



Open it

1. What is a place that you have seen a picture of and would like to visit, but have never traveled to in person?

Daily Devotions

Day 1

Today's Theme: Explore It

Read Hebrews 8:1–13

2. Where is Jesus, the High Priest, seated?
3. Where does Jesus minister?
4. What does every high priest offer?

Day 2

Today's Theme: The Perfect Gift

Read Hebrews 8:1–4

When it was Christmas, a birthday, or some other special occasion, did you ever work hard at finding the perfect gift for someone special? When it comes to our salvation, there is only one perfect gift in all of the universe that can forgive us of our sins, and that is the gift of the Perfect High Priest, Jesus Christ, sacrificing Himself on the cross on our behalf. On Mount Sinai, God gave Moses the Law, and this is called the Mosaic Covenant, which is the Old Covenant referred to here in Hebrews 8. In this Old Covenant given to Moses, God instructed that priests from the tribe of Levi would be the only ones allowed to offer gifts and sacrifices to God the Father for their sins and the sins of the people. Since Jesus was from the tribe of Judah and not the tribe of Levi, under the Mosaic Covenant, Jesus would not be allowed to be a priest. While Jesus couldn't have been a high priest under the Mosaic Law, Jesus is our High Priest after the order Melchizedek, who was a priest of the God Most High before the Levites were ever appointed to be priests. As good as the gifts and sacrifices the Levite priests offered were, they were temporary and did not permanently and fully satisfy the Father as payment for their sins. Because Jesus lived a perfect sinless life, only He could perfectly and fully pay for our sin to the Father for all eternity! Jesus brings the New Covenant and is the High Priest sitting at the right hand of the Father's throne in heaven and ministering in the Heavenly Tabernacle forever! "He serves as a seated priest, having finished His work of offering a final sacrifice for sins (Hebrews 8:1). He is an enthroned priest, having taken His place at the right hand of God the Father (Hebrews 8:1). And He is a heavenly priest, having entered the true sanctuary where He now ministers (Hebrews 8:1-2)."¹

11. Why were priests required to offer gifts and sacrifices?

12. Why can it be hard to forgive someone who offends you?

13. What does the Father require for us to be forgiven? How does one receive God's forgiveness?

¹ Constable, Thomas. <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/eng/dcc/hebrews-8.html>

Day 3

Today's Theme: A Shadow of Heavenly Worship

Read Hebrews 8:5-7

When I open my computer, the screensaver provides a random picture of some cool place in the world like an oceanfront beach, Disney World, or some other amazing place. I usually don't know where most of these places are located, so I click on the little part of my screen to discover where the picture was taken. As nice as those pictures are, they are nothing like being there in person. The Mosaic Covenant was a shadow or copy of the system of worship of the real one in heaven. Jesus' ministry is far superior to the old Levitical priesthood and He mediates a far better covenant with God because it's based on better promises. This New Covenant is the promise that our sins are permanently forgiven and washed away through faith in the perfect sacrifice that the High Priest, Jesus Christ, made by sacrificing Himself in our place for our sins on the cross! "The writer proceeded to explain the superiority of the New Covenant that Jesus Christ ratified with His blood (death) that is better than the Old Mosaic Covenant that He terminated when He died."²

14. What causes your heart to worship God?

15. Why is heaven a better place than earth?

² Ibid

Day 4

Today's Theme: A Transformed Life

Read Hebrews 8:8–13

Do you know for sure that you will go to heaven when you die? Growing up in a Christian family doesn't make you a Christian. We cannot ride into heaven on the coattails of our parents' faith. I have also heard it said that going to church doesn't make you a Christian just like going to McDonalds doesn't make you a hamburger. What guarantees your going to heaven is having saving faith in the finished work of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection as payment for your sins! But how do I know that I have authentic saving faith? Saving faith will produce a transformation in your life. You will know and desire to do God's will and you will actually have a living, growing relationship with God, being confident of God's mercy in washing away your sins through the blood of Jesus! This is the New Covenant that Jesus establishes with His people! The other day, my daughter was riding along with me in the car and she asked, "Do you think it's strange that I talk to God all the time throughout the day?" That question brought joy to my heart because that is evidence of God at work in her life and that she has a vibrant, growing relationship with Jesus! My life verse is Galatians 2:20, and the more I think about it, the reason I love this verse is that it explains how one lives a transformed life. It's not me trying to live for God in my own strength, but it's about living a surrendered life to Jesus and by faith allowing Him to live through me in my thoughts and actions.

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

16. Hebrews 8:10 says that God "will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts." What can you do to have God's laws in your mind and placed on your heart?

17. Do you know for sure that you will go to heaven when you die?