

APPLICATION

- What's one area of your life (i.e., work, relationships, or decisions) where you need to trust Jesus more fully? This week, how can you intentionally submit that area to His authority and respond with faith and devotion to Him?
- The world we live in is chaotic. What's one way you can remind yourself every day that Jesus is in control, is powerful, and sustains the world?
- You are made in God's image and called to reflect Him. How can you reflect Jesus more clearly in your daily life this week? To whom can you share the truth about Jesus this week?

PRAYER

- Thank God for revealing Himself through Jesus—our Creator, sustainer, and Savior—and for the hope we have in Him. Ask Him to give you faith to believe He is in charge, despite what you see around you.
- Ask God to help you daily put your trust in Jesus, the Creator and sustainer of the world. Pray to depend on His power in every situation.
- At a time when everyone seems to have their own “truth,” ask God for courage to stand firm and proclaim His word. Pray for a heart that loves people and the boldness to tell others why Jesus is always better.

JESUS >

Better: What Makes Jesus Better?

WEEK 1

WARM-UP

- Tell us about one item you only use for special occasions or a specific purpose. What makes it special?
- What's something you look at or rely on daily? Why is it important to you?
- How do you think you have grown as a person in the last five years? Share one or two things that you have learned along the way that are crucial to who you are today.

WORD *¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. **HEBREWS 1:1-4***

The book of Hebrews was written for Christians who needed to look forward with hope for the future. These believers had to know that their present suffering and the persecution they were experiencing would lead to an eternal reward. They may have been tempted to return to their old religious habits. Although they highly respected angels, prophets, and the Law, some may have missed the spirit and design which God had intended for these. The author of Hebrews reminded them that there is one more superior to all of these: Jesus.



Today, in our lives, let's look closely into what makes Jesus the better choice. Beyond any person, religion, or worldview, Jesus is better because He is God's Son and heir, the Creator and sustainer of the world, and the perfect image of God.

1 | Jesus is God's Son and heir.

. . . but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things . . . **HEBREWS 1:2**

Today, an heir has no authority until the ancestor dies and passes it on. However, when the book of Hebrews was written, an heir may be a co-ruler, sharing authority with the reigning monarch. Unlike the rest of mankind, Jesus has a special relationship with God: He is a Son and heir. Jesus Himself has supreme authority. This is why we need to look no further than Jesus. According to this verse, what is Jesus heir of? How can this change the way we view Him and ourselves?

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2 | Jesus is the Creator and sustainer of the world.

². . . *whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. . . .* ³*and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.* **HEBREWS 1:2-3**

Jesus is the best choice because He is the supreme life-giver. He *upholds the universe by the word of his power*. This is power beyond our imagination. Any other person or thing that we may look to for hope and encouragement are merely part of His creation. There is no better option in life than to look to

our Creator. Based on this passage, how powerful is Jesus? What makes you say so?

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3 | Jesus is the perfect image of God.

³*He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.*

HEBREWS 1:3-4

Jesus is superior because He is the perfect representation and exact imprint of God. He perfectly and fully reflects the Father. This means He is in a position of power, superior above all others. He is superior to humanity, prophets, and angels. Even more astounding, we were created in God's image as well, though not as the exact imprint of God. How do you live knowing you bear the image of God and are His imprint on earth?

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Jesus is sovereign over creation, worthy of worship, and the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan. As we realize that He is better than every other choice, we can only respond with faith and devotion to Him.