Study Guide

Session 6: Confident Christianity	
SESSION GOALS	
Every session has specific goals—things you want your group to walk away knowing, feeling, and committing to do.	
Main Idea No matter what situation God calls us to, we can be confident in Jesus's care and provision for us.	
Head Change To know that we are not defined by our limitations and pasts, but by the completed work of Jesus.	
Heart Change To feel confident in any situation God calls you to because he is with you.	
Life Change To serve God and other Christians as we all seek to become more like Jesus.	
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OPEN	
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All of us have had times when we were afraid to do something. When were you glad you overcame fear and did something you were afraid to do?	
Fear can stop us in our tracks, keeping us from some of life's great experiences. But when we choose to live in confidence—whether by jumping off a diving board for the first time or bungie jumping off a bridge—we can	
overcome our fear and make an unforgettable memory.	
There are times in our faith journey when we will be afraid, when we will feel unable to do what God is calling us to do or unprepared for our circumstances. But God	
has not abandoned us to fear. In this session, Derwin Gray will teach us what it means to trust Jesus's completed work and how we can live every day as confident	
Christians.	
DEAD	
READ	
Read Hebrews 10:19–25.	
Note: If you would like to read through the entire book of Hebrews, you can find a reading plan in the Go Deeper Section 1 at the end of each session of this study.	
WATCH	
Before viewing the session, here are a few important	
things to look for in Derwin Gray's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions.	
What does confidence mean for a Christian?	
What happens when we put our confidence in Jesus?	
What does it mean to be "in Christ"?	
Session 6: Confident Christianity (15 minutes).	
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DISCUSS

We all put our confidence in something. No matter what	
that thing is—comfort, a relationship, or something that gives you a sense of control—it serves as an anchor	
during the storms of life and makes us feel secure. However, many of us put our confidence in things that can	
never truly save us. In the video, Derwin said he put his	
confidence and faith in getting to the NFL, thinking it would fix all the problems in his life. The NFL was his	
"heaven." Think about where you find your hope. What	
one thing, if you had it, do you think would fix the big problems in your life?	
Now think about what gives you confidence or assurance	
on bad days. What helps calm you down and encourage you through times of stress and anxiety?	
Derwin was sure the NFL would fix his problems. But once	
he got there, he found it only made his problems worse.	
During that time, he realized that Jesus was the only sure source of confidence that wouldn't let him down. Even	
when life was difficult, he could trust where God was leading him, including into a situation that had been a	
source of pain in his past.	
Are you ever worried about what God might ask of you if you trusted him? Where are you afraid God might lead	
you?	
Even if God were to call us away from our dreams to	
places where we might feel insecure, he is with us and working for our good. Read Hebrews 10:19–23.	
What reasons does this passage give us to put our confidence in Jesus?	
What actions does it encourage us to take because of	
this confidence?	
Because of Jesus's sacrifice, we can approach God.	
Because Jesus is our good high priest who has forgiven and washed us clean from sin, we can build a relationship	
with God. No matter what comes our way, we can live confidently in our faith and in the hope of Jesus fulfilling	
his promises.	
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In the video, Derwin talked about what it means to hold on to hope. What hopes do you hold on to?	
Most of our hopes are unsure and can be left unfulfilled or taken away from us. Derwin taught us that biblical hope is more than wishful thinking. Hope is the assurance that Jesus will fulfill his promises. If God makes a promise, he will keep it. We only have to wait for him to act. What do you think it looks like to put your hope in Jesus?	
How might trusting him with your future change the way you act at home? At work?	
Living confidently in what Jesus has done and what he will do does not guarantee that we will avoid hard times. But in those seasons, he wants us to draw near to him. In what ways are you relying on Jesus today?	
What makes you aware of Jesus's presence in your life?	
What might change in your daily routine if you were confident that Jesus was with you?	
Note: To dig more deeply into what Derwin meant when he said we can bury our sin and shame in Jesus, go to Go Deeper Section 2 at the end of this study.	
God wants us to draw near to him, but he doesn't want us to do it alone. Read Hebrews 10:24–25.	
According to these verses, what practices should we be applying in our Christian communities?	
Why do you think it is easy to neglect meeting with other Christians?	
Drawing near to Jesus requires us to draw near to other Christians. What would it look like for your small group to "provoke love and good works" from each other?	
Note: To learn about the fourth warning of Hebrews, go to Go Deeper Section 3 at the end of this study.	
Take a moment to talk to your small group about what is	
Take a moment to talk to your small group about what is going on in each other's lives. What encouragement does	
each person need this week?	
dlow might your group encourage each other "day after day" so that you all might grow to be like Jesus	

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Nothing can steal God's love from you, and you cannot work yourself out of his loving grip. When you turn to Jesus, you can live in confidence, knowing that your past is forgiven, your present is secure, and your future is assured.

