

Hebrews *Moving Forwards*

1. First Things First

Hebrews 1.1-2.8

THERE ARE TWO STUDY OPTIONS THAT LOOK AT THE SAME PASSAGE IN DIFFERENT WAYS. PICK THE ONE YOU THINK WILL HELP YOUR CELL MOST.

OPTION 1

Aim of the study: To consider who Jesus is and what he has done, and worship him for this. You might like to worship AFTER the study - as a response.

To start with:

EITHER: Get everyone to draw a picture or caricature of Jesus.

OR: Discuss 'What do you know about the book of Hebrews?'

Studying the text:

WHO IS JESUS?

Read Hebrews 1.

1. Make a list of all the descriptions of Jesus in these verses (you could write this on paper as a list or spider diagram).
2. Which of these strike a chord or are particularly significant for you? Why?

Background info: The letter to the Hebrews was written by an unknown author to a group of Jewish Christians who may have been thinking of reverting to Judaism. The author makes extensive use of the Old Testament to explain who Jesus is, what he has done, and what our response to him should be.

WHAT HAS JESUS DONE?

3. Divide into 2 groups; get one group to look at 2.5-9 and the other at 2.14-18. What else do we learn about Jesus in these verses? Get the two groups to feed back their findings.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES FOR US?

4. What do we learn about our own standing before God from what we have read? (look especially at chapter 2.10-11 and 14-18?) How do you react to that?
5. What does it mean to you to be a 'brother (or sister) of Christ' (v10-13)?
6. How should we respond to Jesus in the light of all this? (**Note to leader:** Try to move beyond 'worship him' into how this should affect our whole lives.)

Pray and worship

Choose one of the following to initiate a time of worship:

- Get everyone to re-write Hebrews 1.2-4 in their own words and share them.
- If you've had time to prepare, play a recording (or sing) the song 'You laid aside your majesty' as a lead into worship.
- Go round the group, with each person saying a short prayer thanking Jesus for one aspect of who he is and what he's done. You could use the list you made at the start as a prompt.



OPTION 2

Aim of the study: To consider the difference Jesus makes to the world.

To start with:

Ask people to share:

- A recent situation or experience where you have clearly seen God's presence
- A recent situation or experience where God seemed completely absent

Studying the text:

Read Hebrews 1.1-4 and 2.14-18.

1. Divide the group into two. Each group should focus on one task for about 20 minutes. (*Note to leader: The groups will not be able to cover every area in depth in the given time. Get them to concentrate on areas they are interested in and encourage them to be specific about what they would see happening.*)
 - a. Draw or write what the world would look like if everyone **completely recognised** Jesus' status and authority. Think about areas of work, education, leisure, politics, media, international relations, debt, relationships, families, community etc.
 - b. Draw or write what the world would look like if everyone **completely rejected** Jesus' status and authority. Think about areas of work, education, leisure, politics, media, international relations, debt, relationships, families, community etc.
2. Now ask the two groups to describe their version of the world to the other.

3.
 - a. What worried you most about the world without Jesus?
 - b. What excited you most about the world with Jesus fully recognised?
4. How can you, as an individual, help to make the world more like the one with Jesus fully recognised?

Reflect and pray

- Think of one situation you know of where Jesus isn't recognised as Lord (try to make it specific). Pray about it.
- Use Revelation 21.1-5 and 22.1-5 as a basis for prayer about the way the world is and the way it will one day be.