

PRAXiS

New  
hope

PRAXiS

## HOW TO USE

This discussion guide is designed for you, leaders, to guide your group through this Praxis video series. This series is structured as a conversation based around engaging questions intended to promote thought-provoking discussion throughout each episode. When these questions pop up on the screen, hit pause and turn the question to the group. **Each episode includes the following:**

### BIG IDEA

We highlight the big idea behind the episode, emphasizing key scriptures or quotes, to give you and your group an idea of what will be covered in the video. Feel free to share this before pressing play, or after to summarize what was taught into a concise thought.

### SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

If the video question does not invite participation, use these questions to promote further interest. These questions are simply reworded to present the idea in a different way. We invite you to be creative and present the questions in a way that engages your group.

### DISCUSS

The video questions are created to encourage conversation and to allow the formation of thoughts and ideas – inviting participants to wrestle with and begin sharing their beliefs and experiences. This is just the beginning. The discussion questions exist to go deeper and to invite more intimate and transformational conversation.

## CONTEXT

### IN A CHURCH OR LARGE GROUP SETTING

This guide is designed to be used by a leader, so begin by identifying those leaders and getting a guide into each of their hands. If you are watching the episodes with more than 20 people, we would advise identifying multiple leaders and having them focus on a section of the group. When the video questions arise, have them turn to their “small group” and discuss the questions openly. Time dependent, ask each smaller group to share with the larger group what was shared. This invites more people to share without the intimidation of a large group setting. Whether you keep these groups consistent from week to week, or you mix it up, remaining the same for the discussion portion of each episode will allow for greater depth and increased transparency.

### IN A SMALL GROUP SETTING

Every leader in the room should have one of these guides prior to beginning the video. It can be helpful to identify one leader as the facilitator, and others as helpers. The facilitator can guide the video question time, with helpers stepping in as needed based on the direction of conversation. Come discussion time, gathering into small groups where one or two leaders oversee a small group can invite quieter participants to engage and allow for greater depth of conversation.

### AS AN INDIVIDUAL

While this discussion guide is designed with group participation in mind, the content is something we believe is valuable for every individual. We advise watching these episodes with a pen in hand and paper before you. Have your Bible handy and get ready to pause the video. You get to take this at your pace! When Scripture is referenced, open your Bible and read along – when questions are asked, hit pause and write out your answer. If questions arise in your mind that you are unable to answer, write them down to ask later.

## GET READY

Take a breath, the pressure is off. We are not asking you to teach, or to have the answer to every question. Your role is to guide, facilitate, but most importantly to **listen** and **invite**.

### **Invite questions. Invite conversation.**

This discussion guide was created to provide direction for the conversation, but not to limit or harness the group. During the video, listen to what the participants say. Do not feel the need to answer the question yourself. Be comfortable with silence. Give it fifteen seconds before you use a supporting question. Let them think.

“When will I know when to press play again?” Trust me, you’ll know. Conversation will end, or you may even have to re-focus the group if they go down a rabbit trail. If a valuable question or topic is sparked during the video, write it down and say you will return as a group to it during the discussion time.

When it comes time for discussion, follow the pace of the group. Let them naturally guide the conversation around what content stuck out from the video, or what questions were sparked for them. You are not confined to the questions in this guide. Pick the ones that stand out to you or add your own. This time will look different for each group and that’s intentional.

### **Listen and Invite.**

# NEW HOPE

THREE EPISODES | PRAXIS SERIES 10

## BIG IDEA

How many of us are missing out on the invitation to do truly do life with Jesus because we are so focused on us – our behavior, our striving, our yearning for attention and love? Throughout this series, New Hope, we journey through the book of Hebrews and discover the new hope Jesus brought by ushering in the new covenant. An arrangement that is not focused on external behavior alone, but on a relationship with Jesus lived out in faith.



# NEW HOPE

## EPISODE 1 | ONLY JESUS

### BIG IDEA

The beauty of the gospel is that our relationship with Jesus is not about us, and what we do... it's about Jesus, and what He has already done for us. Jesus fulfilled the requirements of the old arrangement with God and ushered in a new arrangement where our faith is marked by our relationship with Jesus. THIS is the greatness of Jesus.

### KEY TERMS & SCRIPTURE

**Covenant:** The word used throughout Scripture to describe an arrangement with God, a way of being made right with Him. This is also referred to as testament.

#### Basics of the Old Arrangement:

- **Angels:** Angels were considered more knowledgeable and powerful than mankind. They were deeply respected because they did God's work (Hebrews 1 and 2).
- **Moses:** God used Moses in incredible ways to lead an entire nation away from enslavement and into the promised land. He built the very tent that the presence of God resided in, calling it the tabernacle (Hebrews 3).
- **Ten Commandments:** Are the written laws between God and His original people, the Israelites, outlining how to live in order to please God.
- **Sacrificial System and High Priest:** The role of the priest was to represent people before God, and to offer sacrifices in the temple to atone for sins.

**Hebrews 7:27:** Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

**Hebrews 7:19:** *The old arrangement ....is set aside because it was weak and useless (for the law made nothing perfect), and a BETTER HOPE is introduced, by which we draw near to God.*

**Hebrews 8:13:** By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.

**Matthew 5:17:** “Do not think that I have come to **abolish** the law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to **fulfil** them.”

