

# the real thing

nine sessions from Hebrews

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Lunchtime Group  
Resources

# the real thing

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?

- 1 set of leader's notes for an outreach meeting.
- 8 sets of leader's notes for regular meetings. The leader's notes provide the aim of the study, a fun activity, discussion questions (with notes to help answer some questions) and prayer ideas.
- 8 student pages for regular meetings. The student pages can be photocopied and handed out if so desired. Each sheet contains the Bible passage (NIV), questions and prayer ideas. Note there are no student pages for Week 5, which is an outreach week.
- 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 questions before the group meets. Answers have not been provided for all questions.
- It would be very easy to spend too much time on the activity each week. Remember that looking at the Bible and praying together are the most important parts of the meeting, so divide your time accordingly.
- Hebrews may seem like a really tough book with its many references to the Old Testament and its practices. However, the key ideas are clear – Jesus is far superior, far greater than anything that the Christians have left behind in their old way of life. **Jesus is truly the REAL THING**, better by far, 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 Week 2 (special activity) and Week 5 (the outreach meeting) need 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

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Week	Title	Passage	Main Idea
1	<b>The Real Thing Revealed</b>	Hebrews 1:1-4	Jesus is THE Real Thing – He is God revealed to us.
2	<b>Old Worship</b>	Exodus 26, 27, 40 Leviticus 1-4, 16	For students to experience the layout of the tabernacle and associated OT practices.
3	<b>Real Confidence</b>	Hebrews 4:14-16	We can confidently approach God because of what Jesus has accomplished.
4	<b>Debate: Real Belief?</b>	Hebrews 6:4-12, others	Is it possible to fall away as a Christian? What does the Bible have to say?
5	<b>Outreach Week: A Real Finish</b>	Hebrews 10:11-18	Jesus has completed His work and made us perfect before God.
6	<b>Real Hope</b>	Hebrews 10:19-25	Lets encourage each other to hold on to the hope that we have through Christ.
7	<b>Real Perseverance</b>	Hebrews 12:1-3	Remember Jesus so that you won't lose heart as a Christian.
8	<b>Reality Now</b>	Hebrews 12:18-24	The home we have NOW with God in heaven is far greater than anything before!
9	<b>Real Worship</b>	Hebrews 12:28, 13:20-21	Worshipping God involves our whole lives - but it is God who completes the work.

### AIM

To encourage students to read the Bible in order to know Jesus, who is God revealed to us.

### PREPARE

- ❑ Read through Hebrews 1, familiarising yourself with the context & content of the focus passage. Pray that students will hear God speak to them as they learn about Jesus each week.
- ❑ Photocopy the Week 1 students page for everyone. (p.22)
- ❑ Set up stations with a few small jigsaw puzzles, or sections of one big complicated puzzle, as well as some music to play.
- ❑ Optional: Bring prizes for the winners of the fun activity.

### FUN ACTIVITY

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

**Jig-Saw Juggle** – Set a time limit and divide your group into teams. If you have 3 small puzzles, make it 3 teams, or if you have one large jigsaw, split teams into areas e.g. the edges, sky, land, etc. Place a group of students with each section but do not show students the jig-saw puzzle picture. When the music begins, students can piece together the sections of the puzzle. When the music stops, students must move on to work on the next puzzle. Play this until a small amount of the jigsaw has been put together and is identifiable. At the end of the activity, show the students the picture(s) that they were assembling.

### INTRODUCE

Introduce the book of Hebrews to the students. Though we do not know who the author is, we know

that the author of the book is writing to Christians who had a Jewish background. The book was written to Christian believers who needed encouragement not to drift back into the old ways of life they had before they came to believe in Jesus Christ. These Christians were facing tough times and were tempted to let go of their faith because it was just too hard to be a Christian. Hebrews provides encouragement that Jesus is **the REAL THING**. They are reminded that through Jesus, everything is **BETTER** than before, and are given instructions on how to live.

Point out that the first 4 verses of the book give us a big indication of what the whole book will be about.

### DISCUSS

**1** Read Hebrews 1:1-4.

**What are some ways we can we get to know someone? How can we get to know God?**

*We can get to know people by reading about them, observing them, asking them questions and listening to them speak, in person or unseen. Relationships are often based on words and what is revealed through those words. The main way we can know God is to listen to Him speak to us, to hear His words. Point out that in the Old Testament, God's people heard Him speak through prophets, pillars of cloud or fire, from a burning bush, through animals, angels or messengers from God and in various other ways.*

*Today, we can know God through knowing His Son, Jesus Christ. Point out the contrast between **many times** → **various ways** and **last days** → **God's Son**. Like the jigsaw puzzle, we had partial knowledge of the big picture at the different stations, but with God's revelation in His Son, we see the big picture revealed and everything fits together. As mentioned in verse 4, Jesus is superior to the angels and messengers of the past.*

**2** **Who is the Son and what has He done?**

List these on a board or large sheet of paper. *From the passage, we know that the Son is heir of all*



things (v.2), made the universe (v.2), is the radiance of God's glory (v.3), exactly represents God (v.3) and sustains everything by His word (v.3). We also know He provided purification for sin (v.3) & sits down at the right hand of God (v.3). Jesus, the Son, is also superior to the angels (v.4). From this list, **encourage the students to explain these things in their own words**, and to appreciate the huge scope covered in these few verses: God's likeness, creation of the world, dealing with sin and life in heaven. Emphasise that **Jesus is the Real Thing** – God represented in the flesh, revealed to man. You may wish to look up John 1:1-18 to find out more about God revealed.

### 3 What is the significance of all this occurring in the 'last days'?

There is a difference between 'the past' and now. Point out the way "the past" is not contrasted to "the future", but to the **last days**. Something significant has happened and a change of eras has occurred (i.e. B.C and A.D – the year of our Lord). It also indicates the days are numbered before God renews the world. Remind students that the Bible never says that the world will go on forever. It speaks about a time when this world as we know it will come to an end, and we are people who live in the last days of the world.

### 4 How can we know God through His Son?

Though God can speak in different ways (as seen in the Old Testament), the way He best reveals Himself is by speaking to us through His Son. In God's Son, we see God fully. God's Son has also died for our sin, so that there is no longer a barrier between us and God. Though God spoke in other ways in the past, they were incomplete pictures of God and His message to us. Now that we are in the last days, God has given us Jesus, the perfect and complete way we can know Him. We can have **REAL** relationship with God because it is established through Jesus' death and resurrection. **To know Jesus is to know God. This was always God's plan.**

Emphasise that there is no need to look for alternative ways of getting to know God because He

now speaks to us through Jesus. Though we cannot speak to Jesus face to face, we can read about Him in the Bible, learn about him from eyewitness accounts in the gospels, from the Old Testament which points to Jesus and from the New Testament which tells us more about Jesus' work and purpose. The book of Hebrews is one such book, which links the Old & New Testaments, and declares who Jesus is.

## APPLY

### How are you getting to know God better?

Challenge Christian and non-Christian students to consider how they are getting to know God, remembering that in these last days, God speaks to us through His Son. Challenge students to **listen to God speak by reading the Bible**, which is about Jesus, God's Son. You could read a book of the Bible together, or provide students with some devotional material to aid them in their personal Bible reading.

## PRAY

Pray together as a group that over the term, you will all be able to get to know God better through learning about Jesus. Thank God that we can know Him because He perfectly reveals Himself in Jesus.

## FINISH

Spend time brainstorming any facts students may know about the way Jews were to relate to God in the Old Testament. Note down any questions they may have. Let students know that this will lead into an interesting exercise that will happen next week.