



## HSM PRESENTS: YOU BELONG HERE SERIES OVERVIEW



### SERIES AT A GLANCE

#### TEACHING THEME

Hope HSM is a place for every high school student to belong and build relationships with each other and Jesus in meaningful ways.

#### SERIES OVERVIEW

Culture – culture may not be something you can tangibly put your hands on when you walk into a different room, travel to a different country, or sit down at a different lunch table – but culture is something you feel filling the spaces shared among a group of people.

This series is placed intentionally at the beginning of the traditional school year to focus on some huge foundations of Hope HSM culture. We want ALL students to know:

- (1) You matter to God.
- (2) You belong here.

As HSM leaders, we want to empower students to own their faith. They do this when they:

- (1) Show up.
- (2) Be real.
- (3) Go after Jesus.

**We win as leaders when we lead students to live these things out, personally and together.** Living these things together is culture shaping, earth moving, and game changing. Our students are made to make a difference in this world, and we are here to cheer and lead them on as they navigate growing from a teen to an adult.

### WEEK BY WEEK

#### WEEK 1: WEEK OF AUGUST 22, 2021

- **MAIN POINTS:**
  - (1) You matter to God.
  - (2) You belong here.
- **MAIN SCRIPTURES:**
  - (1) Zephaniah 3:17
  - (2) Jeremiah 31:3
- **YOU MATTER TO GOD/SECONDARY BIBLE VERSES:**
  - [John 3:16](#)
  - [Exodus 14:14](#)
  - [Romans 5:8](#)
  - [Ephesians 2:10](#)
  - [Psalm 139: 13-18](#)
- **JESUS CONNECTION:** Because you matter to God, He sent His son to die to give you access to spiritual life.

#### WEEK 2: WEEK OF AUGUST 29, 2021

- **MAIN POINTS:** You matter to God and you belong here so:
  - (1) Show up.
  - (2) Be real.
  - (3) Go after Jesus.
- **MAIN SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 10:23-25
- **SECONDARY SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 1 & 2
- **JESUS CONNECTION:** Jesus wants more than a surface-level relationship with you – He wants a personal relationship with you.





## AUGUST BIBLE STUDY GUIDE



### Want to know how to read and understand God's Word on your own?

Awesome! HSM provides a monthly study guide that takes a main Bible passage from one of our lessons and walks you step-by-step through how to study that Scripture on your own. The goal: read the Scripture then study it yourself by answering at least two questions in each column below.

**HSM'S MONTHLY  
BIBLE STUDY PASSAGE  
FOR AUGUST:**  
Hebrews 10:23-25

#### 1. READ *The Bible*

Yessss! We are glad you are here because taking time on your own to study God's word is an amazing way to grow in your relationship with Him. Life with Jesus is the best life! Take a moment to pray and ask God to lead you as you study this Scripture; then read the Scripture (*from your Bible or it's on the back*).

#### 2. OBSERVE *The Straight Facts*

Who: \_\_\_\_\_

What: \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Why: \_\_\_\_\_

How: \_\_\_\_\_

What is Repetitive?

*Highlight it*

What is Contrast?

*Underline it*

#### 3. INTERPRET *What Does the Text Mean?*

*Research answers using trusted sources like a Study Bible, BibleProject.com, BlueLetterBible.org, and/or Bible.org*

**What is the historical and/or cultural context of this Scripture?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What else do I know about the author, audience, or context of this passage?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What do key words mean in their original language?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What other Scripture might help me interpret this text?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What is this text's clearest meaning?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. APPLY *Getting Personal*

**How do you relate to any of the characters, events, or words in this Scripture?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What truth(s) from this Scripture can you apply to your life right now?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What is God saying to you through this Scripture?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## MAIN SCRIPTURES

## Hebrews 10:23-25 NIV

“<sup>23</sup> Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

## Hebrews 10:23-25 MSG

**“22-25** So let’s *do* it—full of belief, confident that we’re presentable inside and out. Let’s keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let’s see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.”

