

BETTER BY FAR

nine sessions from Hebrews

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Lunchtime Group
Resources

better by **FAR**

Nine sessions on Hebrews



The Crusader Union is a Bible-based, interdenominational Christian youth organisation, whose vision is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to students in the Independent Schools of Australia, to nurture Christians and to encourage church membership.



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WELCOME

This resource has been specifically written with school groups in mind but can be adapted depending on your needs. It is based on the group running for approximately 30 minutes each meeting.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- **9** sets of leader's notes for regular meetings. The leader's notes provide an aim, fun activity, guidelines for an interactive talk as well as prayer, memory verse and song ideas.
- **2** colour advertising posters designed to grab the attention of students and help increase awareness of your group. There is space for you to fill in your group name and where you meet. We encourage schools to use the 'CRU School Groups' logo when promoting their group so as to link students with the work that God is doing in other schools.

BEFORE YOU START

- Please note that all pages in this resource can be photocopied but Crusaders request each school purchase at least one original.
- Whilst this resource is aimed at easing the load for the group leader, it is vital that time is spent adapting it to the specific needs of your group. Time also needs to be spent on working through the Bible passage and talk before the group meets.
- It would be very easy to spend too much time on the fun activity each week. Remember that looking at the Bible and praying together are the most important parts of the meeting and divide time accordingly.
- All suggested songs are linked to the theme of the talk and are used with permission. The intention of including a wide variety of songs from different CDs is so that you have options if your group enjoys singing - please do not feel it necessary to buy every CD listed. The CDs listed are available in Christian bookstores and most include sheet music.
- Several meetings involve volunteer students eating confectionery and other food. Please take care to ensure that this food is suitable for students in your group, particularly considering allergies.
- Hebrews may seem like a tough book with its many references to the Old Testament and its practices. However, the key ideas are clear – Jesus is better than anything that the Christians have left behind in their old way of life. Jesus is **better by far** than the good things of the Old Testament, and Hebrews encourages its readers to hold on to Him and live their lives for Him. We pray that you, and the students will be able to marvel at the greatness of the reality we have in Jesus Christ.
- Note that the outreach meeting (Week 5) needs a bit more planning than other meetings. It may be wise to look ahead now at what needs to be done.

We pray that this resource will be a great help as you join in God's work of bringing students to Himself and growing them to be like His Son.

*"We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom,
so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.
To this end I labour, struggling with all His energy which so powerfully works in me."
Colossians 1:28–29*

better by **FAR**

Week	Title	Passage	Main Idea
1	Better By Far	Hebrews 1:1-3	Jesus is the best way to know about God.
2	Meet God Here ↓	Various	God's tent teaches us about God, sin & ourselves.
3	Who's the Boss?	Hebrews 3:3-6	Jesus is greater than Moses. He is in charge of God's people.
4	Fear Factor	Hebrews 4:14-16	We can pray with confidence because Jesus helps us when we are tempted.
5	Outreach Week: All Done	Hebrews 7:26-27	Jesus' death is the the only sacrifice that brings us forgiveness.
6	Are You Good Enough?	Hebrews 10:1, 10	Moses' law doesn't free us from sin. It is a shadow of something better coming.
7	Come On!	Hebrews 10:23-25	We must keep meeting and encouraging each other.
8	Keep Your Eye on the Prize	Hebrews 12:1-2a	We must follow Jesus and get rid of anything that stops us from finishing the Christian race.
9	The Permanent Marker	Hebrews 13:8	Jesus never ever changes!

Better By Far

Hebrews 1:1-3

AIM

For students to appreciate that Jesus is the best way we can know about God.

FOCUS VERSES

Hebrews 1:1-3 (GNB)

¹In the past God spoke to our ancestors many times and in many ways through the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us through His Son. He is the one through whom God created the universe, the one whom God has chosen to possess all things at the end. ³He reflects the brightness of God's glory and is the exact likeness of God's own being, sustaining the universe with his powerful word. After achieving forgiveness for the sins of all human beings, he sat down in heaven at the right-hand side of God, the Supreme Power.

