 2:5-9

SUPERIOR TO THE ANGELS



1. How are angels depicted in popular culture?

2. Read Hebrews 1:5-7, 1:13-14, 2:2, 2:5-7. What do these verses teach us about the status and role of angels as given to them by God?

3. Read Hebrews 2:5-9 then Psalm 8. What do we learn about God and His purpose for humanity?

4. What is the tension felt by the Psalmist in 8:4-6, which is then elaborated upon in Hebrews 2:8b?

5. How is humanity's status and role in Psalm 8 explained and applied to Jesus (Hebrews 2:9)?

6. In what sense was Jesus made a little lower than the angels?

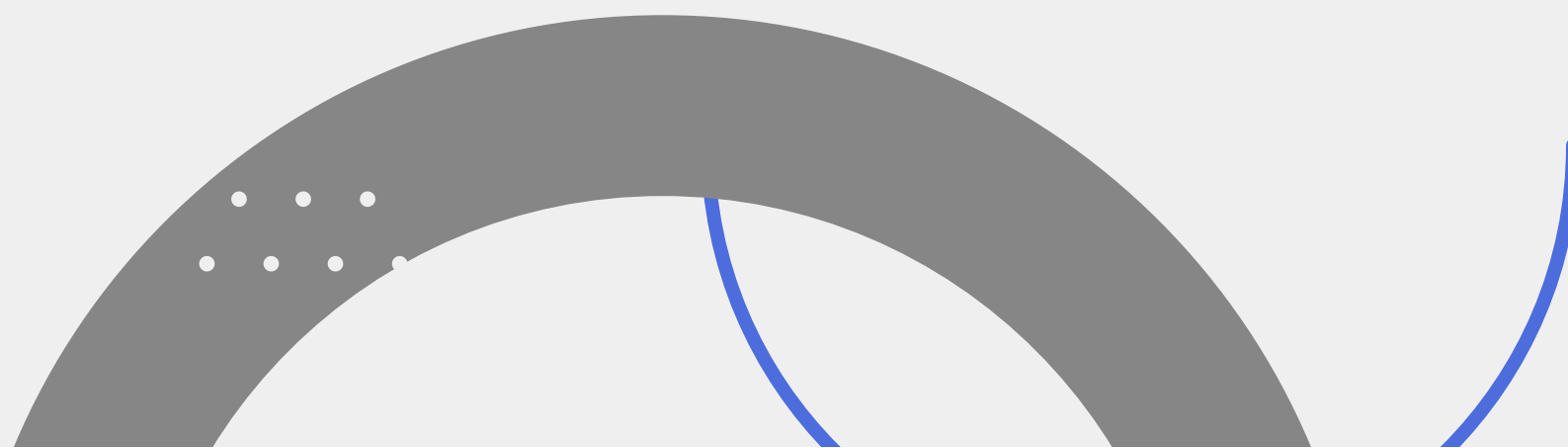
7. Why was he made lower than the angels? (Hebrews 1:3, 2:9-10, 2:18)

8. How then is Jesus greater than the angels as his rule does not seem obvious to all in this time? (Hebrews 1:3, 2:5, 2:9)

9. How do we respond to suffering when we do not see everything subject to Jesus at present?

HEBREWS 3:1-11

SUPERIOR TO MOSES



1. Why is 'faithfulness' considered an admirable quality? Is it in short supply?

2. Read Numbers 12:1-16. How was Moses distinguished from all other prophets? Therefore, what were the consequences of speaking against him?

3. Read Hebrews 3:1-6. '... we are his house' What does it mean to be God's house?

4. In what ways was Christ faithful as the Son over God's house?

5. What does membership in his house require?

6. Read Hebrews 3:7-11. How did God speak to the Israelites in the wilderness? What were the consequences of not listening?

