



THE HISTORICAL BACKDROP OF HEBREWS

The book of Hebrews was written between 60 & 70 AD to people that they were likely second-generation Christians who were converts from Judaism. These disciples of Jesus were undergoing intense persecution under the Roman Empire and specifically under Nero, the Roman Emperor. Some of them had lost property or even their freedom, but they hadn't yet resisted to the point of bloodshed (Hebrews 12:4). They were feeling alienated in their faith even as they were facing the prospect of renewed persecution under Nero. As a result, they were considering going back to their Jewish beliefs and practices. Hebrews was written to them to inspire them to remember and live that Jesus was still in control and still reigning and that He was better in every way and on every level, better than any circumstance, better than any individual, and better than any religious system and tradition that may have offered them short term familiarity and comfort.

IS HEBREWS RELEVANT FOR DISCIPLES OF JESUS TODAY?

We live in a world today that seems and actually is chaotic, crazy, and in complete disarray. It is so very easy to get caught up in the chaos and craziness while also becoming increasingly frustrated with the world and our lives in it. It's even easier to forget about the beautiful reality that Jesus is reigning and still in control and as a result, we have incredible work to do on this earth as His disciples. We as Jesus followers are not called to live frenzied and frustrated lives where we are daily on the verge of giving up. Rather, we are called to live lives of significance, purpose, hope, and urgency in the midst of the chaos and craziness.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 1 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- Do you typically see the world around you from a positive or negative standpoint? Why?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Read the Story (Hebrews 1:1-14)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Hebrews 1:1-7

- What pictures and/or words come to mind when you think about Jesus?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- What are some of the ways in which you think the world views Jesus today?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Why did the author of Hebrews compare Jesus to the prophets in verses 1 & 2?
 - The author of Hebrews wanted his audience to understand that while the prophets were extremely important because they were sent by God, they simply were not and could not be on the same level of Jesus in any way.

- What does the phrase in verse 3 that Jesus is “radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature,” mean? Why is this important for us as disciples to understand?
 - Jesus was and is literally the expression of God’s heart and mind to us as human beings and to the entire world. This is incredibly important for us to understand as we seek to walk with Jesus and live for Him. Jesus isn’t just a good option among many other subpar options. He’s not just someone to be worshipped and looked to when it’s convenient for us. Rather, He is the Creator of the world. He is the Savior of the world. He holds the world together simply by His word and He is owed absolutely everything.
 - In what ways do you sometimes make Jesus too small in your own life?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Hebrews 1:8-14

- What is one description of Jesus in this passage that sticks out to you and why?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- How would you say that Jesus compares to the angels according to verses 8-14?
 - This is an opinion and perspective question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Why is it important to understand that Hebrews chapter 1 emphasizes each of the following things?
 - Jesus’ unique authority---There are many voices in this world including our own that are calling us to do and be many different things. It is the voice of Jesus with the ultimate authority in this world that matters most, the voice that you and I should listen to the most, over and above all other voices.
 - Jesus’ unique identity---Jesus has never had any type of identity crisis. We are called to derive our identities from Him. As a result, we need to understand and live that we aren’t defined by successes, failures, disappointments, or even circumstances. We are defined by being the beloved of Jesus.

- Jesus' unique power---Yes, the world can and will be crazy, chaotic, and frenzied. Yet, Jesus is still in control and still on the move. He hasn't taken some hands-off approach to our lives and He certainly hasn't taken a hands-off approach to this world.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Hebrews Chapter 2)



THE HISTORICAL BACKDROP OF HEBREWS

The book of Hebrews was written between 60 & 70 AD to people that they were likely second-generation Christians who were converts from Judaism. These disciples of Jesus were undergoing intense persecution under the Roman Empire and specifically under Nero, the Roman Emperor. Some of them had lost property or even their freedom, but they hadn't yet resisted to the point of bloodshed (Hebrews 12:4). They were feeling alienated in their faith even as they were facing the prospect of renewed persecution under Nero. As a result, they were considering going back to their Jewish beliefs and practices. Hebrews was written to them to inspire them to remember and live that Jesus was still in control and still reigning and that He was better in every way and on every level, better than any circumstance, better than any individual, and better than any religious system and tradition that may have offered them short term familiarity and comfort.

IS HEBREWS RELEVANT FOR DISCIPLES OF JESUS TODAY?

We live in a world today that seems and actually is chaotic, crazy, and in complete disarray. It is so very easy to get caught up in the chaos and craziness while also becoming increasingly frustrated with the world and our lives in it. It's even easier to forget about the beautiful reality that Jesus is reigning and still in control and as a result, we have incredible work to do on this earth as His disciples. We as Jesus followers are not called to live frenzied and frustrated lives where we are daily on the verge of giving up. Rather, we are called to live lives of significance, purpose, hope, and urgency in the midst of the chaos and craziness.

HEBREWS CHAPTER 1 (STUDENT)

Discussion Starter

- Do you typically see the world around you from a positive or negative standpoint? Why?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Read the Story (Hebrews 1:1-14)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Hebrews 1:1-7

- What pictures and/or words come to mind when you think about Jesus?
- What are some of the ways in which you think the world views Jesus today?
- Why did the author of Hebrews compare Jesus to the prophets in verses 1 & 2?
- What does the phrase in verse 3 that Jesus is "radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature," mean? Why is this important for us as disciples to understand?
 - In what ways do you sometimes make Jesus too small in your own life?

Hebrews 1:8-14

- What is one description of Jesus in this passage that sticks out to you and why?
- How would you say that Jesus compares to the angels according to verses 8-14?
- Why is it important to understand that Hebrews chapter 1 emphasizes each of the following things?

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Hebrews Chapter 2)