PREPARE

- ❑ Read through Hebrews 1, familiarising yourself with the context and content of the focus passage. Pray that students will appreciate the sufficiency and superiority of Jesus.
- ❑ Bring along an unfinished puzzle, with a fair few missing pieces, and a dice or two for the fun activity.
- ❑ Optional: bring along a written message containing some facts about yourself and a small mirror.
- ❑ Optional: obtain a copy of Colin Buchanan's CD "Baa Baa Doo Baa Baa". Bring along a CD player which can play Hebrews 1:1-2, which is to be learnt as a memory verse.

INTRODUCE

Let students know that we will be looking at the book of Hebrews over the next few weeks. This book

was written to God's people who weren't sure how to live because they did not know which was better – trusting Jesus or the living by the Old Testament laws. Ask students which they think would be better.

Jesus is better! That is obvious, but the book of Hebrews reminds us that Jesus is not only better, He is **Better By FAR!** Explain that "better by far" does not mean just a little better, it means a whole lot better, much MUCH better. Since Jesus is better by far in so many ways, the book of Hebrews also shows us how we are to live today, with Jesus in charge.

FUN ACTIVITY

This activity can be used to illustrate the idea of partial and full revelation of God.

Puzzle Game - Show students the incomplete puzzle picture and the spare pieces that have not been inserted. Divide the students into 2-3 groups, with a dice for each group. The groups have to race to finish the puzzle, but they can only put 1 piece into the puzzle when they have rolled an odd number (1, 3 or 5).

When the puzzle is completed, show that we can see the full picture now, not the partial picture from before.

TALK

A) Ask: How do we know things about other people?

- we can read about them
- watch their behaviour
- we can listen to what others say about them
- we can listen to them speak. Through this, we can find out what they think, how they feel, their plans and hopes.



B) How do we know God?

- People knew bits about God through the **prophets** who passed on some messages from God. (Optional: show message about yourself)
- In the Old Testament, people would find out about God from things that happened, e.g. when the people of Israel were saved from slavery in the Exodus.
- Other ways: through dreams, a voice in the burning bush, etc.

But times are different now.

C) What has changed? (accept suggestions)

- The difference is that Jesus has come!
- Hold up Hebrews 1:1-2. God has spoken to us by His Son in these last days!
- Jesus reflects God's glory and is exactly like God! (Optional: show mirror and reflection of yourself)
- **Through the way He acts and speaks, Jesus is the best way for us to know God. Jesus tells us EVERYTHING we need to know about God!** (like the complete puzzle picture)
- Although God spoke in the past through the prophets, knowing and hearing Jesus' words is a far better way to know God.

D) What do we know about Jesus?

- The Bible from beginning to end tells us about who Jesus is and what He has come to do. To know about Jesus, we must be reading the Bible!
- Expect to find out many more things about Jesus over the next few weeks as we look at Hebrews.
- Who reads the Bible? Challenge students to read the Bible regularly, maybe a few paragraphs from Mark each day. You may wish to suggest some Bible reading notes to help them.

SONG IDEA

- **Hebrews 1:1-2 – from "Baa Baa Doo Baa Baa – The Memory Verses" Album, Colin Buchanan.** This funky song is Hebrews 1:1-2 put into song. It would be great to learn the song and have these 2 verses as your memory verse for the term.
- **My King – How Cool is That! Johnny Burns.** This medium-paced song can help students consider who Jesus is and how God speaks through Him. It also reminds us that Jesus is our King and will be King of everything at the end.

PRAY

Thank God on behalf of the group for the fact that God has spoken through Jesus, and pray that students can get to know God by learning about Jesus in the Bible.

FINISH

End by reciting the memory verse (Hebrews 1:1-2) all together.