

The
PROMISE
of **CHRISTMAS**



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET

The wreaths are hung, the candles are lit, music fills the air...
it must be Advent!

The season of Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation. But its purpose and meaning are far more significant than tradition or decor. It's a time where we look back and look ahead. It's a time in the in-between, the "already-not-yet".

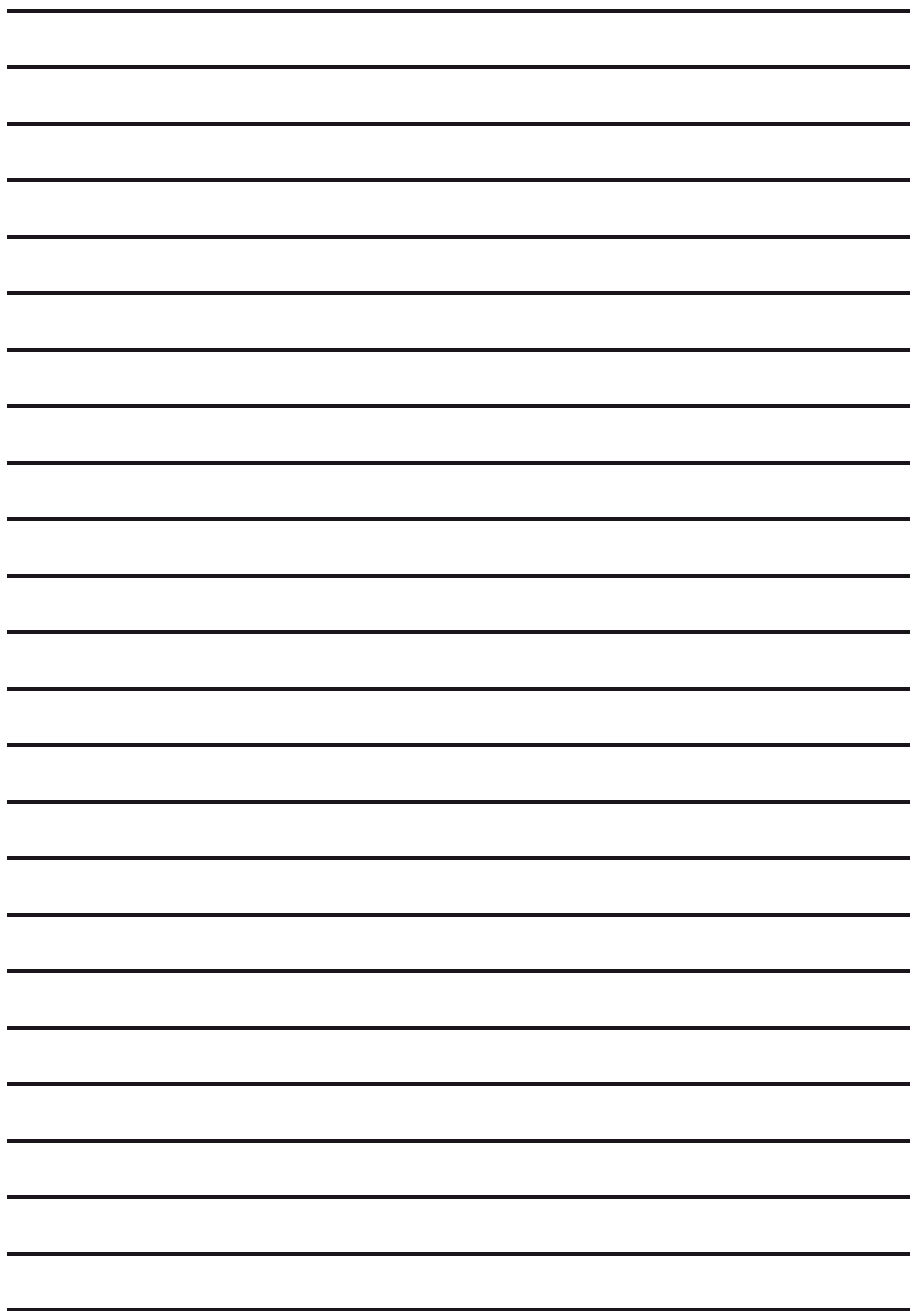
We look back and reflect on the first advent over 2000 years ago, when a prophesied holy King arrived on earth in the most unexpected of ways. We remember Jesus: Immanuel, God with us.

Advent also helps us anticipate the day when Christ will one day return (what a celebration THAT will be). Sin, evil, pain, and darkness will be overcome, and God will dwell with us again! Christ the Lord will rule with justice and mercy and all those who believe in Him will be saved.

In preparation for Christmas, we invite you to join us in daily readings that journey through the book of Hebrews. We'll consider how Jesus is supreme over all things as we remember and anticipate what He has done, and what He will do. He is worthy of our total devotion, trust, and praise!

It is our hope that this resource will increase your knowledge and love for God. And that your faith may be deeply rooted in the truths of scripture as you celebrate Christ this Christmas. So open your bibles and read with us.

From all of us at Northview Community Church



WEEK 1

Jesus is greater

DEC 1

God's Final Word: His Son

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HEBREWS 1:1-3

Frank Savatsky - Mission - Pastor of Worship and Outreach

As I write this, my wife Nicola and I are expecting our first child: a baby boy! We have had a long journey of infertility and loss so our excitement is mixed, as we hold our breath avoiding our hopes from getting too high. I mean what if something unthinkable happens? Past pain seems to loom above and overshadow our anticipation.

Perhaps this conundrum isn't an isolated one? Do some of your situations prove challenging to remain hopeful? Perhaps the thought of unmet expectations outweighs your 'should-be' joy? Even now, it's supposed to be the most "wonderful time of the year" and for most of us it's either isolated and lonely, or so chock-full with things to-do that we can hardly stop to consider the pinnacle and point of Christmas: Emmanuel, God with Us.

An early hymn writer named Charles Wesley lived a life full of pain and fatigue. He was an unhoused nomadic evangelist for much of his life. But he penned the hope-filled song, *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* in 1740.

Here's verse 2:

*Other refuge have I none; Hangs my helpless soul on Thee.
Leave, ah, leave me not alone; Still support and comfort me!
All my trust on Thee is stayed; All my help from Thee I bring.
Cover my defenseless head, With the shadow of Thy wing.*

I don't know what you may be feeling as you pick up this year's Advent Devotional. Maybe you find yourself in a similar spot to me? You know the holidays to be good; this season is full of celebration. But it too can fill up with trivial things that keep you hustling, bustling, and distracted. And perhaps you mostly hold your breath as the chaos of Christmas approaches?

But may we all remember that God's final plan for the world's redemption started with His Son, Jesus. He's not only the 'reason for the season', He is the meaning of everything!

Prayer

Heavenly Father, would You encourage me to hope in and celebrate the arrival of the One who is above all others: Jesus! He is our refuge, redeemer and the heir of all things. He sustains all things, and He is worthy of my total trust and devotion whatever comes my way. Remind me each day, that my suffering is not in vain, that in the end God and man will dwell together. And it all began with my Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Jesus Is Higher Than Angels

HEBREWS 1:4–14

Andoret Barnard - East Abbotsford & Community & Care Pastoral Intern

Highlight

1:3b “After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.”...

The last time I was called an angel was in preschool. That December, three spots unexpectedly opened up in the local preschool, giving my mom a well-deserved break from parenting my two siblings and me. We’re triplets. Immediately, we were recruited as angels for the class Christmas nativity. Dressed in long white tunics with golden curtain cords for belts, heavy wings on our shoulders, and golden tinsel halos glimmering above our curly hairlocks, we triplet angels sang *Away in a ‘Major’* (our South African ESL version). Our angelic experience was glorious and heavenly! At least in our opinion.

Sometimes we carry an inflated view of angels—powerful celestial beings glowing with mystery and might. The Bible describes their brilliance and strength so vividly that we may unintentionally shrink our view of Christ’s supremacy.

But Hebrews calls us to lift our eyes higher—to the One who reigns above them all, seated enthroned in victory and majesty!

Jesus is not one among the heavenly beings; He is Lord over them.

Angels are created beings—Jesus is the Creator.

Angels are servants—Jesus is the eternal Son.

Angels worship—Jesus is worshiped.

Angels carry messages—Jesus is the Message, the Word made flesh at the birth of Christ.

Angels serve those who inherit salvation—Jesus purchased that salvation with His own blood.