We don't know where God will lead us, but whatever he has for us, we can trust that it will be for our good and his glory, and it will lead us to his promises. All we need to ask ourselves is how we will serve him today. What is your next step of faithfulness?

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GO DEEPER

This section has two potential functions:

- 1. It can supplement your small group discussion with topics your group may be interested in. We've highlighted where each of the following segments could fit in the Discuss section of the study guide. As the leader, it would be good to familiarize yourself with this section just in case your conversation turns to one of these topics.
- 2. These sections can also function as short devotionals to carry you through the week until your next group meeting. Consider using these sections to deepen your group's study of the book of Hebrews.

1. Hebrews Reading Plan: Week 6

Hebrews is a long book, and we won't be able to study every verse of it during these sessions. This reading plan will help you familiarize yourself with the entirety of the book so that you can dig more deeply into God's Word. This plan keeps pace with Derwin's teaching, so some weeks will have more reading than others. Feel free to complete the daily readings at a pace that makes the most sense to you and your group.

Week 1: Hebrews 1:1-3

Week 2: Hebrews 1:4-3:19

Week 3: Hebrews 4

Week 4: Hebrews 5-6

Week 5: Hebrews 7-9

Week 6: Hebrews 10

Week 7: Hebrews 11–12

Week 8: Hebrews 13

This reading guide will walk you through Hebrews 10, which describes Jesus's sacrifice and how his work affects our everyday lives.

<u>Day 1</u>: The Shadow of Good Things (Hebrews 10:1–7)

Day 2: Sacrifice and Worship (Psalm 40)

Day 3: Jesus, A Better Sacrifice (Hebrews 10:8–18)

<u>Day 4</u>: The Fourth Warning: Living in Willful Sin (Hebrews

10:19-31)

<u>Day 5</u>: Persevering Faith (Hebrews 10:32–39)

2. Shadow of Things to Come

	We are often acutely aware of our sin. Many of us continue to carry guilt and shame from our repeated failures. We may even feel that we need to make up or	
	pay penance for our new sins. But Jesus has called us to a better way of living, where our sin is washed away once and for all. Read Hebrews 10:1–4.	
	Why did animal sacrifices need to be made every year? According to these verses, why was it impossible for animal sacrifices to take away sin?	
	The blood of bulls and goats were unable to offer God's people permanent forgiveness. They were annual reminders of sin and the need for a savior. While we don't offer animal sacrifices today, we can live in the same spiritual state as the ancient Israelites. We can live in anxiety about our new sins, feeling like we need to make up for our repeated mistakes. What do you think God thinks of our inability to stay away from sin?	
	In what ways have you tried to make up for your past failures to please God?	
	Guilt and shame change the way we view our relationship with God. Instead of living in the freedom of forgiveness, we live with the fear of being penalized or we feel unworthy of forgiveness. But Jesus's sacrifice is totally different than the repeated sacrifices of animals. When we trust Jesus, we find a permanent and lasting atonement for our sins. Read Hebrews 10:5–13.	
	What makes Jesus's sacrifice different from the sacrifices of bulls and goats?	
	What is Jesus doing now that he has made a once-and- for-all sacrifice for us?	
	Jesus does not need to return to the cross to make additional sacrifices for us. He is sitting down, something Old Testament priests were never allowed to do. What would change in your life if you were to leave the penalty of your sins with Jesus?	
	The Old Testament sacrifices were shadows of the goodness of Jesus. If you follow him, your life is totally different than those under the old covenant. Read	
ri	Hebrews 10:14–18. ghtnow MEDIA	

When sin continues to tempt you, what thoughts or verses could remind you of the greater hope you have in Jesus?	
God calls us to fight sin as a group through encouragement and prayer. What sins do you need to let your community know about so that they can encourage	
and pray for you?	