7. Read Hebrews 3:12-14. What does it mean to have a 'sinful heart'?

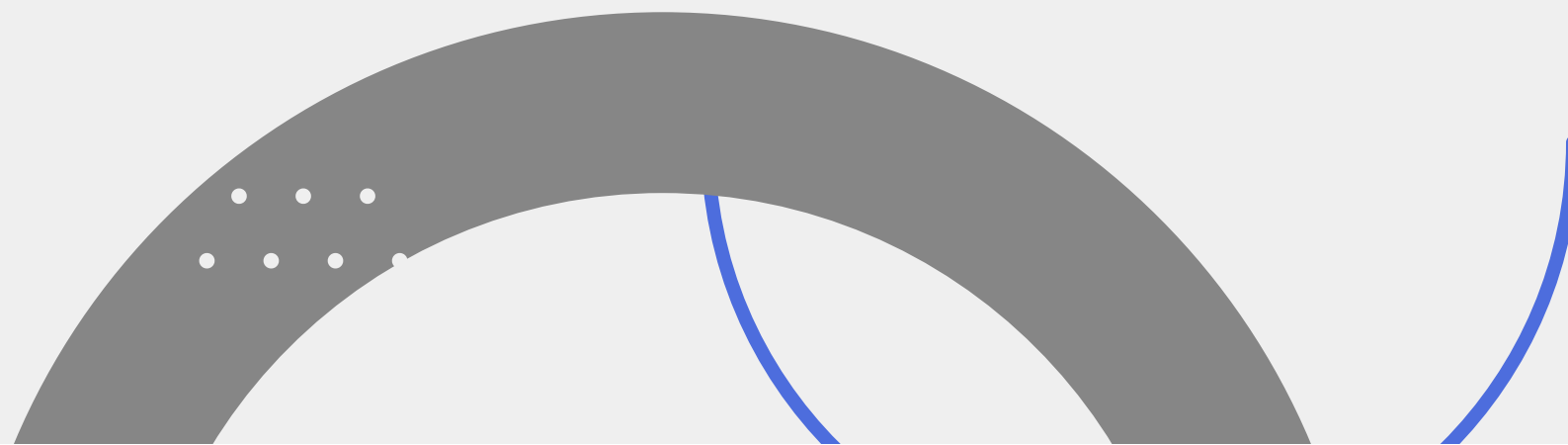
8. What are the 'original convictions' of the readers? How were they 'letting go'?

9. How are we to encourage one another daily? (refer to Heb 12:14-15)

10. How can your Growth Group encourage you?

HEBREWS 4:14-5:10

SUPERIOR TO AARON



1. When did you benefit from having an advocate or agent? Why not do it yourself?

2. Read Exodus 29:1-9. What special role did Aaron and his sons play? Why was it necessary to have 'special people' to do these things?

3. Read Hebrews 4:14-5:10. List the ways that Jesus was like Aaron.

4. List the ways Jesus was different to Aaron?

5. Read about Melchizedek in Gen 14:18-24. Being from the tribe of Judah, Jesus was not qualified to be a priest in the order of Levi. How is Melchizedek a unique priest? Therefore, what does it mean for Jesus to be a priest in the order of Melchizedek?

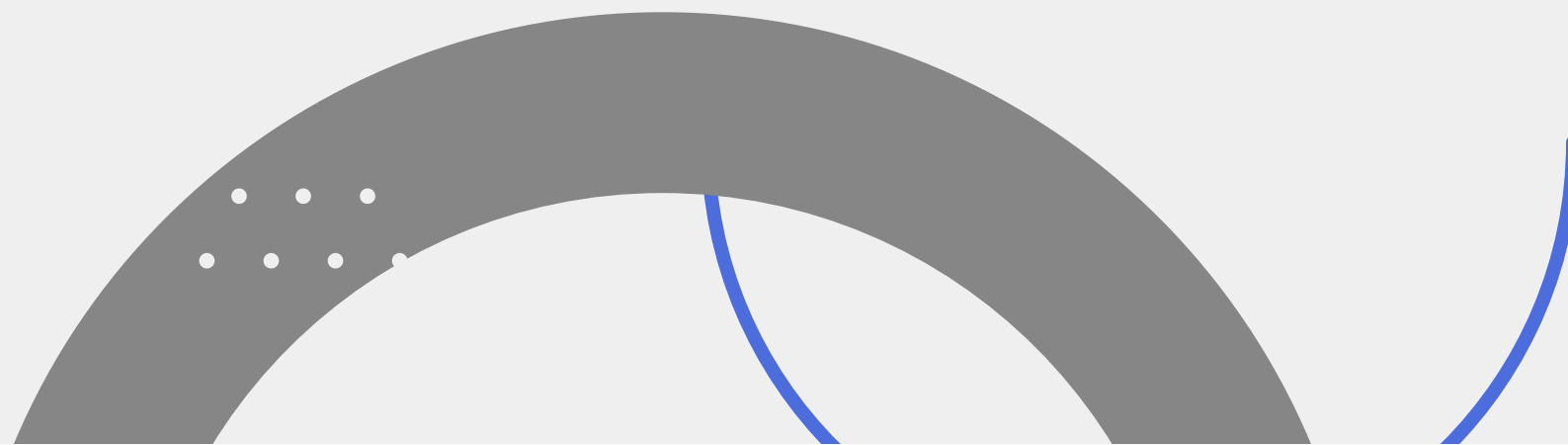
6. How was Jesus 'perfected'? Does this mean he was imperfect at some stage?