So, when I hang three identical angels and golden tinsel on my Christmas tree, I smile and remember: angels may be great in power, but believers are greater in privilege, because Christ died not for angels, but for us, so that we might share His glory forever. Angels are wonderful, but how much more wonderful is Jesus?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are exalted above every power, even the angels who worship before Your throne. As heaven rejoiced at Your birth, fill my heart with that same awe and adoration this Christmas. May I be a faithful messenger of the resurrected Christ who will return not as a baby, but as King of kings and Lord of lords, in all glory, power and majesty! Amen.

Don't Drift

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HEBREWS 2:1-4

Jesse Schellenberg - Mission - Campus Pastor

There have been a few occasions in my married life where my wife has sat me down and told me that she doesn't feel loved by me. Of all the conversations we have, these are not my favourite ones. They typically involve those things called emotions, and facing the reality that I have failed to care for and love my wife the way that I know I am supposed to is not fun. Perhaps the most frustrating part of the whole thing is realizing how I have allowed my relationship with my wife to grow cold. How is it that we can neglect to value and cherish the things that are so important to us?

Hebrews chapter 2 begins with a warning to not neglect what should be precious to us. How can it be, the author ponders, that so great a gospel and a salvation would grow cold in our hearts. How can it be that the Church would turn their affections and attention away from the message they have received?

Growing cold and drifting away rarely occurs in a single instance. It is a slow and steady pattern that, if not caught, has significant implications. It is a distraction here and there, a worldly affection that demands too much attention, a hidden sin that you are trying to tame rather than flee from, a little lie that is starting to define you. Then, before you know it, you look up and you are miles offshore.

So, here is a question for us to consider today. Are you drifting away? Is your love growing cold?

I don't like it when my wife points this out in our marriage, but her firm rebuke is a faithful word to a cold heart. So it is with the author of Hebrews; the firm rebuke is a faithful word to a cold heart. May we never forget that love, genuine joy and affection in God is what anchors us to him. Don't let this Christmas pass you by without remembering the love of Christ that is on full display in that lowly manger.

Prayer

Lord, restore to me the joy of my salvation. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with me this Christmas season.

Jesus Made Fully Human

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HEBREWS 2:5-9

Luke Friesen - Downes Road - Pastor of High School

I was in Phoenix a little while ago, to watch an NFL game. It was my dad's 70th birthday, and a good excuse to escape rainy BC and head to a place where many snowbirds enjoy better weather. It was thrilling to watch the Packers beat the Cardinals, but there is one part of this professional sport I do not understand; when the players arrive. Showing up in style, many players wear outlandish clothing and make a spectacle of their fashion sense, which has nothing to do with the game of football.

But isn't this how our world works? Important people show off how 'important' they are. Their life is a spectacle for others to see how great they are. They use their clothing, their job, their network of friends, or their wealth to flaunt how significant they are in comparison to everyone else.

Our reading from Hebrews today tells a different story. What we see in the story of Christ is that he did not come in self-importance. When Jesus, the Saviour of the world, came to earth, he arrived lower than those who announced his birth (Luke 2:8-10). Not in splendour but in humility.

When Jesus came, He was a little lower than angels, but through His death and suffering, He was crowned with glory and honour. He could have arrived in power and might, but He did not; He came as a servant. In a world where we try to raise the banner of our self-importance, we're faced with Jesus. The one who deserves all the power and glory right from His birth, but chooses to be humble.

This is what makes Jesus so wonderful. The most important being in the universe came as a man to live the life that man could not live. Christ took the place of men to show how mankind should live and died the death that all mankind deserved. The King became the Sacrifice.

Prayer

Lord, would your arrival to earth, in meekness and humility, remind me that you became sin who knew no sin. You entered into the world and became human. You were tempted and tried, yet lived without sin. You didn't come in pomp-and-circumstance, but in lowliness. The Creator being made known to His creation. You are good. You are God. And may Your importance, significance, and wonderful splendour be celebrated well this Christmas. Amen.

The Family of Jesus

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HEBREWS 2:10-18

Anlea Friesen - Downes Road - Pastor of Women's Ministry

I have a younger sister who, in many ways, is just like me. Growing up, it was not uncommon for people to assume we were twins. We have similar hobbies, taste in movies, manner of speaking, and physical features. We went to the same schools, we work at the same place, and we married brothers. We've also walked through many life experiences together, including joys, sorrows, periods of waiting, and pain. It's not surprising that she is a person I turn to for sympathy, understanding, and wisdom, because I know she gets me. She's like me.

It's not unusual for siblings or close friends to be able to support each other. What is unusual is to consider how the God of the universe, entirely holy and powerful, glorified and mighty, could be made like us. The mystery of the incarnation that we celebrate at Christmas IS this reality: the Son of God took on flesh and blood, walked this earth, suffered, was tempted, in order to be like us. Why? So that He can call us brothers and sisters. So that He could share in our suffering. So that He could be our merciful high priest. So that He could sympathize with our temptations. So that He could come alongside to help us.

There are certain griefs and pains in this life that can quickly cause isolation, loneliness, and a feeling of helplessness as we walk through them. It's a struggle that feels like no one can quite understand. This Christmas, turn to your brother who loves you so radically that,

“He himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.” (Hebrews 2:14b-15)

He loves you as His own sibling. He's not ashamed of you, He wants to be with you and came to save you, and He gets you. Your suffering is not foreign to Him. He understands your pain, and He was made like you, so that He can help you in these times and ultimately bring you through them unto glory.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, may Your relationship to the world transform my perspective this Christmas. You are with me always. I have a Helper, a Deliverer, an Advocate, and a Saviour in You. Please encourage and equip me to live in freedom, reminded that I am in the family of Christ.

Jesus Greater than Moses

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HEBREWS 3:1-6

Connor Belsher - Mission - Pastor of Discipleship

I recall once helping in a preschool class on a Sunday morning and watching one boy, who usually struggled to sit and listen during the Bible teaching time, become almost entranced by that morning's lesson. It was a lesson all about the identity and mission of Jesus. The teacher discussed how Jesus taught us about how to live and provided us with commandments to follow. To which the four-year-old boy shouted, "Just like Moses!"

The teacher was a little shocked by the answer, but gently encouraged, "That's right! Just like Moses, but even greater!" The teacher continued, saying that Jesus was our leader and example. To which the boy responded with, "Just like Moses!" Again, the teacher responded with encouragement. This dialogue would repeat for the rest of the teaching time. Each time the teacher described Jesus, the boy was reminded of Moses. We later learned that the story of Moses was this kid's favourite story. His parents were unsurprised by his answers.

Moses is one of the most important people in the Old Testament. He was a prophet, lawgiver, mediator of the Old Covenant between Israel

