

# 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):

- What are some things you hope for in life?
- What do you hope is true about you or about the world in the future? How do you know it will come true? Do you believe it will come true?

**Text**

## Hebrews 11:1-12:3

### Big Idea: Jesus is the better FAITH

#### Summary

In Hebrews 10 the author reminds the readers of the men and women they all know. These were men and women that the Hebrew people have probably all heard stories or sung songs about. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Moses were written about and the author even says that they do not have time to also tell the stories of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. God used and displayed His provision and power through all of these people because of their faith in Him. Their faith and life were not perfect though. All of these people failed, made bad decisions, worshipped other things, or doubted if God would come through.

#### What is faith?

Hebrews 11:1 says that, “Faith is the assurance of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen. Faith is being sure of that we hope for is true. Faith is being sure that what, or who, we are placing our hope in, is true and actually able to deliver on or fulfill that hope. It is being sure. It is trusting. It is hoping with joy and confidence that what you are placing your faith in will deliver on its promise.

#### The object of faith.

Everyone has faith in something or someone. We place our faith in people and things everyday, probably without thinking about it. We have faith that we will wake up in the morning and our moms or dads will be there to make us breakfast or help us get ready for school. I have faith that every morning when I go to start my car that it will turn on. We have faith that when we go to school, our teacher will be there to greet us and when we go sit in our chair that the chair will hold us. We have faith that our moms or dads will feed us, buy us clothes, and provide love and support. We have faith in these things because they happen over and over and over again and we have learned to trust them.

Paul, in Galatians 2 verse 20 says, “The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Paul is saying that his life on earth is centered around and revolves around Jesus, the Son of God, who sacrificed his life for us. Jesus is the best person to center our lives around. When He is the object of our faith, nothing else matters. When we fully trust and have confidence in Jesus, that He is the best person to place our hope in, then how we live will reflect that trust, hope, and confidence that He has us.

#### Faith lived out.

When we place our full trust, faith, hope, love, and allegiance to Jesus, then that will shape how we think, love others, act, and live our lives. Our lives will be centered around Jesus. Our hope will be what Jesus hopes for. Our loves will be what Jesus loves.

## Jesus

Perfect object of our faith. Like we talked about earlier we all have faith in something or someone. Faith is hoping with joy and confidence that what you are placing your faith in will deliver on its promise. When someone has proven that they can be trusted, that they will deliver on their promise, and they are a man or woman of their word, then we have faith that they will continue to be a person who is trustworthy. God, throughout all of history has kept His promises. He has always and forever kept His side of the covenant he made with Israel, kings, prophets, Abraham, Moses, Noah, and all of the other people mentioned earlier. God has been faithful. God has proven Himself to be trustworthy and worthy of our full faith and trust. That is why, even though God allowed all of the people mentioned earlier to go through hard things in life, they all had a full confidence that God could be trusted; that He was worthy of their full faith, loyalty, life, and allegiance.

Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promise to all of creation that He would not abandon His creation, but send someone to rescue it from the power of sin and death. Jesus is the fullness of God's promise. Jesus is the fullness of God's faithfulness. Jesus is the fullness of God's trustworthiness. Jesus is the fullness of God Himself. Jesus is the fullness of what it looks like to have faith in God, even to the point of dying. Jesus is the fullness of God's purpose and plan to redeem and restore all of creation.

Therefore, because of all of these things, we can have full faith that God will continue to deliver on His promises, will continue to move and work in and through His good creation, and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, continue to work in and through the lives of the people who place their faith in Him.

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

- What are some things or people you have faith in?
- Why is Jesus the perfect person to trust in, have faith in, or have hope in?
- What does faith in Jesus look like?
- 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 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.

### Craft

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



