

# HE IS BETTER.

A Series in the Book of Hebrews



## Hebrews

### A Note to the Parents/Teachers

*The book of Hebrews is often summed up in one simple phrase: Jesus is better. Yet the book of Hebrews is itself is far from a simple book. The author, who we do not know who it is, talk a lot about how Jesus' sacrifice is superior to the sacrifices in the Old Testament—requiring us to think hard about the structure and complexity of the old-covenant system and the relationship between the Old Testament and New Testament.*

### Call to Worship

*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come. You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will, they were created and have their being.” - Revelation 4:8,11*

### Starter

#### Evidence of Grace

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. Take time to thank God together.

#### Discussion Question(s):

- ▶ Have you ever experienced a time when something seemed too hard and you decided to just do what was easy, or familiar, or comfortable?

**Text**

# Hebrews 1

## Big Idea: Christ is the better message and messenger

### Summary

We do not know who the author of the Book of Hebrews is. For some reason, probably intentionally, the author decided to remain anonymous. The author might have decided to intentionally remain anonymous as to not distract from the main theme and message of the book, that Jesus is the better message and messenger than all of the previous messengers that God sent. The author, however, does seem to be very familiar with the Old Testament and the Hebrew Scriptures, as well as the apostles teachings of and about Jesus. We also do not know who the intended audience of this letter is. This letter was probably written in the early 60s AD.

The audience of this letter appears to be primarily Jewish Christians who grew up in Judaism but have believed in Jesus. Yet, they seem to be facing persecution for believing that Jesus was/is the Messiah that Israel had been waiting for. Some have faced persecution and some have been put in prison for their faith. Thus, some of these believers are thinking about or may have already turned from that faith and returned to the old ways of Judaism of animal sacrifices, worship at the temple, the old levitical laws, the old covenant teachings, and revering the “heroes” of the old covenant like Moses, Abraham, and others.

The author responds to these believers turning from faith in Jesus by showing that Jesus is superior to every possible thing that you could put in his place. He’s superior to the angels. He’s superior to the prophets. He is superior to Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Abraham, etc. His new covenant is superior to the old covenant. Jesus is better. There is nothing grander, greater, more beautiful, more wonderful, more satisfying than Him!

### Jesus

Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God’s love and mercy and is worthy of our trust and devotion. Throughout the book of Hebrews, the audience is challenged to remain faithful to Jesus, who is greater than the heroes of the faith. We should look to the giants of the faith found in the Hebrew Bible as examples for how to live despite hardships and persecution. These challenges will make us uncomfortable, but instead of fearing them, we can remember everything that Jesus has done. To reject him would be foolish when he already fulfilled all that we’ve been waiting for.

Jesus Is the Fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures. The book of Hebrews compares and contrasts Jesus to key historical people and events from the Hebrew Bible. Through these comparisons, we see his superiority. He is greater than the angels, the Torah, Moses, the promised land, earthly priests, sacrifices, and the covenant. He is the hope for a new creation, our eternal priest, and the perfect sacrifice.

### **Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all**

- Why do you think the author decided to remain anonymous?
- Why do you think believers in Jesus decided to go back to what they used to believe and do instead of remaining faithful to what they believed about who Jesus was?
- What are some things that you know that Jesus is better than?
- Is there anything that you think Jesus is not better than or something or someone that is better than Jesus? Why?
- Is there anything or any one that we worship more than Jesus? Why?

### **Breakout Time**

#### **Pray:**

God, I know that you are the one true living God who created all things. You created the earth and everything on the earth. You created me. Thank you for sending your Son Jesus so that I can be forgiven of worshiping other things. Forgive me for sometimes worshiping other things than you. I repent. Holy Spirit, please work in my heart to love God and love others in a way that points them to Jesus and your Kingdom. May our hearts be filled with love for you and for others in response to what you have done in and through your Son Jesus and the story you have invited us to now participate in. Help me to think of my community this week and how I can love them well so that they might know you more.