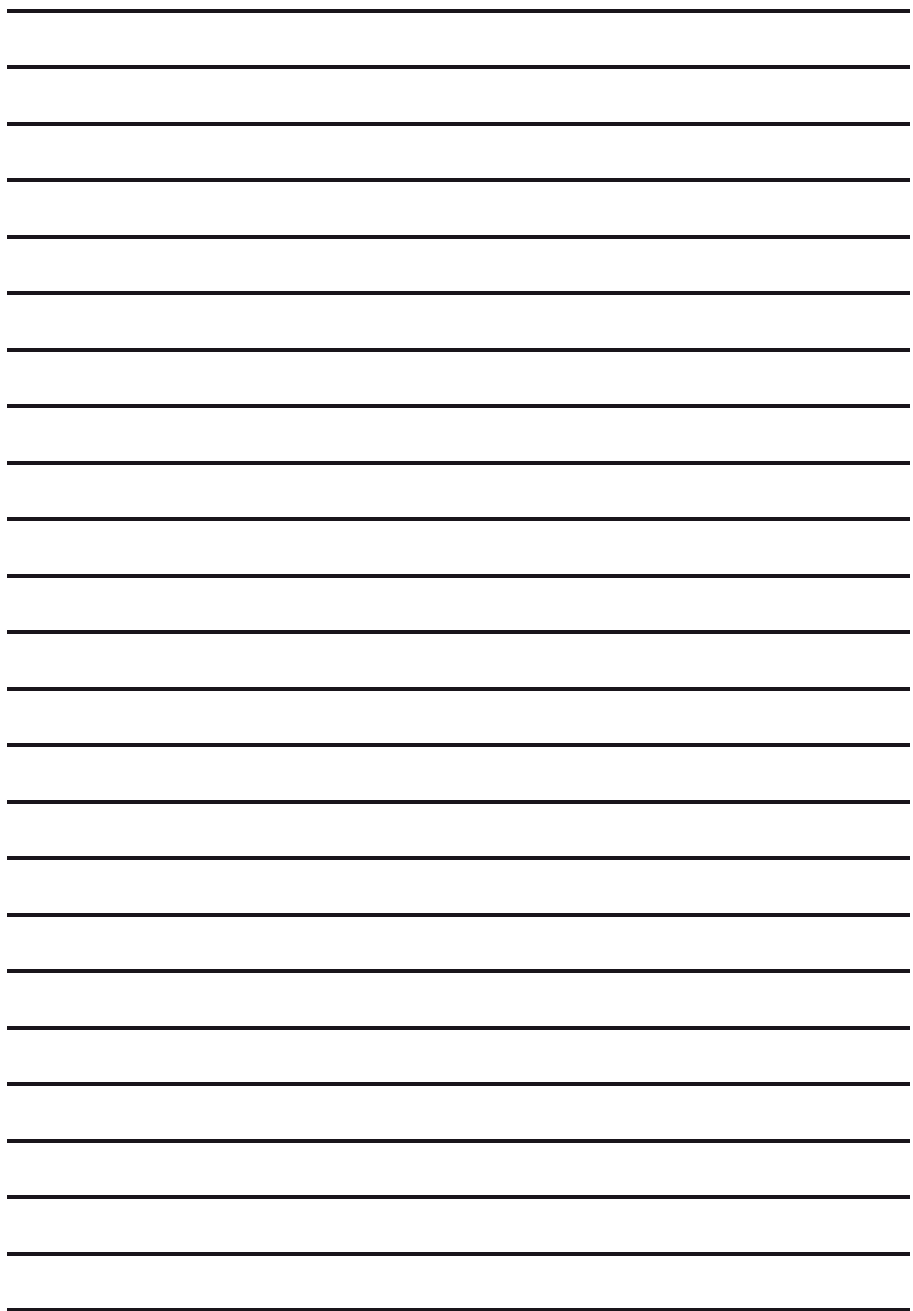
and God, who led Israel out of Pharaoh's slavery, performed miracles, and even had intimate conversations with God. An important role Moses played was serving as Israel's intercessor, asking God to be merciful and forgive Israel for their sins.

As great and awesome as Moses was, the author of Hebrews declares that Jesus is counted far more worthy and glorious than Moses. Even though Moses was faithful and obedient to what God appointed him to be, he can only be seen as a servant or manager of God's house. Whereas Jesus is the Master of God's house, offering and doing more than Moses ever could.

Jesus was a prophet and law-giver, but He is so much more because He fulfilled the Law perfectly. Jesus didn't just mediate a covenant between God and people; a new covenant was established through his death and resurrection. Rather than just being an intercession, in Jesus we have the forgiveness of sins. Moreover, Moses promised that a Messiah would come who would be greater than he. The book of Hebrews argues that Jesus is the Messiah and the greater Moses.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, please allow me to clearly see the supremacy, significance, brilliance and worth of Jesus: the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. This Christmas, I ask that Your glory would be on display in my life and circumstances.



Listening to a Loving Father

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HEBREWS 3:7-19

Joshua Scott - Downes Road - Weekend Teaching and Ministries Pastor

When my siblings and I were young, my Dad taught us to listen to a very particular whistling tune. And whenever we heard it, whether we were in the park, or two aisles over in the grocery store, we knew that we needed to go find him. Even if I was in the middle of doing something fun, I knew, when I heard that whistle, that I needed to look up and find my Dad. To ignore him wasn't just a bad decision because I was *supposed* to listen, it was a bad decision because I knew that my Dad was looking out for my good. He wanted me to be safe. He didn't want me to be left behind. He wanted to help me see something fun that I hadn't noticed yet.

The text we have here in Hebrews 3 can sometimes strike us as a bit harsh at first, but it's really not. The author warns us to be careful to listen to the voice of God and not to ignore Him or harden our hearts to His instruction, because He is altogether good. He desires your best. So much so that His own Son, Jesus Christ, died on the cross to pay the price of your sin so that you could come to call God your Father, know Christ as your brother (Heb 2:11), and have the Spirit living in you, guaranteeing your forgiveness and future life with God in heaven. If this

is the God who speaks to us through His word, the Bible, then why should I ever doubt that when He speaks, it is always for my good.

So today, as you hear His voice through His Word, don't harden your hearts, don't ignore the whistle from two aisles over. God is instructing you as a good Father who loves His kids and is inviting you to know and enjoy the fullness of life.

Prayer

Father, would you give me the desire to hear your voice through Your Word and to faithfully respond. Help me to stay in step with Your Spirit and to live my life in a way that points to Your Son Jesus, while I trust and respond to Your leading and guiding.

Rest for God's People

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HEBREWS 4:1-11

Kristal Towes - Downes - Discipleship Pastor

About a month ago, a group of pastors, Immerse students, and ministry apprentices gathered to review Exodus 2:23-6:8. In this text, God revealed Himself to Moses and Israel so that they might know Him and be in relationship with Him and thereby enter His rest. This meant Israel was to be delivered from slavery in Egypt to serve the LORD in the land that He promised them. It was emphasized that, for Israel to receive all that God had for them, they needed to know God as He defined Himself, not as they defined Him! Israel needed to have their hearts and minds shaped by His words and His actions, which was necessary for them to develop the kind of faith that would enable them to obediently persevere through difficulty and enter the Promised Land.

As the story continued in Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers, we see that this generation of Israel failed to listen to God's voice and place their faith in him. Consequently, only two people from this original group actually entered the Promised Land and received God's rest under Joshua's leadership 40 years later.

In today's Advent reading, the author of Hebrews is using this story of Israel as a warning for all of us who have the opportunity to follow God

now. Jesus entered history to deliver people from slavery to sin so that they can serve Him and thereby enter His eternal rest, experiencing eternal life (starting now, and continuing into eternity).

This eternal rest is available for the people of God (Hebrews 4:8), but for us to obtain it, we too need to have our hearts and minds shaped by His words and His actions so that we develop the kind of faith that will help us obediently persevere through difficulty. And so,

Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,

*"Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts." Hebrews 4:6-7*

Prayer

I commit today, and every day, that when I hear the Lord convicting me through His Word, I will not harden my heart. God, I ask that You would work in me the desire to know You more, to follow Your instruction, and to persevere in my faith and belief as I enter Your rest.

WEEK 2

Jesus is greater

DEC 10

God Perceives All Things

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HEBREWS 4:12-13

Luke Etelamaki - Chilliwack - Campus Pastor

This time of year often reveals a lot about us. My kids are still excited about making a Christmas list and daydreaming about presents, but my older kids are thinking more about decorations than presents. The more they dream up elaborate lights and trees, the more I'm called a Grinch—which, let's be honest, probably says more about the cold spot in my own heart than their wild ideas.

Christmas time, with all the themes of joy, hope, peace, and love, can act as a spotlight on our lives, illuminating the sad state of our souls. As we encounter them repeatedly, in the songs playing, in the decorations around our homes, and in the culture at large, we notice how little joy, hope, peace, and love we actually possess. Maybe, like me, you feel this? The very thing we are celebrating, “the Word becoming flesh”, becomes a tool that seems to cut through our hearts and souls, revealing an ugly reality about us: We have looked and settled for joy, hope, peace, and love that haven't satisfied.

Hebrews 4:12-13 tells us that God cuts us open, not as a warrior looking to kill but as a surgeon with a scalpel looking to heal. He exposes the rot and decay that the idols of our hearts have produced in our lives, but

not to shame and reject us. Isn't this the astonishing news of Christmas? The God who perceives all things did not turn away or reject us, but moved toward us. The baby in the manger, whom angels rejoice over, whom shepherds worship, whom the wisemen seek, is the one who will one day be stripped bare, exposed on a cross so that you and I can be clothed in his joy, hope, peace, and love.

What is Christmas exposing in your life? Can I encourage you not to cover it up with busyness, presents, or parties? But spend some time allowing God to cut through the emotions and motives of our hearts to reveal areas of our lives that we are looking to give us only what He can?

Prayer

Jesus, would You show me where and how I have settled for less than what You offer? As You expose my heart this Christmas season, would You reveal the wonderful reality of who You are and what You have done for me, so that I may rejoice and experience the joy, hope, peace, and love that You have provided.

God WITH US to Dwell

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HEBREWS 4:15-5:10

Bonny Wormald - Abbotsford - Children's Ministry Pastor

Whenever my kids need something, they don't hesitate to approach me. They don't knock quietly or peek around the corner. They walk right up. Sometimes bursting into a room mid-conversation to ask for help, a snack, or a hug. They're confident because they know who they belong to. They trust that my heart toward them is good. That kind of confidence is what God invites us into. Picture it: the boldness to walk right up to the throne of grace. Not with fear or hesitation, but with the quiet assurance that you're deeply loved, fully known, and completely accepted.