*To abolish means to destroy or overthrow. To fulfil means to make complete, or full*

## SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- **What would you say defines your relationship with Jesus... desperately trying to measure up, or freely accepting?**
  - What has shaped and influenced this view on your relationship with Jesus? Why do you try and measure up? How are you able to freely accept?
  - Have you ever wrestled with the question – “did I do enough to earn God’s attention and love?” How did you feel after reflecting on this question?
- **What is your understanding of the place the old arrangement has in your life? Do you see it as still being relevant today?**
  - Can you say with certainty that you are “all in on the new arrangement?” How come? And if not, where do you see remnants of the old arrangement in your relationship with Jesus?
  - What role does the Old Testament have in our lives?
- **What do you love about Jesus? What about His greatness stands out to you?**
  - If you are in a relationship with Jesus – why? What do you love about Him?
  - Think of your favorite Bible story about Jesus – what stands out to you about Him? Why is it your favorite?

## DISCUSS

- **How did this episode influence your view on the old and new arrangements? Was this language new to you? Any thoughts you disagree with or struggle to accept? Why?**
  - **What can we do to intentionally live a life marked by the love of Jesus? Rather than striving to measure up?**
  - **According to Matthew 5:17, what did Jesus do with the Old arrangement? Where do you see evidence of this throughout Scripture? Why does this matter to us?**
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## NEXT STEPS

Take time as a group, or later this week when alone, to pause and consider who you are doing with Jesus. Do not analyze your behavior but focus on your heart. How is your heart? How is it inclined towards, or away from Jesus? What is influencing this stance?

# NEW HOPE

## EPISODE 2 | WITH JESUS

### BIG IDEA

Jesus is greater because He fulfilled the requirements of the old arrangement. As a result, we now live under a new arrangement where a personal relationship with Jesus is at the core. It's a relationship where we are both intimately invested and actively engaged. Under the new arrangement, we gain personal intimate knowledge of and relationship with God.

### KEY TERMS & SCRIPTURE

**Hebrews 8:10-12:** “This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord: I will put **my laws in their minds** and write them on **their hearts**. I will be **their God**, and they will be **my people**. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will **all know me**, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

**Hebrews 10:15-18:** “‘This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.’ Then he adds: ‘Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.’ And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

**Galatians 5:22-26:** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

**Romans 8:14-15:** For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you **live in fear again**; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.

**Matthew 22:37-40:** “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

**John 13:34-35:** A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By **this** everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.



## SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- **Does your relationship with Jesus feel one-sided? Does it feel like it's only Jesus pursuing you, or you pursuing Jesus?**
  - Is your relationship with Jesus more focused on Jesus? Or on you? How so, and why?
  - If your answer was no, what evidence is there in your life of Jesus pursuing you, and pursuing Him?
- **What has your experience with the work of the Holy Spirit been? Is there evidence of these attributes in your life?**
  - Read Galatians 5:22-26. Which of these attributes do you see evidence of in your life? Which do you need to grow in?
- **What do you think about the idea of asking "what does love require of me?" How does this reshape the way you think about engaging with God and others?**
  - Why is this question, "what does love require of me" important?
  - Reflect on, and share, a time you did not love your neighbor as yourself, how could reflecting on this question "what does love require of me?" have changed your behavior?

## DISCUSS

- **Read Matthew 22:37-40. Do you believe this is a higher calling than living under the old arrangement? Why or why not?**
  - **What role does the Holy Spirit play in your life?**
  - **If we can love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind by intentionally putting God above all else, how can we do this? How does loving God shape our thoughts, words, and actions?**
  - **Does your love for Jesus motivate you to be obedient to Him? To love God, and love your neighbors? Why or why not?**
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## NEXT STEPS

As a group, spend time praying together focusing on your relationship WITH Jesus. Pray words of thanksgiving for what He has done in your life. Ask Him for strength to help you love your neighbour. Ask for His guidance with your current circumstances or struggles. Focus on your life WITH Jesus.

# NEW HOPE

## EPISODE 3 | FOR JESUS

### BIG IDEA

We are under the new arrangement, meaning, we are to live by faith. Living by faith involves drawing near to God, with sincere hearts and confident faith. This is an internal act, a shift in allegiance and posture towards Jesus – whom we look to as an example of faith and love.

### KEY TERMS & SCRIPTURE

**Hebrews 10:19-22:** Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have the confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, *[AKA since we live under the new arrangement]* let us **draw near to God with a sincere heart** and with the **full assurance that faith brings**, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

**Hebrews 4:15-16:** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

**Video quote – Kiara Moshansky:** “To do something with **sincerity** means to do it wholeheartedly, or authentically - from a place of genuine desire, with no hint of deception or mis-placed motive. A sincere heart is an undivided one. Our hearts can be undivided, set on God alone, because of the confidence we have in what Christ has done on our behalf.”

**Hebrews 10:23-25:** Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 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 11:1:** Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

**Romans 15:4-5:** For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had.

## SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

- **What do you tend to focus on more, your sin or your forgiveness? How does this effect your relationship with Jesus?**
  - Do you more naturally feel guilt from sin, or freedom from forgiveness? Why?
- **Do you find it easy to draw near to God, or do you struggle with it? How come?**
  - When you think of approaching God – turning to Him for help, praying to Him - what thoughts run through your mind? Do these thoughts motivate you to draw near? Or turn away?

## DISCUSS

- **What does it mean to have a sincere heart?**
- **How can we live in full assurance of faith? What does this mean?**
- **What does Hebrews 4:15-16 teach us about Jesus? How should this truth influence the way we approach Him?**
- **Read Hebrews 12:1-3. How can we throw off everything that hinders us, including sin? How can we fix our eyes on Jesus?**
- **What do we learn from Ephesians 4:31-32 and 5:1-2? How can you apply this truth today?**

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## NEXT STEPS

Take a moment to reflect and share on what your next step in your life of faith with Jesus is? Do you want to start a relationship with Jesus right now? Do you want to take a step closer to Jesus by getting rid of the lies that you tell yourself about not measuring up? Do you want to focus on His forgiveness, rather than your sin? Pray for one another regarding what was shared.