Group and Personal Study Guide
Bible Verses and Sermon Discussion for May 10, 2026
Scripture Focus: Hebrews 4:14-5:13

First Pres Maumee
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If you weren't able to hear the sermon on Sunday, it can be viewed on the Church's YouTube page.
Note: The New International Version (NIV) Bible, published in 2011, is utilized for this Study Guide.

Hold Fast: Christ, Covenant, and a Better Way

Scripture Focus Background – As we move into Hebrews 4 and 5, we are introduced to a new title for Jesus: our Great High Priest. The role of the high priest is an Old Testament role originating with Aaron in the book of Exodus. The role is a familial role first held by Aaron and then by his sons. In the Old Testament, the high priest had to be from the tribe of Levi. It's helpful to know that it was not a man-appointed role but a God-appointed role. In our text this week, we learn about Jesus as our Great High Priest and what He accomplished to receive this title. It's important for the author to teach this lesson to the early church, because it encouraged them to continue in spiritual maturity. Source: coastlinebible.org

Key Takeaway: Jesus is our Great High Priest who enables us to draw near to God. Trust not in your work, but Christ's work, and approach the throne of grace with courage and boldness.

1. Read Hebrews 4:14. Why is it so important to "hold firmly to the faith we profess"? What is our confession or profession of faith? See Romans 10:9.

2. Hebrews 4:14-16 gives at least five reasons we should confidently approach the throne of grace through Christ.
   Jesus is a great high priest,
   He ascended into heaven,
   He is the Son of God,
   He can sympathize with our weakness,
   He gives mercy and grace in our time of need.

   a. Write/Discuss what each of these phrases mean and why they encourage us to draw near to God rather than drifting away.
   b. What are the promises revealed in these verses?

3. Read Hebrews 5:1-4. How is a high priest selected? For what reason? How was a high priest supposed to act towards the people he represented?

4. Read Hebrews 5:5-6. a. Why was it important for Jesus to be human? b. Who appointed Jesus as a high priest? c. How long will this appointment last?

5. Now read Hebrews 5:7-10. Why was it necessary for Jesus to learn obedience through suffering? See Philippians 2:5-11 and John 17:1-5.

6. What did His perfect obedience bring? See 1 Timothy 1:15-17 and Romans 5:19.

(Turn paper over for final question.)

7. Hebrews 5:11-14. How does a person become mature in God's Word according to verse 14? What would some practical steps look like to "train ourselves" and grow in spiritual maturity?

Further Study: Old Testament priests came from the order of Aaron/Levites. Jesus came from the order of Melchizedek. Read Genesis 14:18-20 and Hebrews 7 for additional information.