Hebrews 4:14-16 tells us we have a great High Priest, Jesus, who intercedes for us. He knows what it's like to live in this world, to face temptation, pain, and weariness, and yet He never sinned. Because of that, He's not a distant Saviour but a compassionate one. He understands our struggles and invites us to come close. Through Jesus, our great High Priest who offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice, we're invited to approach God with confidence - fully welcomed, fully forgiven, and fully His.

The invitation is simple but astonishing: come near. The old covenant

only allowed people to approach God through priests and sacrifices. Access was limited. But through Jesus, we now have direct access to the Father. We don't have to earn our way in or clean ourselves up first. We draw near because Jesus already made the way. That phrase 'draw near' means to keep coming, again and again, to receive mercy for our failures and grace for our needs. It's here we find hope and love in our Great Saviour.

At Christmas, we remember that this same Jesus, who now reigns in glory, came to us in humility. The baby in the manger grew up to open the way for us to come close to God. Because of Him, we don't stand far off wondering if we belong. We draw near, fully known, fully loved, and fully welcomed. So come near. Bring your worries, your weariness, your wonder. The King on the throne smiles when He sees His children approach.

Prayer

Father, thank You for sending Jesus, the great High Priest and perfect Saviour. Help me to draw near with confidence, resting in Your mercy and rejoicing that Your throne is full of grace. Amen.

Maturing in the Faith

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HEBREWS HEB 5:11-6:3

Jesse Wilson - Abbotsford - Pastor of Community and Care

New York City seems full of excitement at Christmastime, right? From “Buddy the Elf,” finding the world’s “best” cup of coffee to Kevin McAllister enjoying a pizza in a limousine, I’ve always imagined NYC’s atmosphere to be festively fantastic. I was there in early November when holiday cheer was minimal. But one place was very ready: Macy’s. (Think Miracle on 34th Street.)

The enormous department store didn’t hold back on lights and decorations. Those walking by on the street were captivated. On the outside, the storefront IS incredible, but it’s just the entry point for the impressive experience on the inside. You’re meant to appreciate and go through the doorway, but you’re not supposed to stay in the lobby.

Similarly, Hebrews 5:11-6:3 confronts its audience. It is possible to have taken the initial steps of repentance and faith, but not yet grown up as disciples of Jesus. It's like you're waiting in Macy’s lobby, unwilling to move inside. Unskilled in understanding Scripture. Low discernment. No ability to teach. Needing milk because solid food is too much. From Scripture’s view, you’re meant to move from infancy and move forward

to maturity. Our church family needs you to be on a runway of growth to help others know God and to biblically navigate all of life.

I'll push a little harder. The times I have stalled involved a buried belief in this lie: "I think I've already got all that God has to offer on this." And other times: "I know I'm not perfect, but I'm too busy for this growth stuff."

It sounds spiritually Grinch-like...like something someone "dull of hearing" would say, doesn't it?

This text provokes reflection: "Lord, show me where I'm immature." (I wonder what the Holy Spirit would highlight for you. An apathy towards God's commands? An obsession with worldly distractions?)

Our foundation matters. You have to be drawn to the storefront of the gospel and enter with repentance and faith. (As do those in your life who are far from God!) Our maturity also matters. You should not stay in the elementary basics of the "lobby" and never move into the fullness of what God wants to do in you and through you.

Prayer

Father, I suspect I've been dull of hearing in some ways. Show me where. Thank you for showing me where I need to change and grow as I walk with you! Permit me to know you and follow you better. Amen.

Salvation (Faith) That Lasts

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HEBREWS 6:4-12

Eric Heath - Central Abbotsford - Campus Pastor & Men's Ministry

As the father of four children, I have been through many seasons of watching (and even actively participating in) them developing new skills. One of those skills, though it is more suited to summer than the Advent season, is swimming.

If you are a parent who has been involved in teaching a child how to swim, you know that deep down you experience two feelings that seem, at least on the surface (no pun intended), contradictory. First, there is fear. Water is dangerous, and if your child doesn't respect its power, then there is always a risk that the worst could happen. So you warn them of the dangers of water as you send them into the pool.

On the other hand, there is an expectant hope! After all, you learned how to swim, you have seen others learn to swim, and so you recognize - you know, even - that the process that your child is going through is going to come to fruition, and a competent swimmer will be the final product.

This mix of warning and hope is what we see in Hebrews 6:4-12. The author knows that when someone proclaims a desire to live a life

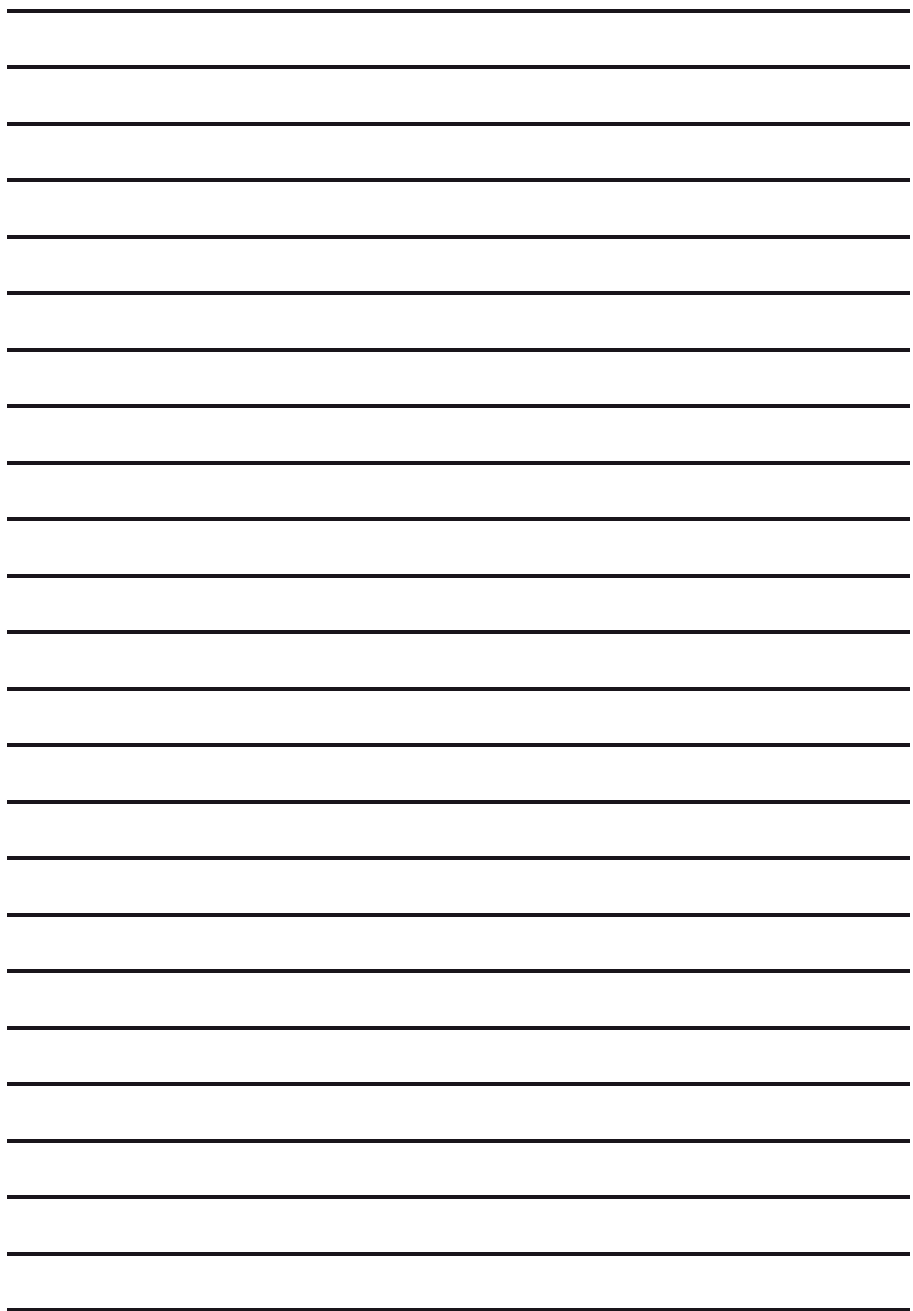
faithful to Jesus, there is always a risk that life circumstances, trials, or the enemy's efforts will draw them away from this obedience, leaving them with a barren life devoid of good works.

