

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

Text

Hebrews 2:5-18

Big Idea: Jesus is the better human

Summary

In chapter 1 the author of Hebrews wrote that Jesus is the better message and the better messenger. Jesus was even better than the angels. The rest of chapter 2 continues in the theme of Jesus is better. In this part of the letter the author goes on to write that Jesus is the better—the perfect human—who is able to represent humanity before God.

In order to show the Hebrew people that Jesus was/is the better human, the author first reminds the Hebrews of God's design and purpose for humanity. In verse 5-8 we are told that humans stand out in God's creation. That the angels were not the ones that God subjected the world to but, it was humans. Humans were created for two primary reasons. First, humans were created to reflect God's glory to one another and to all of creation. Humans were created in God's image to reflect what He was like to all of creation. Second, humans were created to partner with God to care for and to cultivate all of the potentials in God's created world. It was God's created humans that He gave power and authority to rule over God's created world with Him. It was humans that God partnered with to cultivate and care for the created world.

As we know from the story of Scripture, humans have not done the best job in being perfect reflections of God's glory and being good partners in caring for God's creation. The first humans decided to decide for themselves how they wanted to live in God's creation apart from God. This brought sin, separation, pain, guilt, suffering, loneliness, anxiety, shame, and death that infected every part of God's good creation. Ever since the first humans, all of humanity has been plagued with sin. Since the first humans sinned, no human was ever able to fully and perfectly reflect God's glory and no human has cared for God's creation how He hoped for.

But God had a plan because He had made a promise to His human creation...

Jesus

God sends His son, Jesus, to become a human. Jesus enters into God's creation as a fully human being to show humanity what it looks like to live fully and perfectly in God's kingdom, under His right rule and authority, while on God's created world. Jesus is the only one that can deliver humanity from the evils of sin by fully submitting to God's plan and perfectly living in His kingdom as God had intended from the beginning of creation. Jesus was and still is the perfect representation of the relationship God wanted His human creation to have with Him, with other humans, and with His created world.

Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all

- What are some ways you can be a reflection of God's glory to the world around you?
- What are some ways that you can care for or cultivate God's created world?
- What are ways that you are created in God's image?
- What are some things that you know that Jesus is better than?
- Why was Jesus the perfect human?
- If have trusted Jesus with our heart, life, and loyalties, how should we 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.

