

# 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 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. 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.*

### 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 played a video game, maybe an outdoor game like fishing, or a racing game, and then went out and actually went fishing in real life or went in a race car in real life?

- Do you remember when you were learning to draw or paint and would often look at another picture and try copying it? Did it look exactly like the original picture you were copying?

## Text

# Hebrews 10:1-18

## **Big Idea: Jesus is the better SACRIFICE**

### Summary

In Hebrews 10 the author continues to show the Hebrew people the limitations of the old covenant system. But now the author is going to argue that this message of the limitations of the old covenant was really nothing new. Animal sacrifices are just provisional and God was never fully pleased with them because they never really dealt with the heart. Getting rid of the animal sacrifices and turning to Jesus was God's plan for humanity from the start.

Remember the Hebrew people were thinking of returning to the old covenant system where they could just make sacrifices to pay the penalty for sin. The author continues to show them that this is not what God had wanted and the Old Testament points to Jesus being the better sacrifice as well.

### Why were sacrifices needed?

In the beginning of the biblical story, when the man and woman first decided not to obey God or to live under his authority, and choose for themselves what was right and wrong, sin, or rebellion against God, was now present in all of creation. The punishment for sin and rebellion was death. Though at the beginning of the story God did not kill the man or the woman immediately, but showed them grace by banishing them from the garden they were placed in. Humans were meant to live forever with God in His good creation, but now because of sin, they would experience death one day.

Fast forward and the people of Israel, the people that God has chosen to be an example to the rest of the world what God was like and what living under His rule and authority was like, continue to choose other gods to worship. They constantly choose to disobey, not live under God's authority, and continue to sin. The consequences of their actions and choice to sin is death. The penalty for breaking God's covenant was death. But God, because He is gracious, sets up a system where it is not the people that have to die, but allows the people to sacrifice or put to death an animal in their place. This animal sacrifice system was never meant to be a permanent solution to sin. It was put in place by God to help remind the people of their sin and the severity of the consequences of sin. But God had a better plan to deal with the power of sin once and for all. JESUS!

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## Jesus

Jesus was the better sacrifice because...

1. Jesus offered his own body as a sacrifice (vs5-6). Here the author quotes from Psalm 40 to show that the Old Testament writings showed that God was not pleased with animal

sacrifices, the burnt offerings, and the sin offerings. Psalm 40 also says, “but you have prepared a body for me.” Even the Old Testament writings of David point to one day a body being the ultimate sacrifice that God has prepared. - Jesus.

2. Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father - authority (vs11-14). Here the author reminds the Hebrews that Jesus, after he died and rose again to new life, He ascended to be with God the Father again. Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father. In a kingdom whoever sat at the right hand of the king was the second most powerful person in the kingdom. If anything were to happen to the king, the person that sit to the right would take over. Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father and all power and authority that God has over creation and sin, Jesus now has. Jesus, through his sacrificial death has taken back power over God’s good creation from the power of the enemy and sin.
3. The Holy Spirit assures us (v15-18). The old sacrificial system never really dealt with the hearts of humans. It was a system to pay the penalty of sins and breaking the covenant, but it didn’t change humans hearts to turn from their sin and give their loves, lives, and allegiance to God alone. Because of the sacrifice of Jesus’ death, Jesus conquering death by raising to new life, and because Jesus went to be with God the Father again, Jesus himself said that he had to go away so that the Holy Spirit could come and reside in the hearts of anyone who believes in Him. What the old sacrificial system could not do, change the hearts and loves of humans, the Holy Spirit now can/does.

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

- Why did Jesus have to die?
- Why was Jesus the perfect sacrifice for sins?
- What does the Holy Spirit do?
- How/When do we receive the Holy Spirit?
- Where have you seen God at work in the world around you?
- If you have trusted Jesus with your heart, life, and loyalties, how should you live in relationship to God, to others, and to God’s created world?

### **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 worshipping other things. Forgive me for sometimes worshipping 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.

#### **Craft**

The kids can color the following picture of the cross in which Jesus gave the ultimate and final sacrifice.