And yet! The overwhelming message of this passage is one of hope. Look again at verse 9 - "Though we speak in this way" - that is, offering up a dire warning, "yet in your case, beloved, we feel sure of better things—things that belong to salvation."

Maybe you have always read these verses and have felt the worry of the warning more than the comfort of the assurance the author gives - if that is the case, then I encourage you to read them anew, knowing that your God is sure of better things for you - the best thing of all being the eternity in His presence that He is preparing you for, in the name of His beloved Son and by the Holy Spirit in which you truly share.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You that You equip Your people for a life that demonstrates, both in word and in fruit, a persevering and genuine faith in Your Son Jesus, whom we eagerly await. Keep me dependent on and faithful to You, I ask. Amen.



Hope that Endures

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HEBREWS 6:13-20

Dolly Oliech - Downes - Missions Pastor

Hope is a word that is a substitute for a wish: I hope I get new Nikes for Christmas; I hope my friend lands that new job; I hope my grandfather's health is restored. While it is true that the word hope is used as a desire with an anticipated outcome, this type of wishful hope often feels empty, right? So often, these hopes go unfulfilled.

If there was anyone in the Bible who had hope that seemed to go unfulfilled, it was Abraham. He was called by God to a new place (Gen. 12), and was promised land and offspring (along with being blessed and being a blessing to all the nations). Yet had no children. After many years had passed, Abraham questioned God whether he would have this promised child, or if his heir would come through one of his servants (Gen. 15). Even though God had made this promise, sometimes during the waiting, it feels hopeless.

Our Hebrews passage today refers back to this very situation in Genesis. God proved Himself to Abraham by taking on the responsibility of fulfilling His own covenant, assuring him that He indeed would deliver that promise. He is the God who does not lie and is faithful, (in fact,

erse 18 states that it is impossible for Him to lie)! He did give Abraham his promised heir: Isaac. And we, sitting on the other side of history, know that this promise was fulfilled.

Today's passage in Hebrews reminds us of a hope that never fails. This hope is not based on a human's promise, often leading to disappointment. But we have the promise of a faithful, covenant-keeping God. He is the One that we can hold fast to, who sent His Son, Jesus, to fulfill the promises that He made for our redemption. Jesus, our forerunner, our high priest forever, is the anchor for our storm-tossed souls.

Prayer

Father God, I come to you with thanksgiving, as the God who never fails, the Keeper of every promise, the Faithful One from generation to generation. Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, the fulfillment of Your greatest promise, to redeem and restore those who believe. When I feel tossed by the wind in the storms of life, help me to remember to keep my eyes on You, the Anchor for my soul. Amen

Melchizedek the Priest

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HEBREWS 7:1-10

Connor Belsher - Mission - Pastor of Discipleship

My four-year-old is rapidly gaining the ability to use the English language to communicate increasingly intricate and detailed information correctly. Her ability has only increased as she learns different figures of speech that confuse her. Not too long ago, my wife told her to “keep her eyes peeled for Christmas lights” as we drove home from a friend’s house. My daughter asked, “What does ‘eyes peeled’ mean?”

It was a great question, and when we explained that ‘eyes peeled’ means to keep looking out for something, it struck me how often we use phrases, do different behaviours, or use terms that feel normal, but to outsiders (or preschoolers), are very odd and mysterious. Melchizedek, the priest of the Most High God, is like this. The author of Hebrews seems to assume that the reader knows who Melchizedek is, but to us, Melchizedek is like my daughter trying to understand how she is going to peel her eyes.

Melchizedek is mentioned only twice in the Bible. First, in Genesis 14:18-20, Abraham gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything he owned as a worship offering to God, as Melchizedek was both a priest to God and

a king. In return, Melchizedek blessed Abraham. The second instance is in Psalm 110, a Psalm of David that prophesies a future king-priest who will be “after the order of Melchizedek.”

Why does this matter? What Melchizedek teaches us is that the Old Testament anticipates a priest-king type of Messiah. Jesus is not just a priest who grants us access to God. Nor is Jesus just a king who rules and reigns. Rather, Jesus is both and fulfills the ancient longing of the Old Testament for a priestly-king like Melchizedek. In other words, it's in Jesus that we have the priestly-king David wrote in Psalm 110. Like much of the book of Hebrews, Jesus is greater! He is the fulfillment of and greater priestly king that Melchizedek was.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, remind me to look to Your Son, Jesus, as the one who rules and reigns and through His death and resurrection, grants me access to you, God. Impress upon my heart that Jesus is the greater high priest/king. Amen.

Jesus' Better Covenant

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HEBREWS 7:11-28

Eli Cook - Mission - Immerse Intern

I am the youngest of four, so naturally, I would pick fights with my older siblings to try to show my non-existent dominance. It wasn't uncommon to receive a big mitt-sized palm to my forehead, preventing me from getting within striking distance of my brother. I was like a little skinny NFL kicker trying to tackle a massive running back, who gets stiff-armed to the ground in the process. It's not even a close competition.

In Revelation 12:10, we are told that Satan accuses us before the Father day and night. Similar to me trying to inflict pain on my siblings, we have Satan always trying to accuse us before the Father and steal our joy. Without Christ, Satan would get what he wants—our eternal damnation away from God.

But the author of Hebrews tells us wonderful news: Something or someone is going to shut Satan's mouth against us and shut it for good. Verse 19 says, "there is a bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God." What is that better hope? God Himself coming in the form of a human baby! This is what Christmas is all about! And now we get to draw near to God? Yes! A few chapters earlier in Hebrews 4:16, we read, "let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews

7:25 has the same theme: “He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

So if you have put your faith in Jesus, you have the living Son of God himself interceding for you day and night. Satan, sin, and death have not only been stiff-armed to the ground. Satan has been crushed by the heel of Christ, who cried out, “*It is finished,*” on the cross. Hebrews 7:24 says, “Jesus...because He continues forever, holds His priesthood *permanently.*” Our joy, our future, our peace, our salvation, and our hope are all available and eternally secure in Jesus, who will remain *forever* as our holy and perfect interceding priest.

Prayer

Father in Heaven, Hallowed be your name, worthy of all praise, honour and adoration. Your Son has set me apart, consecrated me and dedicated me to your service so please find me faithful to live in such a way to bring fame to Your Name. Amen

Jesus' New Covenant Triumphs the Old Covenant

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HEBREWS 8:1-13

Levi Friesen - East Abbotsford - Campus Pastor, MAP Academic Coordinator

What is a live Christmas tree like at the end of the winter season? If you neglect them like I do, they become dry and brown, losing their needles in bunches, and even cease to smell like a tree anymore. Why? Because the little basin at the bottom of the tree only works for a time. Imagine trying to keep a big Christmas tree alive in that little pot of water year after year, decade after decade. At a certain point, you would be forced to come to grips with the fact that, while a tree is good and beautiful for its specific season, it simply isn't meant to be a fixture in your home forever. It is intended to be temporary.

Much of Hebrews addresses this exact premise: the Old Covenant was for a season, always meant to be replaced by a New Covenant. Hebrews 8:1-13 argues that this is a good thing because the New Covenant is superior to the Old one. This shouldn't surprise us. Hebrews says that the patterns of the Old Covenant were a mere "copy and shadow" of the heavenly realities that are given to us in the New Covenant. Verses 10-12 tell us that the New Covenant is better because it addresses the heart, while the Old Covenant dealt with external behaviours and practices. This New Covenant is better because God's people will know Him and

be changed internally so that they live as they should. How will these things happen? Because this New Covenant is based on God's mercy and forgiveness.

This means that for everyone who places their faith in Jesus, they will receive the benefits of this covenant. Those benefits give us real life, because by them we know God, the Giver of Life, and are enabled to live in His ways, which are the paths that lead to life. It is as though we are trees deeply rooted, able to receive all that we need to thrive and flourish as we receive all that this New Covenant entails.

Prayer

Father God I ask that You will help me remember that what I have in Jesus is better than anything else I could ask for: I have life in Him, which is the only life that lasts. May the promises of the new covenant enable me to live my life in a manner worthy of the gospel. Amen.

Worship as Sacrifice

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HEBREWS 9:1-10

Danae Friesen - Downes - Care Ministry Counsellor

Recently, I have found myself admitting that I often find more joy in the time leading up to Christmas than the day itself. The anticipatory rituals of putting up the tree, changing my regular playlist to Christmas songs, reading Advent devotionals (like this one!), and gathering gifts for loved ones - these are full of delightful expectations. However, with Boxing Day inevitably comes a sense that it all wasn't quite enough, and the lingering disappointment disenchants the season.

