

Study Guide

Hebrews 3:1-4:13

Read Hebrews 3:1-6

1. Why do you think the author wants to point out to his listeners that Jesus is worthy of more honour than Moses? What is his concern? (Remember to think about who he's writing to: the Hebrews)

Read Hebrews 3:7-9

2. In this passage the author quotes the last half of Psalm 95. However, Psalm 95 refers to a story of rebellion from Numbers 13-14. Read Numbers 13-14. How does knowing the story behind the Psalm help you understand what the Psalm is saying?

Read Hebrews 3:12-19

3. The author is obviously very concerned that the Christians he's writing to may rebel against God like the Exodus generation did in the story from Numbers 13-14. What is the act of rebellion the people he's writing to are in danger of committing? When is the time he says they're facing this danger? What does he tell them to do to avoid this rebellion?

4. Do we face the same danger today? If so, what should you be doing about it?

Read Hebrews 4:1-11

5. This passage focuses on the word "rest." What can you find in the text that helps you understand what is meant by the word rest? Are there other Bible passages that help you understand more of what is meant by "rest"?

6. In Hebrews 4:11 we are commanded to "make every effort to enter that rest." What is it that we need to do to enter God's rest? (Hint: Scan through 4:1-11 again and look for the ways the Exodus generation failed and ask, 'What does the author think they should have done differently?').

Read Hebrews 4:12-13

7. It can be easy to read the Bible and make judgments on what we find in it, to say "I don't believe that," or "I don't agree with that." How might these verses change your perspective on who is being judged in these encounters with the word of God?

8. If it is the word of God that judges us, how does that change the way we read and respond to the Bible?