

# BRIARCLIFF CHURCH

## Small Group Study Guide: Hebrews

Week of September 14 (Week 2)

Hebrews: Everyone Drifts (2:1-18)



### CHAPTER 2 SUMMARY

Hebrews chapter 2 continues the central theme of chapter 1: distinguishing Jesus from the angels. The writer of Hebrews warns against the danger of ignoring the message of Christ and emphasizes how Jesus became human in order to perfectly serve as our ultimate High Priest.

### SERMON DISCUSSION

#### Topic: Everyone Drifts

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

### OBSERVING AND APPLYING THE TEXT

1. Hebrews 2:1 begins with the word "Therefore," which harks back to the previous section. To what is the author of Hebrews calling attention, and why?
2. The message declared by the angels and Jesus is the focus of verses 2-4. How does the author draw the comparison between the two messages, and what is his point in doing so?

3. In what ways are modern believers prone to drift away or neglect the truth we know? What regular practices might help us “pay much closer attention to what we have heard” (2:1a)?

**Reflection:** “Many things can lead us to drift. It could be suffering, which derails our faith; or opposition, which makes us want to give up; or busyness, which distracts us from our spiritual life. It could be holding on to sin instead of repenting. These things can draw us away from God” (Michael J. Kruger, *Hebrews For You*, 27).

4. In the previous section (vv. 2-4), the “superiority theme” is on the “message declared” by angels and Jesus. What aspect of superiority is the author focusing on in verses 5-9, and how does the author develop this theme?
5. How is Jesus described, and what is the purpose of Jesus’ solidarity with humans according to verses 10-16?
6. What are some of the struggles you are facing today, and how does Jesus’ own experience of those same sorts of struggles encourage you?

Reflection: “The writer to the Hebrews, in his ongoing attempt to encourage his friends, specifically seeks to assuage their fear in verses 11-16. His method here is to enlighten them regarding their solidarity with Christ, who both suffered and conquered the death they so feared. He does so with three emphases: first, the *fact* of solidarity (v. 11); second, the *character* of solidarity (vv. 12, 13); and third, the *liberation* of solidarity (vv. 14-16)” (R. Kent Hughes, *Hebrews*, 102).

7. In verses 17-18, what reasons does the author of Hebrews give for Jesus becoming human? Notice the phrases: "Therefore he had to be made like his brothers..."; "so that he might become..."; "to make propitiation..."; "For because he has suffered ... he is able to..."

Reflection: "The Son had to become human because high priests are taken from among human beings, and he had to become a high priest in order to offer the ultimate sacrifice for sins (Heb. 2:17) and the practical ramification of his suffering—that he is able to help us in our temptation" (George H. Guthrie, Hebrews. 111).

8. How does the fact that Jesus "had to be like his brothers and sisters" comfort? How does the indispensability of his incarnation encourage you in your day-to-day life?
9. How are you doing in showing sympathy and compassion to others? How does Hebrews 2:17-18 help you?
10. What aspect of God's character has this chapter shown you more clearly?

## PRAYER

### PRAYER GUIDE

September 14-20, 2025

Read Hebrews 2

**Monday:** 2:1a *"Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard."* How attentive are you to the Word of God? To the reading of God's Word and to the preaching and ultimately in obey what you hear from God's Word? Our busyness can pull us away from paying close attention to God's Word. Pray that God will help you to "pay close attention" to his Word.

**Tuesday** 2:1b *"Lest we drift away from it."* Drifting away from God is real. The Bible recounts the stories of many God's people who drifted away. In our day, we hear stories of believers drifting away. Drifting begins slowly but surely when believers stay anchored in God and his Word. Ask God to help you stay anchored in him and his word lest you drift.

**Wednesday:** 2:11 "He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source." Believers are saved sinners who need constant "sanctification," and Christ alone can sanctify us. Do you feel weighed down with sin and need sanctification? Come to the "who sanctifies." Call out to Jesus, repent, and be sanctified.

**Thursday:** 2:17 *"So that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God."* Jesus is our merciful and faithful high priest who mediates on our behalf in the presence of God the Father. Jesus is not only merciful but faithful, so he will not let you down. Come before him today and take comfort in his mercy and trust his faithfulness.

**Friday:** 2:18 *"He himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."* The hymns **"I must tell Jesus"** and **"Tell it to Jesus"** echo Hebrews 2:18. Because Jesus is fully man, he knows all your struggles, trials, and temptations. Tell him whatever your struggles are, and he will help you.