You may or may not be a person with Christmas "rituals", but we are all familiar with this sense of longing and disappointment. Under the old covenant, the Jewish priests carried out the rituals of the sacrificial system that were given by God so that the people would understand God's holiness and the sin that separates them from him. There was something good and right about the priests obediently performing these tasks year after year, even though they were insufficient; they could not permanently solve the problem of sin in the human heart. So priests worked day in and out with the knowledge that all they were doing were merely shadows of a future reality. God had promised that one day he would cleanse them from the inside out, and this is what the faithful longed for.

We know that the fulfillment of the priest's obedience was Christ—the perfect high priest and once-for-all sacrifice. However, we also know that the rhythms of our Christian life today are in some ways still mere shadows of our future reality when Christ returns. This is why longing is such familiar territory for us. It causes us to feel weary of doing good, weary of confession and repentance, weary of going through the motions, weary of showing up to church or showing up for our brothers and sisters. It always feels a bit insufficient - so are these rituals of obedience worth it?

Let us learn the lesson of faithful priests, who carried out their tasks knowing the true and better was yet to come.

Prayer

Father, in this season I feel weary: Weary of going through the motions. Weary of obedience that doesn't seem fruitful. Weary of doing good in the face of endless need. Would You refresh my heart which is full of longing. And satisfy me with the confidence that the best is yet to come; when all that is not yet, will be. Amen.

Jesus our Sacrifice and Object of Worship

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HEBREWS 9:11-28

Austin Kuhn - East Abbotsford Children's Ministry Assistant

In High School, I worked hard enough to buy my very own bass guitar. I picked the flashiest, coolest-looking one I could afford. That following Christmas, my parents gifted me a new bass guitar. It was less showy and cool, but much better quality. The moment I started playing my new bass, I knew that this one was going to be the one. It sounded so much better. I haven't played the old flashy one since!

When we receive new and better things, why would we go back to what is old? This was the issue the original audience of Hebrews was having. They wanted to go back to the old covenant sacrificial system. They wanted this physical reminder of the cleansing of their sins. It was like they wanted to play the old bass guitar when a new, better one, was waiting to be played.

The author of Hebrews gives us an amazing truth. Though the old covenant sacrifices were given to Israel by God, He had a plan for something greater and more perfect. What God reveals to us is that these animal sacrifices were pointing to Jesus as the final, perfect sacrifice. Through Jesus' sacrifice, we have the forgiveness of sins, and we have an eternal redemption secured.

“Once for all,” should give us great joy and confidence! Once for all Jesus came to deal with our sin. We stand secure, because God the Son, our beautiful Saviour, has once for all brought us from death into everlasting life. We know that Jesus once for all came to redeem us through His blood and has given us a new heart. And though we do not yet see Him, we love Him, and we look forward with anticipation for the day when we will worship our King face to face, where all will be made new.

Because of Christ, we can sing:

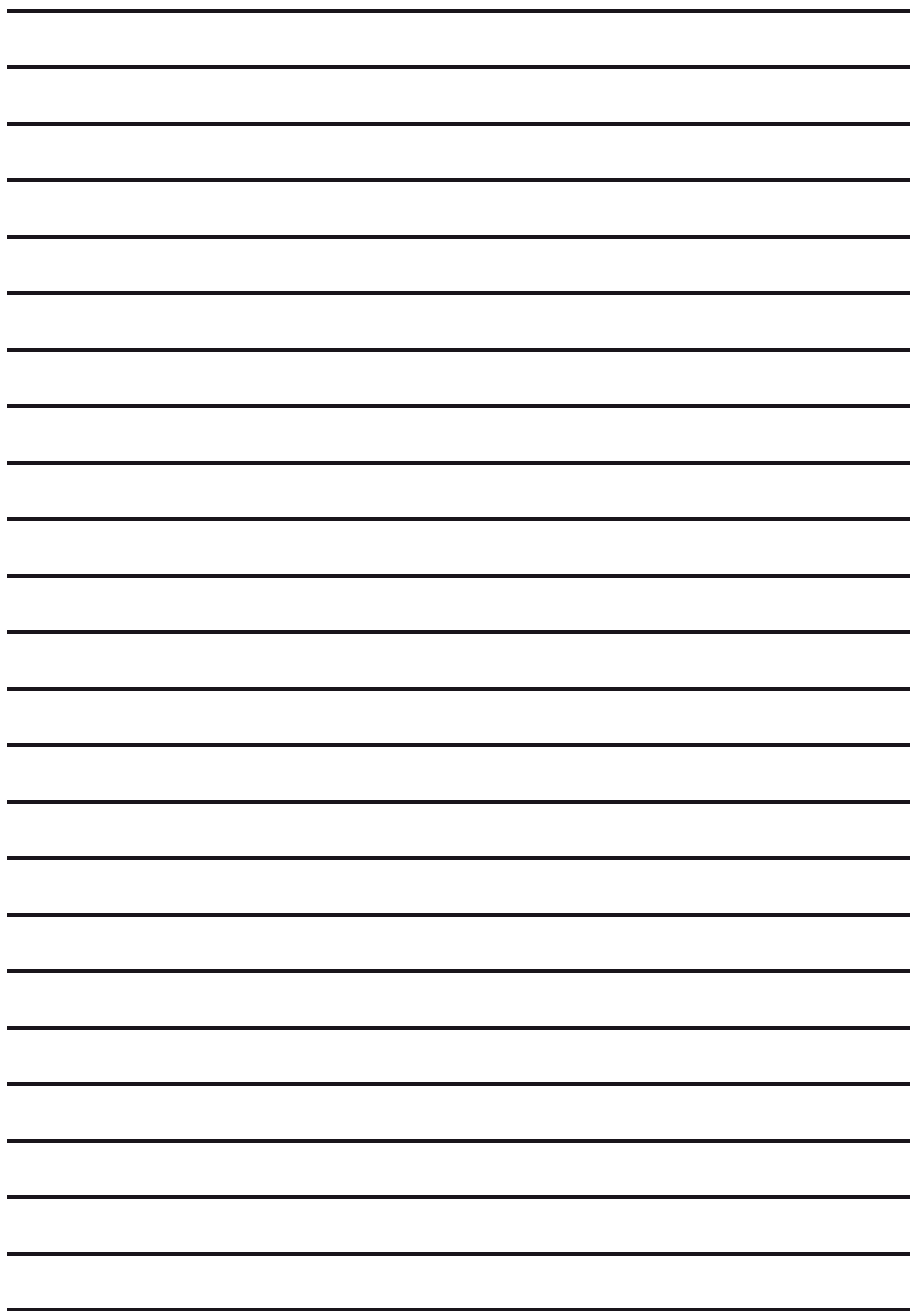
*“...once for all, our King has paid it all; All the glory to His name!
And by His blood, the curse of man undone; All the glory to His
name!”*

(Once for All by CityAlight)

I might have a new song to learn on the bass.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I pray I would treasure You above all else. Would You be exalted, lifted high, and made much of in my life. Where other things creep in and try to steal my devotion and love away from You, please give me strength to prioritize You. Please lead me into all truth, by Your Spirit, to worship You rightly. Amen.



No More Waiting

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HEB 10:1-18

Joshua Scott - Downes Road - Weekend Teaching and Ministries Pastor

When my wife and I first found out that we were expecting a baby, we were thrilled. We immediately began dreaming and planning for the day when we would finally bring him home, but in God's good design, we had to wait. In the meantime, we eagerly marked our calendars for the next most exciting day: the first ultrasound. There are almost no words to explain how surreal that first scan was. When the nurse began pointing out the toes, the fingers, the head of our baby boy we couldn't stop smiling. But as fun and incredible as having those pictures was it didn't satisfy our longing to hold the little guy in our arms. The pictures were great, they showed us something real and true about this soon-to-be-born walking tornado, but they weren't our baby boy, they were, in a very real sense, shadows.

In a sense this is what God gave to the Israelites when he taught them to sacrifice bulls and goats for the forgiveness of their sins. God's people had a real need, a sin problem that needed to be satisfied and so he gave them the vivid picture of an animal giving up its life to pay their debt. But it was just a picture, a shadow, "for it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins" (Heb 10:4). What they needed was the real thing, a sacrifice that could actually, perfectly cover over their

sins and take the full penalty for the evil of their hearts.

