

● Before you came to know Jesus, you lived your life a certain way. What convinced you that Jesus is “so much better” than the way you were seeking to live? How has Jesus proven


Himself to be “so much better” as you have continued to live the Christian life? How has believing the truth of the gospel changed your life?

● Wait for responses.

Wrapping It Up

● There are many ways suggested of having a good life, of experiencing God’s blessings, and of going to heaven. But of all the ways suggested by the different religions and philosophies of the world, there is one way that is “so much better.” That way is Jesus. Not just a prophet, but God’s Son. Not just an angel, but the One the angels worship. Not just a way to live right, but the only real way to be made right with God. Jesus. He is so much better.

● Call on someone to lead the class in prayer.

 **Faith at Home**
Have a family share time, telling how Jesus makes life “so much better” for each of you.

Teacher’s Toolbox

*Getting your class into God’s Word
and God’s Word into your class*


ExcitingBibleStudy.com **Bible Series**

Hebrews 1
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HOW TO USE TEACHER’S TOOLBOX: Make a four-page folded teacher’s leaflet from the first two sheets by printing two-sided (or by putting the blank sides together). The other two sheets are for duplicating, displaying, distributing, or otherwise using as called for in the lesson plan.

 **Faith at Home** – A specific application of today’s Bible passage to family life, to be used for individual reflection, family discussion, or class activity.

Getting Started

TV commercials

- As members arrive, shuttle them into one of three groups. Give one of the following assignments to the first person assigned to each group (cut apart Item 2):
 - Present a 60-second commercial about a fictional laundry detergent, explaining why your product is “so much better” than other detergents.
 - Present a 60-second commercial about a fictional candidate for U.S. President, explaining why your candidate is “so much better” than other candidates.
 - Present a 60-second commercial about a fictional insurance company, explaining why your company is “so much better” than other companies.
- Begin by asking each group to present its commercial to the class.
- **One of the purposes of the Book of Hebrews is to show the superiority of Christianity over Judaism. That was a new idea to Jewish**

people, one that required them to forsake many things they had believed and cherished all their lives. So the writer starts by trying to grab their attention quickly, much like a 60-second commercial, explaining as fast as he can why Jesus is better than anything Judaism had to offer. He does it in such a way as to not demean Judaism, but simply show that Jesus is “so much better.” For readers who had already trusted Christ, this introductory “commercial” about Jesus would remind them of truths they already knew, affirm their faith in Christ, and encourage them to be faithful to live Christian lives.

Exploring God's Word

Lesson outline

- The phrase “so much better” is used to describe Jesus in the King James Version of Hebrews 1:4. In that verse, the writer is talking about how Jesus is “so much better” than angels, but the phrase summarizes the theme of the whole first chapter of Hebrews.
- Display the following outline (Item 1).

JESUS: So Much Better

- Better than the Prophets (Hebrews 1:1-3)
 - Seven Truths about Jesus’ superiority over prophets
- Better than the Angels (Hebrews 1:4-14)
 - Seven Scriptures about Jesus’ superiority over angels

Filling in the blanks

- Give each person a copy of the outline with spaces to fill in (duplicate Item 1).
- Lead the class to study the passage, using the outline as a guide.
- Begin by calling attention to the first point, that Jesus was better than the prophets.
- **Judaism had no shortage of prophets, people who had spoken for God through the centuries. Although the prophets’ contemporaries often disrespected, abused and even killed the prophets, later generations revered them and their messages. Was Jesus just another prophet? What showed that He was different and better than they?**
- Have someone read aloud Hebrews 1:1-3.
- Ask volunteers to identify the seven truths about Jesus’ superiority over the prophets and fill in the blanks on their sheets.

Seven Truths about Jesus’ superiority over prophets

1. Son and heir of God
2. Made the universe
3. Radiance of God’s glory
4. Exact representation of God’s being
5. Sustaining all things
6. Provided purification for sins
7. Sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven

- Next, call attention to the second point, that Jesus was better than angels.
- **Was Jesus just an angel? Was He just some sort of high level spiritual being? The writer used a series of seven Scripture passages from our Old Testament to show that Jesus was superior to angels. Angels are just angels, but Jesus was the Son of God.**
- Have someone read aloud Hebrews 1:4, which summarizes the point. Then ask members to read Hebrews 1:5-14 silently and identify the seven Old Testament passages. Those with marginal references in their Bibles can help other members find the sources of the passages quoted in Hebrews. Here are the references of the source material.

Seven Scriptures about Jesus’ superiority over angels

1. Psalm 2:7
2. 2 Samuel 7:14, or 1 Chronicles 17:13
3. Deuteronomy 32:43, or Psalm 97:7
4. Psalm 104:4
5. Psalm 45:6-7
6. Psalm 102:25-27
7. Psalm 110:1

- **What were the major points the writer made by using these Old Testament passages?** After members respond, suggest these four major differences:
 - God never called any angel His Son, but He did call Jesus His Son.
 - Angels worship the Son, Jesus, while refusing worship for themselves.
 - Angels are created beings, but Jesus, the Son, is the eternal Creator.
 - Angels serve believers, but believers serve Jesus, the Son.

Making It Personal

Personal testimonies

- **We can be sure of the truth of what Jesus taught because we have heard it from people whose lives have been changed by it.**

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Present a 60-second commercial about a fictional insurance company, explaining why your company is “so much better” than other companies.