



November 1 — Hold On

Weekly Reading: Hebrews 9–13
Life Group Passage: Hebrews 10:19–25

Main Point

Because Jesus has opened the way to God, believers draw near with confidence, hold fast to hope, and help one another persevere.

Key Verse

“Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful.”

Hebrews 10:23

Life Group — The Flow

- 15 minutes — Conversation and relationship-building
- 5 minutes — Looking Back
- 5 minutes — Introduction, Background, and Christ Connection
- 30 minutes — Study and Apply
- 5–7 minutes — Application Exercise
- 10 minutes — Pray Through the Passage and Prayer Requests
- 5 minutes — Conclusion

If Time Is Limited...

Focus on:

- Main Point and Key Verse
- Background and Christ Connection
- Read Hebrews 10:19–21
- Passage 1 questions 1 and 3
- Read Hebrews 10:22–25
- Passage 2 questions 1 and 4
- Application Exercise

- Pray Through the Passage
- Final Takeaway

Looking Back — 5 Minutes

Last week Hebrews described Christian hope as an anchor for the soul because God cannot lie and Jesus has gone before us. This week that secure hope produces three communal responses: draw near, hold on, and consider one another.

Discuss one or more:

- What promise did you use as an anchor this week?
- Where were you tempted to judge God’s faithfulness by circumstances?
- What faithful action did you continue while waiting?

Transition to Introduction

“A secure anchor is meant to keep us from drifting. Hebrews now shows what anchored believers actually do together.”

Introduction — 5 Minutes

Ask

Think of a difficult goal you were more likely to finish because other people were pursuing it with you. What difference did they make?

Follow-Up

Why are people often tempted to isolate themselves at exactly the time they most need encouragement?

Say

Our culture often treats faith as a private relationship between an individual and God. Hebrews refuses to separate personal confidence in Christ from shared responsibility among believers.

Because Jesus has opened access to God, the writer repeatedly says “let us.” Let us draw near. Let us hold on. Let us consider one another. Christian perseverance is deeply personal, but it was never designed to be solitary.

Transition to Background

“These commands rest on everything Hebrews has already taught about Jesus’ priesthood and sacrifice.”

Background

Hebrews has contrasted the repeated sacrifices of the old covenant with the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus. Animal sacrifices could never finally remove sin, but Christ offered Himself and accomplished what those sacrifices could only anticipate.

By Hebrews 10:19, the writer reaches a major turning point. Because of Jesus’ blood and because He is our great High Priest, believers have bold access to God.

The passage therefore moves from doctrine to exhortation. The Christian life is not an attempt to earn access to God. It is a response to access already opened by Christ.

The readers were also under pressure and some were apparently neglecting the gathering of believers. In that setting, withdrawing from Christian community was not a neutral scheduling choice. It weakened one of the primary ways believers were meant to encourage one another toward endurance.

Transition to Christ Connection

“Every command in this paragraph begins with what Jesus has already done.”

Christ Connection

Sin shuts us out from God’s holy presence. Under the old covenant, the curtain before the Most Holy Place pictured restricted access, and sacrifices had to be offered repeatedly.

Jesus changed that relationship through His own blood. His death is the “new and living way” that opens access to God. He is also the great High Priest over God’s house, representing His people before the Father.

Therefore believers do not draw near timidly on the basis of recent performance. We come through Christ. We do not hold fast because our grip is impressive. We hold on because “he who promised is faithful.”

And we do not encourage one another as though our words save people. We point one another toward the Savior whose sacrifice is sufficient and whose promise is sure.

Transition to Study and Apply

“The writer first reminds us of the access Christ has already secured.”

Study and Apply — 30 Minutes

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says and how we can apply it in our lives this week.

Passage 1 — Hebrews 10:19–21

A New and Living Way

Read the Passage – Have a volunteer read Hebrews 10:19–21.

Read aloud from your preferred Bible translation.

Commentary

Use the following commentary to prepare ahead of time. As you lead, summarize the key insights rather than reading everything word-for-word.