What they needed was Jesus. What we need is Jesus. And, in the brilliant mystery of it all, because Jesus is both truly God and truly man, the author of Hebrews tells us that He suffered death, “once for all.” A single sacrifice that could satisfy the need for all who would believe in Him.

Here’s the brilliant thing for you and me to enjoy today: We’re not waiting anymore. We’re not looking at pictures and shadows, longing for the day when we’ll have the real thing. No, we have Jesus now. We have His sacrifice on the cross to look back to every day and be reminded that even the sins you’ve committed this morning have been paid for.

So put your faith in the living Son of God. Trust Him today, seek Him today, and by faith enjoy the forgiveness that He purchased with His blood.

Prayer

Father, would Your forgiveness and love overwhelm every darkness in my life, and would I delight in bringing You praise. The wait is over, Your Son has come. Thank you for transforming my life. Amen

Persevere in the Faith

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HEBREWS 10:19-25

Jalen Krahn - Chilliwack Immerse Student

Growing up, my family would take occasional ski trips to Sun Peaks and SilverStar. My whole family would join. The grandparents, aunts, and uncles, skiing together in one big group.

I cut my teeth on those slopes, and when I was finally old enough to go down Blue Runs, I was cautioned by my dad to stay close. His instruction was for my good. It was foggy, dangerous, and cold at the top of the mountain and I could get lost. Foolishly, I dismissed his warning.

I remember one of the first times heading down the hill. I veered away from my dad and missed a trailhead, got lost, and ended up buried in the middle of the trees, completely isolated from the rest of the group. One of my skis was missing, snow was up my back, underneath my coat, and in my goggles. I quickly realized the danger I was in.

Why didn't I listen to my dad? He said this would happen if I didn't stay close and keep my eyes on him.

This is how we often go through life. We feel bulletproof in our faith

until we lose sight of our Heavenly Father, and then life buries us in 6 feet of snow.

We simply cannot walk our Christian lives alone. Some of us may be good at skiing, but we would be foolish to ski solo in a blizzard. The same is true in our walks with Christ. We have been given access to the Father through Jesus, and yet we still try to walk alone. Draw near to Christ as he has drawn near to you, hold fast to Him. And remember to build up your brothers and sisters the same. We are a family who can help spur one another on to faithful devotion to our Heavenly Father.

My dad ended up finding me. And after that, I never let him out of my sight. I knew I would be okay if I remained with him. So I encourage you to hold fast to Christ, like a son holds fast to his father in a time of need.

Prayer

Lord, would You equip me in Your firm embrace to trust and follow Your guidance. Would You inspire me to encourage Your church toward love and good deeds, and to faithfully participate in the Family of God.

WEEK 4

Jesus is greater

DEC 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

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We hope you'll join us at one of our locations
to celebrate Christmas Eve with us:

Downes Road

Worship Centre

11am

12:30pm

2pm

3:30pm

5pm

6:30pm

Central Abbotsford

Please join us at Downes

Road in Centre Court

East Abbotsford

2pm

3:30pm

5pm

Downes Road

Centre Court

2pm

3:30pm

Mission

1pm

3pm

5pm

Confidence in God's Promise

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HEBREWS 10:26-39

Levi Friesen - East Abbotsford - Campus Pastor, MAP Academic Coordinator

Perhaps you or someone you know has family or friends they love who live far away. The faraway friend tells them they will be coming for a visit a year from now and will need a place to stay. Whether you begin to prepare a space for them to stay depends on how much you trust this friend to deliver on their promise. The certainty of a promise makes all the difference in how we live once we have received it. A great promise is something that we will shape our lives around, but even great promises are hard to keep in mind when they take a long time to come to pass.

This was the situation of the people to whom the letter of Hebrews was written. They had received the promises of God, and believed them, but over time were tempted to stop living like they were true, and to return to the sin they had left behind. This passage offers both negative and positive motivations to help Christians continue faithfully as they wait.

First, they are warned that if they turn away from Jesus, there is nowhere else to go where they might find God's forgiveness. Some strong language is used here: To turn away after receiving the news about Jesus would be to have "trampled underfoot the Son of God," to have "profaned the blood of the covenant," and to have "outraged the

Spirit of grace” (v. 29). The warning is real. Yet, these people also have a great reason, based on their own history, to believe that they can make it to the end. Their confidence in God’s promises had a dramatic effect on them before, causing them to endure “a hard struggle with sufferings” (v. 32).

How are they ultimately going to keep that confidence? In the same way that they were saved in the first place: Not by their own efforts, but if they will “live by faith” (v. 38). In this way, living by faith in Jesus is not only the way that you are saved, but it is also the way that you will make it to the end.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I thank you that you sent your Son, Jesus, to be perfectly obedient and live the life I could not live, that Jesus would die the death I deserved so that my sin could be forgiven and be reconciled and redeemed back into your family and fold. Remind me of this truth each and every day, helping me turn to Jesus in all that I do.

The Hall of Faith

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HEBREWS 11:1-40

Levi Friesen - East Abbotsford - Campus Pastor, MAP Academic Coordinator

Have you ever been stuck with the issue that a Christmas present would not arrive on time to be given on Christmas Day itself? If you want to prove to someone that their gift is on the way, what do you do? These days, you can show them a confirmation email or live package tracking updates. Until recently, that wasn't the case. You had no way to see these kinds of updates, so what would give you confidence that things would arrive in the end? You had to look at other examples, other things you had ordered that had shown up, even when it seemed like they might not make it.

The list of people who trusted in God's promises in Hebrews 11 is a list that helps us when we wonder whether God will come through for us in our lives. This list represents a whole host of people, ranging from the sparkling models of faith—like Enoch in v. 5—to those whose lives were plagued by doubts and uncertainty—like Gideon in v. 32. They made it to the end not because of how good they were able to make themselves, but because they entrusted themselves to God in the face of all kinds of obstacles and trials.

Why are we reminded of all of these figures, “who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight”? Verse 39 tells us that they trusted God—even though they did not receive the ultimate fulfillment of the promises they received—but that we have received the better thing that they were ultimately waiting for, because God has come to be with us in the person of Jesus. The point is that they were able to persist in trusting God, even though they never got to see Jesus, and so we who know Jesus should have all the more confidence that God will keep us through all manner of challenges.

Prayer

Father God, would You continue to show me how great the gift of knowing You in Christ is? I ask that You would use the great gift of Jesus' death and sacrifice for me so that I may have confidence in You, no matter what comes. Amen.

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus

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HEBREWS 12:1-13

Eric Heath - Central Abbotsford- Campus Pastor & Men's Ministry

A few years ago, I got into running. So much so, in fact, that I started training for a marathon until an injury derailed me. Since I am in my mid-forties, one injury became a string of injuries that not only kept me from the marathon, but also kept me from running much at all. My progress stalled, and every time I tried to run again to get back on track, I found myself exhausted.

Perhaps this feels like your spiritual race right now. You want to be a good Christian. You want to obey the commands of Jesus. But then you find yourself giving in to temptation, or going back to an old way of life. You feel like you have to undo things completely and are left spiritually exhausted.