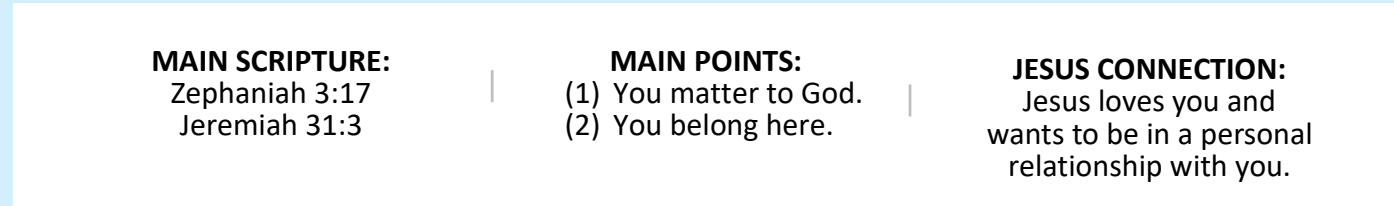
## Hebrews 10:23-25 NLT

“<sup>23</sup> Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise. <sup>24</sup> Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. <sup>25</sup> And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.”

## NOTES

[illegible]

## DOODLES



## NOTES

*WHAT are we talking about and WHY does it matter to me? (2-4 min)*

## ME

- Introduce yourself and share a personal story about how someone's words have encouraged you OR a funny story about someone picking on you with their words (stay away from depressing tone – keep it light)

**WE**

- Other people's words can matter a LOT to us.
- How often do you worry about what others say about you?
- It can be so easy to focus on the negative words people say – online, at school, at home, etc. but we don't have to let these words define us.

## TRANSITION

- Do you know what words God says about you?

## SO WHAT

*So WHAT does this mean for my faith and life with God? (6-8 min)*

**GOD**

- God says He actually DELIGHTS in YOU. It's not an obligation for God to love you, He chooses to love you.
- Read Zephaniah 3:17 together.
- In fact, there are a whole bunch of Bible verses that say: YOU MATTER TO GOD. Let's read a few together. (*Pro Tip: Have a different student read each Bible verse, if you have time you can prep them ahead of time to read*).
  - [Jeremiah 31:3](#)
  - [John 3:16](#)
  - [Exodus 14:14](#)
  - [Romans 5:8](#)
  - [Ephesians 2:10](#)
  - [Psalms 139: 13-18](#)
- Long before you were born: God LOVED YOU. These verses show us the BIG, INCREDIBLE love God has for us.
- How much does God love you? Through God sending Jesus, we can have a personal relationship with God.

[illegible]

## NOTES

[illegible]

- Close your time together in prayer.





## YOU BELONG HERE DISCUSSION GUIDE — WEEK 1 —



### MAIN SCRIPTURES:

Zephaniah 3:17  
Jeremiah 31:3

### MAIN POINT:

- (1) You matter to God.
- (2) You belong here.

### JESUS CONNECTION:

Jesus loves you and wants to be in a personal relationship with you.

## LEADER CORNER

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

For students to realize what God says about them is more important than what others say about them.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

High school can be a tough phase – especially in regards to caring what others think. And now because of phones and social media, teens can be criticized, bullied, or even just feel left out all the time. Our students need to know they are worth way more than however many likes they get on their posts. Whether they are trending on social media or in the halls of their high school, they are worth so much that the God of the Universe sent His son to die to rescue them. HSM isn't meant to be another high school clique, we are meant to be a place where every high school student belongs. To do that, it's important for us to love students where they are and encourage them to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

*This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.*

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

### GET THEM TALKING

What is one positive thing that a parent, teacher, or coach has said about you? (ENCOURAGE EVERY STUDENT TO ANSWER).

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who are different groups of people whose opinions of us can matter to us? (*Leaders, write each down on a post-it note*). Lead your students to include the below groups: friends, parents, God.
2. Let's arrange the post-it notes in order of whose opinion everyone thinks is most important.
3. Which post-it should be the MOST important opinion to us? Why?
4. Who is next? Why? Etc.

**READ Zephaniah 3:17 and Jeremiah 31:3.**

**Answer the following questions together:**

5. How is God's love for us described?
6. When we are hurt or worried about what others have said (or might say) about us, how can we rely on what God says about us?
7. How can we make HSM a place where everyone knows they matter to God and they belong here?

### NEXT STEP

Take home the list of YOU MATTER TO GOD Bible verses and put it somewhere you will see it often to remind yourself of what God says about you. For an extra challenge, pick a verse and memorize it.

### PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests and close your time together in prayer.

## MAIN SCRIPTURES

### **Zephaniah 3:17 NLT**

“For the LORD your God is living among you.  
He is a mighty savior.  
He will take delight in you with gladness.  
With his love, he will calm all your fears.  
He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.”

