

and gives the results of his work to us. Read Hebrews 2:5–10.

We have very little in common with God. We were made even lower than angels. And yet, Jesus overcame that chasm of differences to be with us. He even suffered death for us. Jesus overcame every obstacle and inconvenience to be with us.

What inconveniences are you willing to endure for a stranger? A friend? Your dearest loved one?

Jesus came for us while we were still God’s enemies. God loves you despite your sin. **In what ways is God’s overcoming love good news for those of us who feel unloved, unwanted, or unnoticed?**

Read Hebrews 2:10–13.

When we turn to idols, we are met with shame and guilt. As we hide our sins, we isolate ourselves from others. **Why do we prefer to hide sin rather than exposing it?**

In what ways can secrecy and isolation give us more opportunity to live with our sins and addictions?

In verses 11–13, we learn that Jesus is not ashamed of us. He would publicly announce that you are not just his friend but his brother or sister. **In what ways do you expect Jesus to be ashamed of you?**

If Jesus is not ashamed of your life before you met him, you should not live in the shame of your past. **What could it look like to live as a fully forgiven child of God?**

Read Hebrews 2:14–18.

Note: If you would like to dig into the sections of Hebrews that this session did not have time to cover, go to **Go Deeper Sections 3 and 4** at the end of this study. Section 3 will cover the ways Jesus is a greater servant than Moses and Section 4 will examine the second of the Five Warnings of Hebrews.

According to these verses, what are the reasons God came to us, fully human?

It can sometimes feel like God doesn’t notice us or that he is so far away that he cannot really know what we are

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going through. But that is not true. Jesus was tempted by sin. He had hard days. He has experienced loneliness, betrayal, mockery, disregard, and injustice. Therefore, he sympathizes with us when we are struggling. **In what areas of your life does it seem like God isn't listening or helping?**

What could it look like to pray (or even cry out) to a God who sympathizes with you?

What might change in your confession and repentance, knowing that God sympathizes with being tempted?

Idols only know how to take from us, but Jesus gives us more than we could ever hope or imagine. To end this session, think of the idols that tempt you, what you hope they will bring to your life, and how you can leave them behind as you seek to follow Jesus more faithfully. **What sorts of idols are you most tempted by?**

What "gifts" or comforts do these idols tempt you with?

What are some ways you could remind yourself that Jesus is better than idols when you are tempted (ex: specific Scriptures, prayers, habits of gratitude, etc.)?

What would it take to turn away from persistent idols and walk in the forgiveness Jesus offers to you?

LAST WORD

Idols do not sympathize with us. They only demand that we do better, look more put together, work harder, and suck up the pain when we fail. Jesus is a better savior than any idol, even when we have to wait on his timing, because he gives us forgiveness, grace, mercy in our failings, and he is not ashamed of us.

When we feel weak, tempted, or even that God is not coming through for us as we might like, we can always turn to the one who sympathizes with us in our weaknesses.

In what ways do these voices contradict Jesus or lead us to drift away from him?

What would it look like for you to pay closer attention to Jesus in your own life?

3. Jesus Is Greater than Moses

For the ancient Hebrews, Moses was a spiritual superhero. He led God’s people out of slavery, through the Red Sea, across deserts, and into the promised land. On top of all that, Moses was God’s chosen messenger of the covenant of law to the people of Israel.

In the same way, Jesus was God’s chosen messenger of the covenant of grace to all of humanity. So, which human messenger and covenant is greater, Moses and the Law or Jesus and grace? For the Hebrew Christian, this was much more than a philosophical question. They felt the pressure to choose between a spiritual hero and the crucified savior.

Read Hebrews 3:1–11.

The author of Hebrews describes Jesus and Moses as servants in God’s house, but they served God in very different ways. **According to verses 5–6, in what ways were Jesus and Moses different in their service to God?**

In what ways are these roles differ from one another?

Jesus is greater than Moses in the same way that a son is greater than a servant in their house. But verse 2 points out that both men were faithful to God. Moses may not be equal to Jesus, but he should still be honored for his faithfulness. **Who are your spiritual heroes? What does it look like to honor them while focusing on Jesus?**

We are a part of God’s house if we believe in Jesus; therefore, we are also called to be faithful like Moses and Jesus.

What could it look like for you to live as a faithful servant in God’s house?

4. The Second Warning of Hebrews: An Unbelieving

Heart MEDIA

Hebrew Christians were being pressured to abandon Jesus and return to the covenant of Law, the rituals offerings and festivals, and the sacrifices of the temple. To them, that former way of life seemed established and safe. Following Jesus was new and very often unsure, something many of us can relate to today.

But if the Hebrew Christians abandoned Jesus, they would not only be leaving God’s chosen messenger and greater servant but God himself. We do the same when we turn from Jesus. Every time we willfully sin, we reject Jesus and turn toward our former way of life. Read Hebrews 3:7–19.

Sin is ultimately a question of belief. Sin can be appealing and at times seem better than what God offers to us.

What circumstances make it more difficult for you to follow Jesus?

In what areas of your life does sin seem to be most appealing?

Sin not only turns us from God but can also harden our hearts, convincing us that it is neither wrong nor hurtful to turn from God. **What is the antidote to sin’s deception in verse 13?**

Christian community may seem like a strange way to combat sin, but sin always drives us into isolation. When we meet with one another for accountability, we can identify the lies of sin and encourage one another into a deeper relationship with Christ. **What benefits have you seen in your own life from spending time with God’s people?**

For other Christians to help you combat the lies and hardening of sin, they have to know what sins you are drawn to and what lies you are tempted to believe. **What would it look like to talk about your temptations and struggles with other Christians?**

What makes you nervous about opening up to other Christians? In what ways could these apprehensions be keeping you in isolation and from the community God wants you to have?

We may not be concerned about Moses or angels, but, like the ancient church, we do struggle with sin and trusting Jesus. **What can you do to remind yourself of**

God's goodness, even when sin is appealing and looks to be the better way for you to go?