Verse 19 says believers have “boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus.” Boldness does not mean casual irreverence. It means confident access. The barrier created by sin has been dealt with by Christ’s sacrifice.

Verse 20 describes this as a “new and living way” through the curtain, identified with Christ’s flesh. Jesus’ bodily death opened the way into God’s presence. What the old covenant sanctuary pictured, Christ fulfilled.

The way is “living” because the One who died is alive. Our access to God depends on a risen Savior, not a dead religious founder.

Verse 21 says we have “a great high priest over the house of God.” Jesus not only opened the way; He continues to represent and shepherd His people.

The paragraph’s commands must be read on top of these gospel facts. “Let us” comes after “we have.” Christian obedience flows from what Christ has secured.

Guide Discussion

You do not need to cover every question. Use those that best help your group engage with the passage.

1. **Good for Students.** What do verses 19–21 say believers already “have” because of Jesus?
2. **Discuss.** How does access to God through Christ differ from approaching God on the basis of how well you performed this week?
3. **Deeper Dive.** Why is it important that the “new and living way” is connected both to Jesus’ death and to the fact that He lives?
4. **Reflective — Index Card.** What tends to make you pull away from God rather than draw near to Him?

Teaching Insight

Say

“The gospel changes our posture before God. We do not stand outside hoping we have done enough to be admitted. Jesus has opened the way, and believers are invited to draw near.”

Transition to Passage 2

“Because we have access to God through Christ, the writer gives three responses—and every one is plural: let us do this together.”

Passage 2 — Hebrews 10:22–25

Draw Near • Hold Fast • Stir Up

Read the Passage – Have a volunteer read Hebrews 10:22–25.

Read aloud from your preferred Bible translation.

Commentary

Verse 22 gives the first response: “let us draw near.” We come with a true heart and full assurance of faith because Christ cleanses the conscience. The imagery of hearts sprinkled and bodies washed communicates cleansing and consecration.

Verse 23 gives the second response: “let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering.” The reason is not our emotional steadiness but God’s faithfulness: “he who promised is faithful.” Perseverance rests on His character.

Verse 24 gives the third response: “let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works.” The phrase translated “watch out” or “consider” means giving careful attention. Christians should think deliberately about how to strengthen each other toward active love.

Verse 25 explains why gathering matters. Some had developed the habit of neglecting to meet together. The writer does not reduce church attendance to a box to check; he connects gathering with mutual encouragement.

The approaching “day” makes this more urgent. As Christ’s return draws nearer, believers need more—not less—intentional encouragement. Christian gathering is one of God’s ordinary means for helping people draw near, hold fast, and keep loving.

Consider This — A Rope Team

Mountain climbers sometimes travel connected by rope across dangerous terrain. Each climber still has to place his or her own feet, pay attention, and keep moving. No one can climb the mountain for another person.

But the rope means a stumble does not necessarily become an uncontrolled fall. The climbers’ connection changes the risk because each person’s safety is no longer treated as an entirely private matter.

Christian community does not remove personal responsibility; it gives us people who can help keep a stumble from becoming a long, unnoticed drift.

Guide Discussion

1. **Good for Students.** What three “let us” commands do you see in verses 22–24, and what reason for gathering appears in verse 25?
2. **Discuss.** Why is “consider one another” stronger than simply being friendly when we happen to see each other?
3. **Deeper Dive.** How can a church encourage gathering without reducing Hebrews 10:25 to guilt over attendance?
4. **Reflective — Index Card.** Who are you intentionally helping toward love and good works—and who is doing that for you?

Teaching Insight

Say

“Persevering faith has a communal shape. We draw near to God, hold fast to hope, and give careful attention to helping one another keep going.”

Transition to Application Exercise

“The writer has already handed us a simple three-part pattern. Let’s turn it into a plan for this week.”

Application Exercise — 5–7 Minutes

Draw Near • Hold Fast • Stir Up

Supplies: Index cards and pens

Choose one concrete response under each command.