### **Jeremiah 31:3 NLT**

“Long ago the LORD said to Israel:  
“I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love.  
With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself.”

## BONUS LEADER RESOURCE

### MORE YOU MATTER TO GOD: BIBLE VERSES

- [John 3:16](#)
- [Exodus 14:14](#)
- [Romans 5:8](#)
- [Ephesians 2:10](#)
- [Psalm 139: 13-18](#)





## You MATTER TO GOD BIBLE VERSES

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16

"The Lord himself will fight for you.  
Just stay calm." - Exodus 14:14

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners." - Romans 5:8

"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago." - Ephesians 2:10

"How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered!" - Psalm 139:17



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## Hebrews 10:23-25

*You matter to God and  
you belong here so:*

- (1) Show up.
- (2) Be real.
- (3) Go after Jesus.

Jesus wants more than a surface level relationship with you - He wants a personal relationship with you.

*WHAT are we talking about and WHY does it matter to me? (2-4 min)*

## NOTES

## ME

- Some things are scarier when you have to do them alone.
- *Speaker Note: Include a personal story of a time you did something exciting or scary you might not have otherwise done because of a friend. (Ex: Haunted house, rollercoaster, go to camp, etc.)*
- The Bible starts with “In the beginning God created...” followed by a whole chapter listing all the things God created and how God ranked each thing. (Genesis 1)
- And the first “not good” thing in all of creation was being alone. (Genesis 2:18)
- **We are not wired to be alone. We are designed for connection.**

WE

- Things are simply better when we can journey alongside of other people. And church is the same way. **There are parts of faith that are confusing.** It's easy—and natural—to have doubts and struggles. All of that is less intimidating if **you don't have to face it alone.**
- We don't want church to just be a "sit and listen to the lecture" experience. This is one of the reasons we have small groups: **Because we want church to be a dialogue—a conversation—between you and other people.**
- I recognize you may or may not be into your small group yet. And maybe that's because...
  - You already have friends.
  - You don't like some of the people in your group.
  - You don't trust or know some of the people in your group.
  - You don't want to talk to people.
- No matter the reason, sometimes you may simply wonder, "What's the point of small group?"

## TRANSITION

- **But why does small group matter if you already have friends? Small group matters because your spiritual growth matters.**
- Small groups are meant to be more than just somebody to hang out with – it's meant to be secure, unfailing acceptance and connection with others. Let's take a look at Hebrews.

[illegible]

*So WHAT does this mean for my faith and life with God? (6-8 min)*

# GOD

- READ HEBREWS 12:23-25 TOGETHER.
- Don't miss this. This is a BIG DEAL! The writer of Hebrews is talking to Jewish Christians, which basically meant they were facing execution and excommunication (that just means exclusion from their community) because of their belief in Jesus. This wasn't just saying "Hey, if it's not too much to ask, could you skip Netflix for a night and make time to come to small group?" No... this ask from the writer of Hebrews was saying "meeting together consistently is worth the risk of putting your life on the line." This was hard times.
- The writer of Hebrews stresses—don't give up meeting together. Why? Let's look back at the verse together:
  - To hold tightly to hope together
  - To encourage one other
  - To motivate one another to acts of love and good works
- Wouldn't our lives be better with those things? Wouldn't our world be better with those things? What is hope? It's being convinced that our future is better than our now, and we all need that.
- And maybe the most important phrase in that whole passage is **not giving up**. The writer of Hebrews knew that it would be suuuuper tempting to skip the church part of following Jesus. He knew that meeting together would require commitment and sacrifice. Showing up and connecting requires re-prioritizing your schedule and guarding the time you get with your group.
- Here's what I'm getting at: This idea of community in Hebrews is more than just a group of friends. This wasn't your average group of friends watching football together or the people you make TikToks with. This was ride or die. These were the kind of people who...
  - Encourage you
  - Cheer for you
  - Say the real stuff to you
  - Listen when you say the real stuff to them
  - Love you enough to tell you what's real even if you don't want to hear it
  - Stick up for you when somebody talks bad about you or tries to hurt you...
- This is bigger than hanging out. This is what we call community.
- And here's the deal. The people who were "meeting together" in the original church...
  - They weren't all alike.
  - They weren't all friends before they came to church.
  - They didn't all agree on every little thing.
- In fact, if I can be real with *you*—part of being a mature person is understanding you don't HAVE to be like people to love them.
- And I'm not just talking about meeting together with the other high schoolers in your group. In fact, a lot of the Book of Hebrews is devoted to the idea of having a leader, a person who knows God and is a little further along than you in your life. **The truth is, we all need somebody, an adult somebody, outside of our families who can help us figure out life.** That's what your leader signed up to be, and here's what's wild about this group of adults... They actually want to do this. They signed up for real conversations about your real life. **They don't need a fake or perfect version of you. They signed up to be here every week for the real you.**
- What's the point? The point is that we were made for more than surface-level relationships. We were made for a relationship with God that we experience *with* other people in a very real way. **We can literally alter our experience at church and ultimately grow our relationship with God by altering the investment we put into small group.**

