Dear Women of the Word,

I know many of you are so happy to be back in the New Testament this year! Well, hang on, because this New Testament book is quite a challenge! I have no doubt that you diligent women of the word will be up to the challenge and find Hebrews to be thought-provoking, heartening, inspiring as well as sobering and convicting. In Hebrews we learn that God’s word is living and active and so we can be sure it is a timely message for us today!

There are a few things you need to know as you begin this study.

All Scripture quoted is ESV unless otherwise noted. The questions are also based on the ESV unless noted.

The original readers of Hebrews were Jewish Christians who had a thorough knowledge of the Old Testament. The author of Hebrews quotes many Old Testament passages connecting them to the theme of his letter. In this study the **Critical Connection** questions will be used to further explore the passages the author is quoting or to go to other verses that help us understand the Old Testament connection to Hebrews. Because the Old Testament quotes are such an integral part of Hebrews, these questions are going to be a big part of understanding Hebrews. (It will be helpful to you, if you have time, to read the whole context of the Old Testament passage we are connecting to. Space in our study only allows for portions of the passage to be printed.)

The **Digging Deeper** questions take you to a different part of the Bible and will give added understanding to the subject at hand. If you are running short on time you can skip these questions.

The **Heart** questions require some inner examination and reflection. They help you to apply God’s word to your own life. These are the ones you don’t like : ).

The **Scholar’s Notes** and **Picture and Ponder** help to clarify and deepen understanding and application.

**For Discussion** are questions that are conducive to brainstorming, though you should give them some thought before group. The answers aren’t found directly in the passage, but relate to it.

Each year my prayer for you is that this study will not only be an intellectual exercise, but that it will be devotional—that it will engage your heart as well as your mind. The whole point of Bible study is to know God and love him! Growing in our relationship with God involves two-way conversation. As God speaks to us through his word he invites us to respond to him through prayer. So, interspersed throughout the study are boxes with arrows pointing up, prompting us to respond to God in praise, thanksgiving, confession and requests. Make these prayers your own or use them as a reminder to respond to what God is speaking to you.

One last bit of information that will hopefully make life a little easier. If you are absent on a day we hand out lessons, you can now go to my website and print off the lesson you need at Inhimallthings.org

Lastly, remember that the aim of our study is not to get every answer perfect, but to think, learn, discuss and search God’s word together all in order to know and love God better. It’s ok if it’s hard—Hebrews is meat not milk!

I am praying dear sisters that God will use his word this year to help us all know the glory of God seen in the face of Jesus our precious Savior (2 Cor.4:6).

In Him,

Holli