

## Pause Group – Hebrews Chapter 1

Take time for introductions if new members have joined the group. Provide time for each person to share highs, and lows.

Hebrews study questions:

Although we do not know who is the author of Hebrews, some have speculated that the message has the quality of a sermon. The writer is gifted in language, and the words take your imagination into the sanctuary if not literally, then, in your mind. Hebrew's is meant to be savored and enjoyed. Have a good discussion on this beautiful first chapter. I realize that you will not get through all the questions, so pick and choose what is more important to your group. Blessings as you begin Hebrews!

1. Long ago God spoke to our ancestors. How did God do that? Look back to the book of Genesis. In what stories do you recall God's speaking.
2. Long ago God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets. What words of God did the prophets speak? Browse through Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos and others.
3. Long ago God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets, but in the last days he has spoken to us by a Son whom he appointed over all things, through him he also created the world. Jesus is the heir of all things and created all things. We know Jesus is God the Son so with God the Father at the beginning of creation. In the Old Testament, the figure of Wisdom found in Proverbs 8:22-31, is understood to be the inventive hand of God in fashioning creation. This image connects to Jesus. Jesus is the heir of all things, so ultimately where life is headed is not to the oppressor, but to Jesus. Verse 3 tells us that Jesus is the exact imprint of God's very being. Share in your group what you believe are the attributes of Jesus. Not only is Jesus God's spokesperson, Jesus is God.
4. The writer quotes from two psalms (97:7 and 104:4) in verses 6 – 7. What is the difference between Jesus and angels?
5. In verses 8-9, Psalm 45:6-7 is being quoted. The psalm addresses the king as if he can be called God, but the writer of Hebrews applies this psalm to Jesus, the Messiah. What will the reign of the Messiah be like according to this psalm?
6. Verses 10-12 are quotes from Psalm 102:10-12 of what importance are these words to this chapter?
7. Verse 13 quotes Psalm 110. In verses 13 -14 the writer contrasts Jesus with angels in yet a different way. What is the difference between angels and Jesus in these verses?
8. What are some of the common folklore you hear about angels, and how are they dismissed by the reading of this chapter.

9. How does this chapter speak to the importance of Jesus over the Jewish law? Remember, many relatives of Jewish Christians wanted to family members to come back to the “true” faith and follow the law instead of Jesus. If you were a person living at the time Hebrews is written, how would you describe Jesus to a Jewish friend or relative?

Closing Prayer:

The facilitator can create the prayer with participation of the group or alone taking into consideration the discussion today, the needs of the group and current events and needs of the world and our community.