1. Draw Near

What will help you approach God honestly and confidently this week rather than withdrawing?

- A specific prayer time
- Confession
- Returning to Scripture
- Asking another believer to pray with you

2. Hold Fast

What hope in Christ do you need to keep confessing when circumstances pull you toward wavering?

3. Stir Up

Who can you intentionally encourage toward love or a good work this week? What specific action will you take?

Say

“Do not wait for encouragement to happen accidentally. Hebrews calls us to give careful thought to how we can strengthen one another.”

Transition to Pray Through the Passage

“We can draw near because Jesus has opened the way. Let’s pray with the confidence this passage gives us.”

Pray Through the Passage — 10 Minutes

Led by the Prayer Champion

Read each verse and prayer prompt aloud. Allow a few moments between prompts for personal reflection and prayer.

If time is limited, use one or two prompts rather than all four. The goal is meaningful prayer through the passage, not completing every prompt.

Prompt 1 — Adoration (Who God Is)

God is faithful to what He promises.

Hebrews 10:23 — “He who promised is faithful.”

Praise God because His faithfulness—not your consistency—is the foundation beneath Christian hope.

Prompt 2 — Confession (Where We Need Him)

We withdraw from God and one another.

Hebrews 10:25 — “Not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing.”

Confess where isolation, neglect, or self-protection has weakened your connection to God’s people.

Prompt 3 — Gratitude (What He Has Done)

Jesus has opened access through His blood.

Hebrews 10:19 — “We have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus.”

Thank Jesus that you can approach God because of His sacrifice rather than your performance.

Prompt 4 — Response / Obedience (How We Will Obey)

Give careful attention to others.

Hebrews 10:24 — “Let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works.”

Ask God to show you one believer you can intentionally strengthen toward love and faithful action this week.

Prayer Requests, Praises, and Follow-Up

- Ask the group for updates from the previous week’s prayer requests and celebrate answered prayers.
- Invite members to share honestly at whatever level they are comfortable so the group can support one another through prayer and practical care.
- Pray for people who feel isolated, discouraged, or tempted to withdraw, and for the group to become a place of intentional encouragement rather than mere attendance.
- Record requests and praises, share them with the group during the week, and follow up at the next gathering.

Transition to Conclusion

“Hebrews gives us more than a command to hang on. It gives us Christ, a faithful Promiser, and a community designed to help us persevere.”

Conclusion — 5 Minutes

Final Takeaway

Because Jesus has opened the way to God and the One who promised is faithful, believers can draw near, hold fast, and help one another keep going.

This Week’s Challenge

Respond — *What Will I Do?*

Practice all three movements before the week ends.

- Draw near to God in the specific way you identified.
- Speak the hope you are holding onto rather than only rehearsing the fear.
- Intentionally encourage the person you named toward love or a good work.

Reflect — *What Is God Showing Me?*

Consider:

- Do I approach God based on Christ's work or my recent performance?
- What makes me most likely to withdraw from Christian community?
- Who am I deliberately considering, not merely noticing?
- How could our group become more effective at encouraging perseverance?

Review — *How Will I Keep God's Word Before Me?*

Review Hebrews 10:23 throughout the week:

"Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful."

When you feel your grip weakening, remember why you hold on: the One who promised is faithful.

Read — *How Will I Prepare for Next Week?*

Continue with the church's Year of Prayer New Testament Reading Plan.

Next Week's Reading: James 1–5

As you read James, notice how genuine faith becomes visible in speech, endurance, wisdom, mercy, action, and prayer.

Closing Prayer

"Faithful God, thank You that Jesus has opened a new and living way into Your presence. Help us draw near instead of hiding, hold fast instead of wavering, and pay careful attention to one another instead of living isolated lives. Forgive us when we neglect the gifts of Christian community. Make our gatherings places where people are stirred toward love, good works, courage, and enduring hope in Christ. Amen."