7. Why do we need Jesus? Why can't we obtain eternal salvation on our own?

8. How do you know you are saved?

HEBREWS 6:13-20

SUPERIOR TO ABRAHAM



1. How do you decide whether to trust someone or not?

2. Read Genesis 12:2-3, 12:7; 15:5; 17:6. What was God's promise to Abraham?

3. How did Abraham receive what was promised? (Vs14-15, Genesis 15:5, 22:1-17)

4. How is God's oath different from the human system of swearing oaths?

5. What was God's intention in swearing an oath in Genesis 22:17?

6. Who are the heirs? Have they received what God promised Abraham? (Vs 17)

7. What hope still lies ahead in the future?

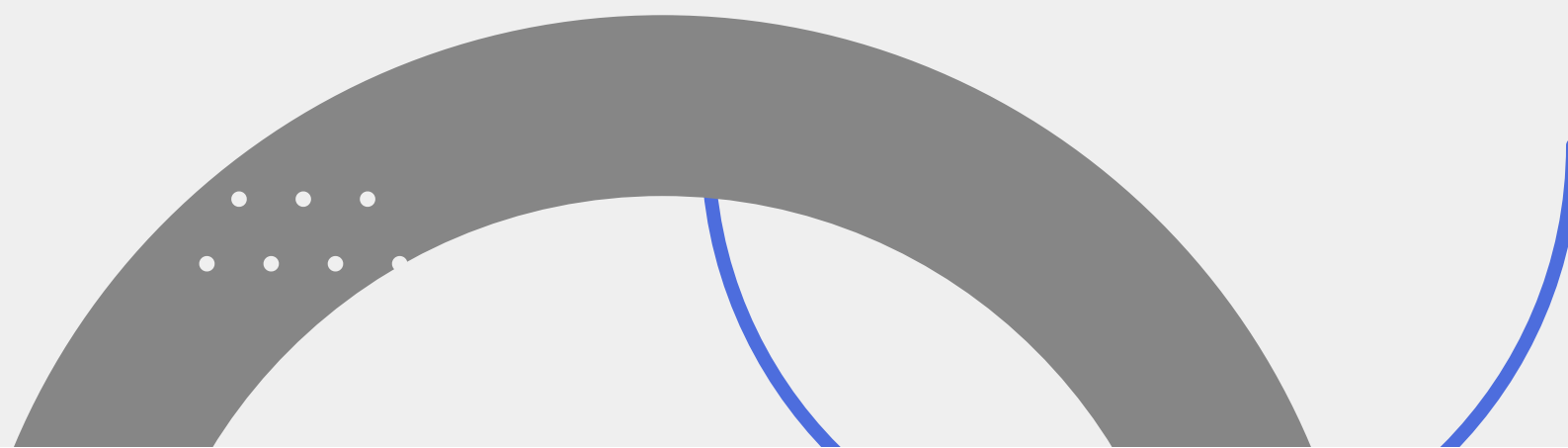
8. How is Jesus our forerunner into the inner sanctuary?

9. How might laziness to apply our faith manifest in our lives? (6:12)

10. How does this passage encourage you to patiently take hold of the hope set before us?

HEBREWS 8:1-13

A SUPERIOR COVENANT



1. A covenant is an agreement as to how two parties relate. It includes binding promises, obligations, reward and penalty for failing to uphold. What modern day covenant have you engaged in?

2. Read Hebrews 8:1-3. In what ways does Jesus follow the pattern of Old Testament priests?

3. In what ways is Jesus' ministry different to Old Testament priests?

4. What sacrifice did Jesus offer? Refer to Hebrews 9:12. Why is this a better sacrifice?

5. Read Hebrews 8:4-6. What was the purpose of the Old Covenant?

6. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34. What are the shortcomings of the Old Covenant? How is the New better?

