



# UPSTATE GROUP MEMBER GUIDE

## WEEK 1 - *HEBREWS 1:1-14* - AUGUST 12-18

### LEADER NOTES

Today we start a new series in the book of Hebrews where we will be discovering a life changing truth, Jesus is Better. Better than what you ask? Just fill in the blank! Jesus is better than anything and everything this world has to offer. Lean into this study, and challenge your group members to lean in, and we will all see together how Jesus is far better than you can imagine.

In the study notes, you will find a primer to help you understand the background and major themes of the book of Hebrews.

Please continue to complete the Gospel Connection's and Conversations form. You can find the form [HERE](#).

You can find other sermons from our Teaching Pastor's [HERE](#).



**FIRST BAPTIST SIMPSONVILLE  
UPSTATE CHURCH**

# SCRIPTURE

TAKE THIS TIME TO STUDY THE BIBLE TOGETHER. REMEMBER, THE GOAL IS NOT JUST TO CONVEY INFORMATION, BUT TO HELP PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP LEARN TO READ THE BIBLE FOR THEMSELVES.

## THE POINT

THE PATH TO A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS STARTS AND ENDS BY STAYING CONNECTED TO JESUS.

### Hebrews 1:1-14

#### The Supremacy of God's Son

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but 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. 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, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”?

6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

7 Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.”

8 But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

10 And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands;

11 they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment,

12 like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed.

But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

13 And to which of the angels has he ever said,

“Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?

14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

# STUDY NOTES

## WEEK 1 NOTES : Hebrews 1:1-14

Christianity is full of staggering, world-altering, life-changing truths. Sadly, there are times when Christians take these big truths for granted because we've become so familiar with them. Hebrews is meant to shake us from our familiarity and make us worship God in a fresh way.

As we read the very first verses of Hebrews we are introduced to the first of the letters' big truths. **GOD SPEAKS.**

In the 17th and 18th centuries Deism was a popular belief among many intellectuals. Deists believed there was a God who created the world and set history in motion, but after getting things started He stepped back from all human affairs. Simply put, God created the car but then He took his hands off the wheel and exited the driver's seat. Hebrews Chapter 1 clearly refutes this idea. We do not have a God who has abandoned us. We have a God Who is intimately involved in the affairs of mankind. God is so involved in our affairs He speaks to us.

There is a progression to God's speech to us. Previously, He spoke to the prophets. We have a record of the things He spoke to our ancestors in the faith, we call this revelation the Old Testament. However, God was not content to reveal Himself in words alone. Instead, the God of all creation came to us in human form as Jesus Christ.

### **Jesus Christ is the Word of God.**

When God wanted to give us a final word, a word that would never need addition or clarification, He spoke to us through Jesus Christ. The author of Hebrews says Jesus is the final word for two reasons. First, Jesus is the final word because Jesus is the final authority. God the Father has appointed Christ as the heir of all things. That means everything in this world, seen and unseen, stuff that's yours and stuff that's mine, actually belongs to Jesus. It's His stuff. This is His world. He's in charge. So, we don't need a second opinion on anything. What Jesus says is sufficient for any question we come across in life. Jesus is the final word because He's the final authority.

Secondly, Jesus is the final word because He is the final revelation of God. God has revealed Himself in many ways in the course of scripture. God revealed Himself as a pillar of smoke to Abraham when He made Covenant with Abraham. He revealed Himself in a burning bush to Moses when He called Moses to liberate the people of Israel. He revealed Himself as a cloud of smoke and a cloud of fire when He guided the Israelites into the promised land. Every revelation prior to Jesus was a dress rehearsal though. In Christ, we have the full and final revelation of God to the

people of God. Jesus is the exact imprint of God. Look at Jesus and you see God. Jesus is the final word because He is the final Revelation.

### **Jesus Is the Son of God.**

When Jesus speaks to us as the Word of God, the final authority and the final revelation of God, He has every right to do so because He is the son of God. The author of Hebrews makes clear that Jesus is not like other beings. He is not like human beings. He is not even like heavenly beings. He is higher than even the angels. He is a creator not a creature. He is the Son of God, not a creation of God. While that may be confusing, it is a major theme in the book of Hebrews. Jesus is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. Because of Who Jesus is, the Son of God, we don't need other sources of revelation or authority, we don't need other heavenly experiences, or some other form of heavenly wisdom. Jesus is all we need. Jesus is the Son of God.

## **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

- *Why is the Old Testament important if we know Jesus Christ is the final Word that God has for his people?*
- *How can we know God is speaking to us if Jesus is His final word to His people?*
- *In your own words, how would you explain the Trinity to someone? Why is it important to hold on to the Trinity even if it's confusing at times?*
- *Why is it so often easy to drift away from God even when He has spoken clearly to us through Jesus Christ?*
- *How can we live so we can be sure to hear God when He is speaking to us?*

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