

HEBREWS

“NO TURNING BACK”

Lesson 1

Ice Breaker: Has God ever spoken to you? If so, how?

INTRO: When Hebrews was written, Jews had always felt God was distant from them because of their sin. They felt angels were the “go between” agents that connected them to God. Prophets were also revered for the same reason. Whoever wrote this letter to the Hebrews starts by explaining that Jesus is way superior to both angels and prophets. God now talks to us through Jesus, who is the Word (John 1:1).

READ: Hebrews 1:1-14

***1** In the past God **spoke** to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, **2** but in these last days he has **spoken** to us by his Son, whom he appointed **heir of all things**, and **through whom he made the universe**. **3** The Son is **the radiance of God’s glory** and the **exact representation** of his being, **sustaining all things** by his powerful word. **After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven**. **4** So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.*

***5** For to which of the angels did God ever say, “**You are my Son; today I have become your Father**”? Or again, “**I will be his Father, and he will be my Son**”? **6** And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “**Let all God’s angels worship him**.”*

***7** In speaking of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire.” **8** But about the Son he says, “**Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom**. **9** You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.”*

***10** He also says, “In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, 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** You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.” **13** To which of the angels did God ever say, “**Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet**”? **14** Are not **all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation**?*

Read Heb. 1:1-3

Q: What fact about God does the Hebrew writer hit his readers with twice in the first two verses? (Look for the verb!) **God is talking to us!**

- Why do you think God has gone to such lengths to talk to us?
- **He talks to us because He wants us to know Him!**

Q: What is the difference between how God used to talk to people, and how He talks us now? Why is this difference so important?

- He used to talk through prophets, now He talks through Jesus.
- Prophets were just like us, but Jesus is just like God!
 - With prophets, you had only their words. Now we have an example to go along with God's words.

Q: What is the difference between Jesus' ministry and the Angels ministry? (vs. 3, 14)

Q: Why might the Hebrews writer go to such trouble to show the difference and superiority of Jesus to the angels?

- Since Jesus is God, we now have the ability to see God first hand instead of being told about Him!

Q: What do verses 1-3 tell us about Jesus? Discuss the *implications* of each fact.

- Vs. 2: "Heir of all things" – We will inherit what He inherits. (Ro. 8:17)
- Vs. 2: "Through whom He made the universe" – Everything that has been made was made through Him... including what you and I are becoming!
- Vs. 3: "The radiance of God's glory" – We perceive things when the light bounces off it and enters our eyes. We perceive God when the light (radiance) of God's glory (Jesus) enters us through our spiritual eyes.
- Vs. 3: "Exact representation of His being" – It's one thing to be told what to do, but God has shown us what pleases Him in Jesus.
- Vs. 3: "Sustaining all things by His powerful word" – Nothing happens without Jesus' say so.

APPLICATION ASSIGNMENT: *Answer the following questions as best you can, then get with your discipler/discipleship group and discuss your answers.*

1. Why do you think God wants to talk to you?
 - a. What is He trying to say to you?
2. God has obviously gone to great lengths to speak to you. How well do you hear Him?
 - a. What can you do to listen better?
3. What have you done with what God has said to you so far?