



Cole Community Group Notes “Jesus is Better”

Read Passage: *Hebrews 1:1-4*

INTRODUCTION

The book of Hebrews is written to a small and struggling mainly Jewish Christian community (possibly in the Jewish ghetto of Rome). They are surrounded by a pagan empire and the Jewish community that doesn't receive Jesus as the Messiah. In their struggles there is a temptation to go back into Judaism. The writer of Hebrews (unknown) is encouraging them throughout this book that Jesus is better than all the old forms and ways of the OT messengers, prophets, law, sacrifices and any other thing that they could turn to. In application of this, while we may not be former Jews struggling with being tempted to go back to Judaism, we also doubt, drift and can be tempted to turn from the faith. Throughout this book (starting in the overview in verses 1-3) we will see that Jesus is the best and that there is no other to turn to!

DISCUSSION STARTER:

Share with each other what your favorite food is. What other foods are good, but you would always turn them down for this dish?

KIDS:

Gather the kids and read Hebrews 1:1-4. Use these questions to help kids engage with the Bible story (the International Children's Bible is a helpful translation to read with kids).

- Huh? – What was interesting? What do I want to know more about?
- Wow! – Where did I see God at work? What surprised me?

- What Now? – What did I learn? What did God teach me? What do I do now?

Hebrew 1:1

1. The writer affirms that God did indeed speak in the OT through the prophets and in various ways.

- Why is it important that this passage affirms the OT prophets and the scriptures as God's voice?
- Notice that here and throughout the book, the writer is not putting down these former things, but saying that Jesus is better than all of them.

Hebrew 1:2

1. This verse affirms that God's final word is in and through His unique Son Jesus.

- Is there anything left unsaid by God in and through the person of Jesus?
- How can listening to and looking at the teaching of Jesus help to make sure we understand the Bible correctly?
- How does this help us value and weigh things like prophecies and gifts of the Spirit now?

2. In showing how Jesus is the greatest right at the beginning of the book, he says Jesus is the heir of all things and that he created all things.

- How is Jesus being seen as the Creator and inheritor of all things important right at the beginning of the book, considering the original audience?
 - What about for us?

Hebrew 1:3

1. Based on verse 3, how can we know what God is truly like?

- Is Jesus just kind of like God, or is he exactly the character and attributes of the Father expressed in bodily form? What difference does this make?

2. This verse says that Jesus holds everything in the universe together by the word of his power. He is the “atomic glue” that holds all together.

- What significance would this have for Jewish Christians who felt persecuted and like their world was always in upheaval?
- What difference does it make for us in our world today?

3. This verse says Jesus is not only Creator, Heir and Sustainer, but he is also Redeemer. He is the one who purifies us from our sins.

- What would this mean to Christians from a Jewish background who used to do sacrifices?
- What does this mean to us in a world where we still feel impure from our sins, but don't know how to get clean?
 - How do people try to get clean from bad things they do in our world today?
 - How do people try to justify themselves? How can we point them to Jesus as the only way to get clean (purified)?
 - How do we need to be reminded that only Jesus cleanses us and not our religious works?

Prayer:

As we enter this study in Hebrews, pray as a community that the Lord would be working us to know that Jesus is truly better than everything in life. That he is better than all our church experiences and better than the world around us.

- Pray that this would begin to anchor our hearts like never before.
- Pray that we would be able to commend Jesus to the world around us even more than we have before.
- Pray that our life together as a community would show that we actually believe Jesus is better and his way is better than the normal way of life that those around us live by putting other things in prime position in life.