



## Growth Group Discussion Guide

Passage: Hebrews 8:1-6

**Overview:** In this passage, the author explains the relationship between the Old Testament and the ministry of Jesus. The temple, priests, and sacrifices of the Old Testament were given by God to serve as a shadow of the heavenly realities fulfilled by Jesus. Ultimately, this passage helps us appreciate the earthly details of the Old Testament so that we can understand the details of Jesus' heavenly ministry.



### Into the Word

**Consider verse 5.** What does it mean that the temple, priests, and sacrifices served as a shadow of heavenly things? Does this change how we read the Old Testament?

**Resource: From Shadow to Substance: Aaronic Priesthood's Transformation**

**Consider verses 1-3.** What can the Old Testament temple, priests, and sacrifices teach us about heaven? How do these help us understand Jesus' heavenly ministry?

Compare: Galatians 3:24; Colossians 2:17

**Consider verse 6.** How is Jesus' ministry today better than the priest's of the Old Testament? What is wrong with going back to the Levitical priesthood?

Compare: John 19:30

Note: Notice in verse 1 how Jesus is described as seated.



### Into the Heart

The original audience of Hebrews was in danger of turning away from the substance of Jesus and back to the shadow of Judaism. Where do we tend to look for security?

Why do we tend to trust in earthly things and not heavenly realities?

Consider: Jeremiah 9:23-24

**Resource: 5 Things You Should Know About Heaven**



### Into the World

How will understanding Jesus' heavenly ministry give us hope in the midst of hardship?

At the heart of Hebrews is a vision of redemptive history, God works through history to bring about salvation for His people in Christ. How does the reality of redemptive history change how we respond to current events?

**Resource: Is There a Distinctively Christian Approach to History?**



## Growth Group Prayer Guide

*"He always lives to make intercession for them" (Heb 7:25)*

***Use the prayers below to root your prayer for one another in Scripture.***

God of our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of glory, give us (or \_\_\_\_\_) the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of you, having the eyes of our (his, her) heart(s) enlightened, that we (he, she) may know what is the hope to which you have called us (him, her), what are the riches of your glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of your power toward us who believe, according to the working of your great might. (Based on Ephesians 1:17-19)

May we (or \_\_\_\_\_) not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let our (his, her) requests be made known to you, O God. And may your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard our (his, her) heart(s) and mind(s) in Christ Jesus. (Based on Philippians 4:6-7)

May our (or \_\_\_\_\_) love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that we (he, she) may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (Based on Phil 1:9-11)

Lord Jesus Christ, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort our hearts (or the heart of \_\_\_\_\_) and establish us (him, her) in every good work and word. (Based on 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

O Lord, help us (or \_\_\_\_\_) always to rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, and be constant in prayer. (Based on Romans 12:12)

Lord God, may the sharing of our (or \_\_\_\_\_) faith become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us (him, her) for the sake of Christ. (Based on Philemon 1:6)

*"Prayer is nothing but taking God's promises to him, and saying to him, "Do as thou hast said."  
Prayer is the promise utilized." - Charles Spurgeon*