

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 been on a boat when they had to drop their anchor? Why do boats need anchors?

Text

Hebrews 6:13-20

Big Idea: Jesus is the better ANCHOR

Summary

One of the most important parts of a boat is the anchor or the tie-downs. If a boat, no matter the size, doesn't have an anchor or some way to anchor itself to something sturdy or fixed, the boat will drift out to sea. The boat will go wherever the winds or currents take it. When a captain wants a boat to stay in one spot, an anchor keeps the ship fixed in a spot while waves, storms, and currents try to take the boat out to sea. In this part of Hebrews, the author says that the anchor of our hope is in God's promise, His character, and ultimately in His son, Jesus.

We can trust, our anchor our hope, in God's promise. (6:13-14)

In these verses the author is pointing us back to Genesis 22:16 when God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac, on Mount Moriah. Abraham trusted God and obeyed no matter what. Remember God had promised Abraham that, even though he and Sara were really old, God was going to give them kids and make them into a great nation of people. Then God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son. It didn't make sense. Why would God promise Abraham one thing and then ask Abraham to do something that seemed to go against God's promise. It probably would have seemed like God was breaking His promise with Abraham.

We can trust, or anchor our hope, in God's character. (6:17-18)

When a person makes a promise to you, you are more likely to believe that they will keep their promise if you know them well and know that they can be trusted. If a complete stranger makes you a promise, would you fully trust that they will keep their promise?

These two verses tell us two important things about God's character. First in verse 17 it says that God's purpose is unchangeable. What is God's purpose in the world? That purpose has not changed and will not change. God's purpose to defeat sin, bring His creation back to Himself and under His authority, and renew all of creation one day has not changed. We can trust that this was God's purpose from the very beginning and it will be His purpose until Jesus comes returns.

Second, in verse 18, it says that God cannot lie. God will always tell the truth. He cannot tell a lie, or a white lie, or a truth that is only partly true but not the complete truth. God tells the whole truth, all of the time, every time. Therefore we can fully trust that when God speaks it is true. When God makes a promise

Jesus

We can trust, or anchor our hope, in Jesus (6:19-20)

All of these things are things we can fully and completely trust and will anchor our hope. Remember an anchor is something that keeps a vessel or boat in one place whether it is in dock or out to sea. If storms, waves, wind, and the tides all try to push the boat in a certain direction, the anchor will keep that boat from drifting off out to sea.

Likewise, sometimes we hear things or experience things that want to pull us or push us away from trusting Jesus as the Lord of our lives. And sometimes these things can be hard, painful, hurtful. Sometimes these things or experiences promise to fulfill all of your dreams and desires,

but will only leave you feeling empty and alone. God, the creator of all things and the creator of you has promised that He wants all of His creation to know and worship Him. God has promised that He will never leave you or abandon you. God has promised that He will send Jesus back to fully restore all of His creation and that those who have trusted that promise will live with Him in the new creation forever.

This hope that we have wasn't just so we could keep it for ourselves. God wants us to share this hope with people that don't have hope. Many of your friends, family, or neighbors might not have this anchor hope that you have in Jesus. They might be worried about the future, anxious about life, we can share the anchor of Jesus Christ that can give them hope to help them weather any of life's storms that come up.

We know God's promises, but sometimes we too might doubt if God is really keeping His promise. Maybe someone close to you gets sick or passes away. Maybe you are getting picked on by people at school. Maybe you doubt that God is good. Maybe you doubt that God is even real. Maybe you doubt that God loves you. Through all of these counts and questions, the thing that can anchor our soul and help us hold on to hope is God promise, His character, and His Son Jesus Christ.

Dialogue Questions - You may use some or all

- Is there anything about God that you aren't really sure is true?
- Do you have any doubts about who God is, what He has done, or maybe who God says you are?
- How do we know we can trust God?
- When life gets hard what do you look to for comfort or hope?
- Who are some people in your life that need to hear about the hope you have in Jesus?

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.

