

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 built something

Text

Hebrews 3

Big Idea: Jesus is the better *BUILDER*

Summary

Hebrews chapter 3 continues this theme that Jesus is better. In the first two chapters we read that Jesus is the better message and messenger. In chapter 2 we read that Jesus is the better human. Humans were created to reflect God's glory and partner with him in caring for His creation, but ever since the first humans, humanity has failed to adequately do with of those tasks.

God was the creator of everything. He built and made the heavens, the earth, everything in the earth, and humans. All things were built by God. If you remember from last week, humans were created to reflect God's glory and to partner with God to take care of everything that God made.

Genesis 12 tells us that God gave a promise to Abraham that starting with him, God was going to build a great nation of people. This great nation of people that God was going to build through Abraham was going to be God's chosen people to reflect God's glory to all of the other nations of the world. God was the builder and He was going to use Abraham to do it. God would continue to use other men and women to continue to build God's people into a nation of image-bearing cultivators.

In chapter 3 the author brings up Moses. Moses was a key figure in the history of the people of Israel. God used Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, cross the red sea, and enter the land that God had promised them. Along the way, God gave Moses the 10 commandments and other laws to establish the people of Israel into a unified people that would become a nation in order to display to the rest of the nations in the world what God was like.

God was and is continuing to build. Build a people, a kingdom of people, that lives in such a way that shows the rest of the world what it is like to live in God's kingdom while on earth. God's people, His church, are meant to live in such a way that points people toward a future in which Jesus comes back to fully usher in God's kingdom, fully judge and eliminate sin and death, and rule over His good creation again.

Jesus

Jesus is the fullest expression of what it looks like to live in God's kingdom. He is the perfect example of how to live as a part of God's kingdom while on earth.

Paul wrote in the book of Ephesians 2:19-22, "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

The cornerstone of a building was the corner stone of the foundation. If the cornerstone was perfect then you could build the rest of the house off of and from that stone and the rest of the

foundation would be perfect. Jesus is the cornerstone of God's kingdom in which our lives should be built around and from.

Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all

- What are some things you are building your life around?
- How has God built you?
- What are ways that you are created in God's image?
- How are we to live in God's kingdom now in Phoenix (or Mesa)?
- What are some ways we can partner with God in building His kingdom here on earth?

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.

