

Feb 8, 2026 - "A Sure & Steadfast Hope"

Hebrews 6:19-20, 7:18-8:7

Discussion Questions & Leader Prompts

1. The sermon opens by contrasting trivial questions with life-changing ones. Hebrews asks: *Why is Jesus' sacrifice better than the old system?* Why do you think this question mattered so much to the first hearers of Hebrews? Why does it still matter for us today?

For the leader:

- Some may focus on intellectual curiosity; gently steer toward *existential* stakes—life with God, forgiveness, access, hope.
- You can ask a follow-up: *What questions about faith feel most urgent in your own life right now?*

2. The sermon describes God's presence as the source of life—and, because of sin, a place humans could not safely enter. How does this tension help us understand both God's holiness and his love?

For the leader:

- Watch for extremes: God as only harsh, or only cozy. Hebrews holds both together.
- If helpful, ask: *How have you tended to picture God's presence—as something to fear, avoid, or long for?*

3. The law and sacrificial system are described as effective but temporary—a "copy and shadow." What was the sacrificial system *able* to do, and what was it *not able* to do?

For the leader:

- Affirm that the law was good, God-given, and necessary.
- The key contrast is between managing symptoms versus healing the root problem of sin.

4. Where do you see yourself tempted to rely on "temporary fixes" in your spiritual life instead of trusting Jesus' finished work?

For the leader:

- This can feel vulnerable. Model honesty with an appropriate level of sharing.
- Redirect moralism gently: the goal isn't trying harder, but trusting more deeply.

5. Jesus is described by the Preacher as offering a once-for-all sacrifice, offering an anchor in the Most Holy Place, and interceding for us continually. Which aspect of Jesus' ministry as high priest stands out most to you, and why?

For the leader:

- Some may resonate with the anchor imagery; others with Jesus' ongoing intercession on their behalf.

- If the group stalls, name some options aloud: *his sinlessness, the torn veil, his constant intercession, or his invitation to draw near.*

6. Hebrews' image of Jesus as an anchor behind the veil reframes God's presence as the safest place to be. What storms (external or internal) make it hardest for you to believe you are secure in God's presence? How does this image of Jesus speak into that?

For the leader:

- Normalize struggle; assurance is often learned over time.
- Emphasize holding onto the anchor, not the strength of our grip.

Closing reflection or prayer

Invite the group to sit quietly for a moment, imagining themselves holding onto the "cable" attached to Jesus in God's presence. Close by thanking God that the work is done, access is open, and we are welcomed, accepted, and held fast in Christ.