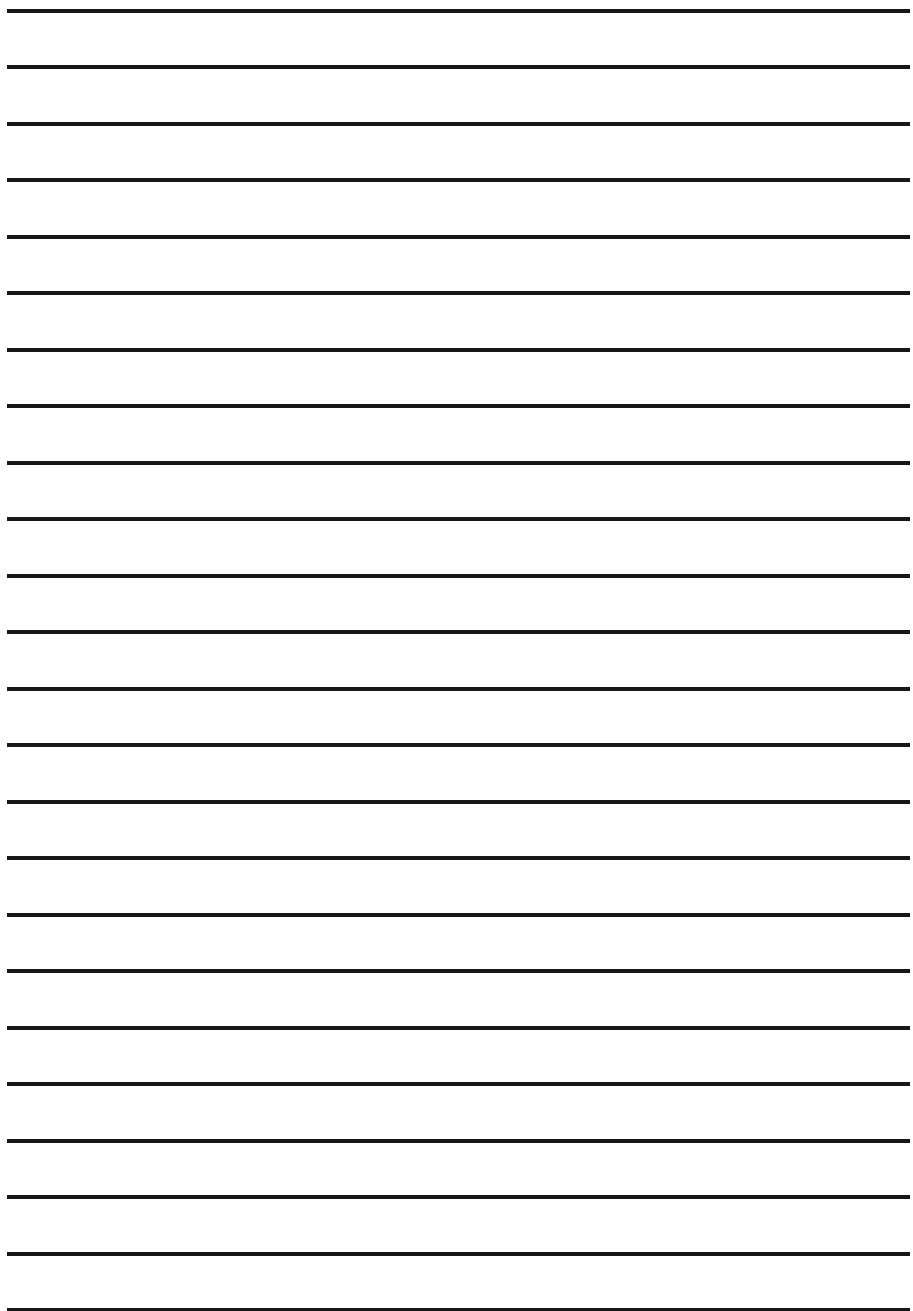
Hebrews 12 is a challenge and an encouragement. It is a challenge because it reminds us that we cannot run the race of faith by our own strength. It is a challenge because it tells us that we will not run the race without undergoing discipline. Yet it is an encouragement because it shows us where to look outside ourselves so that we may run to the finish.

Look to Jesus, writes the author of Hebrews. Look, and do not look away. It was for your joy that He endured the punishment of the cross, so that the Father, when He looks at you, sees not your sins and failures, but the perfect life of His Son. Your part of the race is not easy - God will place you in situations where you are tested and disciplined - but He does so in fatherly love. Just as the runner must push through pain and tiredness to complete the race, so too will your spiritual discipline sometimes feel like a trial in itself.

But know two things: first, the God who disciplines you has given you His Holy Spirit to equip you to succeed. And, the goal - the finish - is worth it: as verse 11 tells us, although in the moment the discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. When the race is run, there will be abundant rest in His presence.

Prayer

Father, thank you for giving Your Son so that I may look to Him as both an example in and hope for sonship to You. Equip me, by your the Holy Spirit, to always to fix my eyes on Him. Amen.



Worship In Reverence and Fear

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HEBREWS 12:14-29

Jesse Schellenberg - Mission - Campus Pastor

I am almost 40, which means I am almost old, and I am starting to learn a few things about life. Here is one thing I am learning. Many Christians don't enjoy being Christians, at least it doesn't appear they do. More specifically, it seems that knowing God does not bring them joy. The author of Hebrews explains one reason for this by comparing two ways people relate to God. He turns their attention to different mountains that are described in the Bible.

Mount Sinai

Mount Sinai represents the Old Covenant. It's a place of law, fear and death. It's where Moses and all God's people trembled in fear as His glory was revealed. It's the place where God distanced Himself from His people for their safety. It's the hill where judgment and wrath are on display.

Mount Zion

Mount Zion represents the New Covenant. It's a place of grace, hope and life. It's the place where God invites His people to dwell with Him and

share in His glory. It's the place where God draws near to His people for their eternal comfort and joy. It's the hill where grace and mercy are on display.

Zion is a better option than Sinai, and the author of Hebrews wants us to know that. In fact, he wants us to realize that Jesus has satisfied the justice of Sinai, so we can walk in the joy of Zion.

Condemnation, fear of judgment, and shame are effective motivators to change people's behaviour, but they cannot change the affections of one's heart. When Jesus saved you, He didn't bring you back to Sinai to try harder. He brought you to the top of Zion to enjoy the abundant life of God.

Are you struggling to find joy in God? Perhaps you are meeting him at the wrong place. Zion is your home now, Christian, not Sinai.

Prayer

Lord, remind me that Jesus has come to offer life and life abundantly, help me to enjoy the abundant life you have called me to.

Show Hospitality to One Another

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HEBREWS 13:1-10

Austin Kuhn - East Abbotsford Children's Ministry Assistant

As Hebrews draws to a close, we are given a list of directions, but here we will focus on one direction specifically: to practice hospitality (13:2).

Hospitality is serving others. The act of welcoming someone into your life. It is more than entertaining guests. Practicing hospitality requires effort and intentionality, so how can we demonstrate it? Let's look to Jesus.

God the Son humbled Himself and dwelt among us, including the outcast, the unclean, and the lost. In love, He welcomed them in. We also consider Jesus on the cross. Though we were once alienated from God and dead in sin, Christ died so we could live. He came to redeem us and call us His own.

Therefore, we should strive to extend hospitality to everyone around us, just as Jesus did to us. It's worth the effort because, whether we are at church or at the grocery store, there are people who need to know the love of Christ; they may need you! (yes, you!). So step out in faith! The Lord is with you!

So if you are making New Year's resolutions this year, may we grow in Christ-like hospitality in the coming year. Ask the Lord to provide you with opportunities and to be ready whenever, wherever, or for whoever He would place in your path. Who knows? You may show kindness to angels without ever knowing it!

Prayer

Lord, I praise you for your unchanging love. Lord Jesus, please lead me in Your love to those around me, and please help me know what it means to be Your hands and feet. If my daily rhythms and desire for comfort hinder Christ-like hospitality, remind me: Not my will, but Yours be done. Amen

Equipped By God

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HEBREWS 13:11-25

Alayna Vander Beek - Central Abbotsford - Grade School Ministry Assistant

How many of you find yourself looking out at the world and wondering, “How on earth am I supposed to be a force for good when the world is so broken?” All around us are broken relationships, illness, loved ones walking away from the faith, and countless other reminders that the world is not as it should be.

Do you find yourself overwhelmed by the heaviness of it all? Unsure how situations around you could be used for good? You’re not alone. God does not send you into the world to face it in your own strength. He is with you. Jesus, our great Shepherd, is with us to guide, help, and equip us for the broken world we live in.

He is equipping you with “every good thing,” as Hebrews 13:21 tells us. This equipping has a purpose: to live out God’s will. Many passages in the Bible speak of God’s will for us, but ultimately, our purpose and mission as believers is to make Christ known. By Jesus’s own blood, we are welcomed into God’s eternal family, and as His people, we are called to proclaim this news to those around us. Our faith brings hope, peace, and joy like nothing in this world can replicate.

Amidst the brokenness of the world, we have the unique and glorious opportunity to reflect Christ. As we step into a new year, may we be a people defined and led by Jesus, our Great Shepherd. Living out this identity, let us—by the Holy Spirit’s work—bring Christ to a world that is in desperate need of restoration and wholeness. May the hope of Jesus resonate so deeply within you that it overflows into the lives of those God has placed around you, standing firm in the knowledge that He will equip you with everything you need.

Prayer

God, you are so good to me. Thank you for the reminders I’ve come across during this Advent and Christmas season. Would you continue to shape, mold, and sanctify me, that I would live in light of Your mercies and grace. Forgive me for where I’ve failed. Provide for my every need, I ask and pray. Help me forgive those who have wronged me. Please deliver me from evil and lead me on paths of righteousness. In Jesus wonderful, supreme and powerful name, Amen.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

ISAIAH 9:6-7a

“For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David’s throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.”



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