[illegible]

## NOTES

- [illegible]

- HSM and small groups are what we make it and we can live out Hebrews together in three simple (but sometimes not so easy) steps:
  - Show up.
  - Be real.
  - Go after Jesus.

YOU

- WE

- ## PRAY

- Close your time together in prayer.



## YOU BELONG HERE DISCUSSION GUIDE — WEEK 2 —



### MAIN SCRIPTURES:

Hebrews 10:23-25

### MAIN POINT:

*You matter to God and  
you belong here so:*

- (1) Show up.
- (2) Be real.
- (3) Go after Jesus.

### JESUS CONNECTION:

Jesus wants more than a surface -  
level relationship with you - He  
wants a personal relationship  
with you.

## LEADER CORNER

### GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To empower students to establish a culture of owning Hebrews 10:23-25 and their small group experience together.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

At this phase high school students feel the pressure to measure up in every area of life: school, social media, sports or extra-curricular activities, and in their friend group. While this conversation is about how to make small groups better, be careful to not add pressure by making this one more place they feel like they have to measure up. Don't use language like, "It should be like this..." or make them feel guilty if they aren't engaged. Instead let students lead the way in expressing what they need from the group and how to make it better. If necessary, allow them to process why they aren't engaged by asking clarifying questions.

### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

*This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do or ask everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.*

## CONVERSATION GUIDE

### GET THEM TALKING

What are some strong group friendships (healthy or unhealthy) you've seen in pop culture? Tell us WHY you think their relationships are strong.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you've ever played a team sport, played in the band, or been part of a great theatre cast, what makes a group great or healthy? What makes an unhealthy group or team?
2. How might a great small group make life in high school better? How might a great small group make YOU better in high school?
3. What are some words that describe a small group you'd want to be a part of? (*Leader note: Listen to all answers, but steer the conversation from "best friend" language.*)

### READ HEBREWS 10:23-25 and answer the following questions together:

*Pro Tip: Have someone write down ideas so you can circle back to them during your next step time together.*

4. How can THIS GROUP motivate each other and encourage one another?
5. What are some important values for us to have as a group together to be a place everyone feels they belong and can be real?
6. The verse goes on to say: "let us not." What are some things we will NOT do as a group?

### NEXT STEP

**As a group, come up with some tangible group rules and values together. Write these down and save them.** Remind your students this is not about creating a clique but about creating a safe, welcoming, supportive space for everyone here and those not here yet who might join your group in the future. *Leader Note: There is an example on the back to help you guide your convo, but lead your group to create their own rules/values and not just copy/paste them from the example.*

### PRAYER GUIDE

Ask your students to share their prayer requests, and close your time together in prayer.

## MAIN SCRIPTURES

### Hebrews 10:23-25 NIV

<sup>23</sup> Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

## BONUS LEADER RESOURCE

### EXAMPLE SMALL GROUP RULES/VALUES:

- 1) We agree to keep the things that are said in our group **confidential**, unless there's a concern for someone's safety.
- 2) We agree to **attend** our group as **faithfully** as possible.
- 3) We agree to **be real and participate** in group while being careful not to dominate the discussion.
- 5) We agree to treat one another with **respect** at all times, especially in times of disagreement or conflict.
- 6) We agree to **show up for one another** inside and outside of small group time.
- 7) We agree to **encourage** one other to grow **closer to Jesus**.
- 8) We agree to **welcome** new students and let everyone know this is a place for them to **belong**.