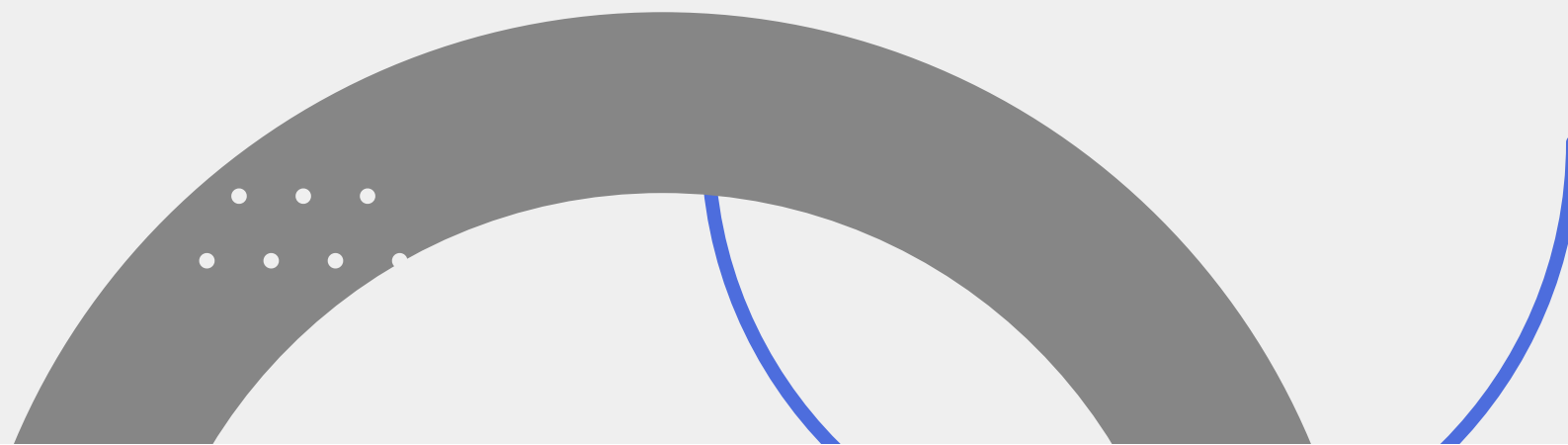
7. If the New Covenant supersedes the Old Covenant, then why bother understanding the Old Covenant? What does it reveal?

8. How does God forgive the wickedness of his people? Are all 'wicked'?

9. The temple was destroyed in AD70 and a Muslim Mosque is now in its place (Al Aqsa). From a theological point of view, does this matter?

HEBREWS 10:19-39

THEREFORE DRAW NEAR



1. What is the relationship between intimacy and trust?

2. Read Hebrews 10:19-25. How does this passage inform our understanding of:-

- FAITH:

- HOPE

- LOVE:

3. What is the basis for this confidence? (Hebrews 10:14)

4. The curtain was the cloth in the temple that separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place. How is this passage (Heb 10:20) related to the events of Mark 15:38? Discuss its significance.

5. Reflect on what it means to be invited to, 'draw near to God ...' (Heb 10:22)

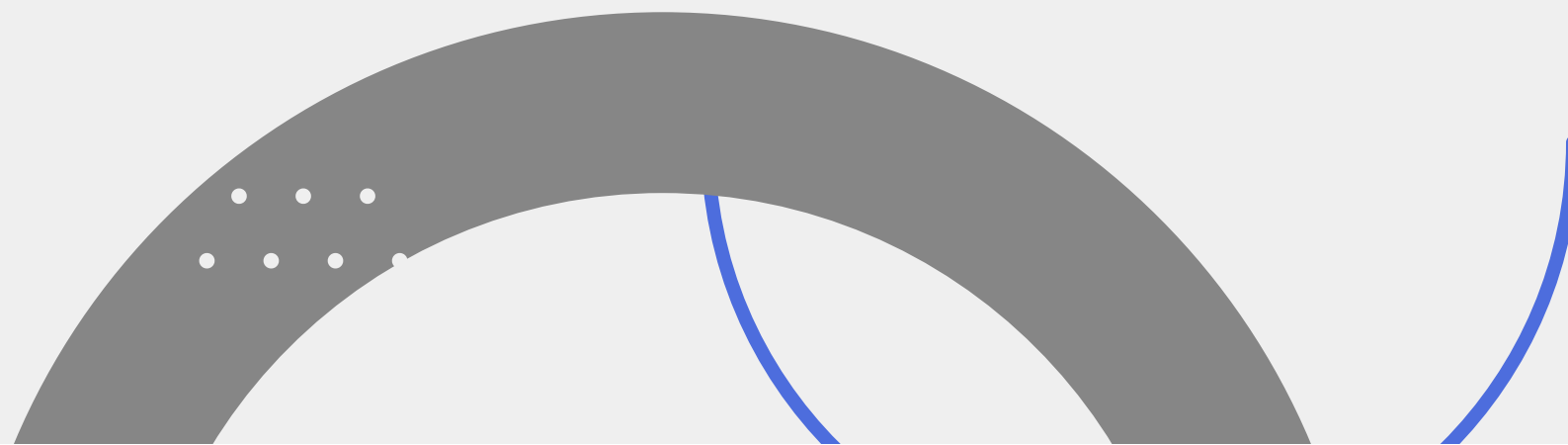
6. What day is approaching? (1 Thess 5:1-3) Why should this make a difference to the way we love others?

7. How can this Growth Group be spurred on to love and good deeds toward one another?

8. Why was meeting together a high priority for the readers?

HEBREWS 11

THEREFORE DO NOT SHRINK BACK



1. How does society use the idea of “blind faith”? Read Hebrews 11:1. How does it compare with the affirmation of faith in v1?

2. Read Hebrews 11:2-40. Are there any names that struck you or surprised you to have made the list?

3. How does the principle “without faith it is impossible to please God” (v6) correct or clarify the way we view Old Testament “heroes” as examples for us?

4. Why do you think so many verses (v8-19) are devoted to Abraham?

5. When was God’s promise of an earthly possession to Abraham fulfilled? (v8) How does it help us appreciate his life of faith?

6. What sort of challenges to faith did Moses and his generation face? (v23-31) How did they overcome them?

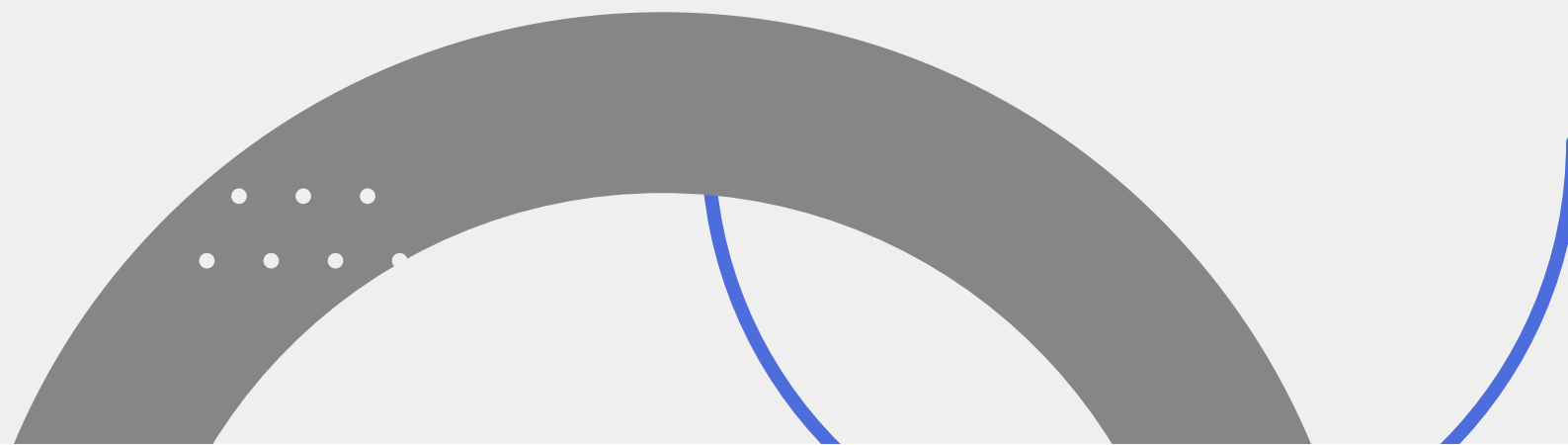
7. What were the things some people of faith steadfastly endured (11:36-38)? How do these people of faith encourage us when we face opposition?

8. In what sense did all the Old Testament people of faith not receive what had been promised? (v39, 10, 14-16) Why was this so?

9. Share a person of faith from Hebrews 11 who resonates most with your current situation, and how their life of faith might encourage you to persevere in faith.

HEBREWS 12:1-15

THEREFORE RUN WITH PERSEVERENCE



1. In hindsight, do you appreciate being subject to discipline from a parent, teacher or guardian?

2. Read Hebrews 12:1-3. How does Jesus provide a model of perseverance?

3. Describe a person of faith who 'grows weary and loses heart'?

4. Read Hebrews 12:4-13. How can hardship be an encouragement?

5. You may prefer God to spare you from hardship. Why does he not do this?

6. What is the goal of our discipline? (v10-11)

7. Read Hebrews 12:14-15. How can maintaining 'peace' and 'holiness' be in tension?

8. What is our responsibility toward each other? (v15)
How can we do this in a society that values privacy and autonomy?

9. Read Deuteronomy 29:19-21. How would you describe this person's assurance? Why would the Lord allow such a person to be a part of us? (the context of this Hebrews passage is 'discipline').

**St Mark's
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Visiting?
Let's keep in
touch



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