

Quarter 4 Lesson 9
Sixth Grade
Running the Race
Hebrews

Memory Verse: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Hebrew 11:1

Background

Unlike the epistles written by Paul, the letter to the Hebrews is not signed by its author nor does it contain an address naming any particular person or persons. However, it seems that some of the Jewish Christians were wavering in their faith toward Jesus. Because of this situation, the letter is written to this group of Christians, which explains why the book is called Hebrews. The author wants them to know that **Christianity is better than Old Testament Judaism**, and **Jesus is better than any Old Testament person or sacrifice**. Let's look at some verses from Hebrews to see what Jesus is better than.

Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke through prophets, but "in these last days **He has spoken to us by His Son.**" It was through Jesus that God "created the world." Jesus is the express image of God's person" (NKJV), "the exact imprint of His nature..." (ESV). What do you see when you look in a mirror? Your image. Jesus is the image of God's person, God's nature. After Jesus ascended back to heaven, He sat down at the right hand of God. Hebrews 1:4 tells us **Jesus is "...much superior to angels..."**

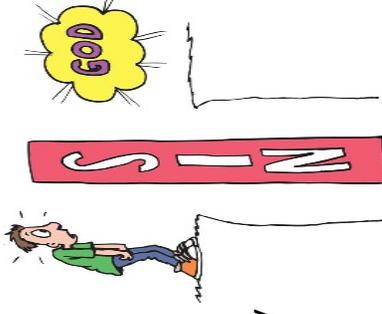
Hebrews 2:17-18

Jesus came to earth to live as man. He suffered and was tempted yet without sin. He did this so that He could become "...a merciful and faithful High Priest..." for us "...to make propitiation for the sins of the people." (*Propitiate {prə-pish'i-āt} means to regain the good will of; to appease. In simpler terms, if you do something really bad, your parents get upset with you, and you want to find a way to get back on their good sides. Because of our sins, Jesus died on the cross so that we can have a way to get back on God's "good side."*) Jesus didn't just offer the sacrifice as the Jewish high priests did, **He was the sacrifice.**



Hebrews 3:12-14

In these verses the writer warns the Jewish Christians not to be deceived by sin and unbelief lest they fall away from God. **ARE PEOPLE DECEIVED BY SIN TODAY? HOW? DOES THIS EVER CAUSE THEM TO FALL AWAY FROM GOD?**



Hebrews 4:12-16

As you read these verses, look at the things we learn about God:

- **His Word** "...is **living** and **powerful**, sharper than any two-edged sword..."
- **His word knows** "...the **thoughts** and **intentions of the heart.**" That explains why God gives us specific commands on how to combat temptation.
- "...**no creature is hidden from His sight**..."

In other words, God's Word is alive! It is powerful! God knows what we are thinking and the condition of our hearts. He knows our every action. We cannot hide from God!

The Bible tells us that Jesus is our High Priest and that He was tempted in the same ways we are, yet He never sinned. Because Jesus lived as man, He understands our weaknesses. **Jesus is "...holy, innocent, unstained, ...exalted above (*higher than*) the heavens.** Because of His sacrifice, we can receive mercy and grace. Hebrews 7:22 tells us that Jesus guarantees "...a better covenant." Hebrews 8:6 adds that **He is better than the old covenant.**

Hebrews 9:11-12

These verses re-emphasize that Jesus is the greater and perfect High Priest. He is a **better sacrifice than** that of **animals**.

Hebrews 10:19-25

These verses reminded the Jewish Christians to "...hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering,..." They were to remember their confession of **Jesus as God's Son** and to **never doubt** it nor let temptation pull them away. The writer says, "...**stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together**, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one**

another, and all the more as you see the Day (*Judgement Day*) drawing near. "... it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment." Hebrews 9:27 (ESV) **Every day we live is one day closer to the day we die--one day closer to judgment.**

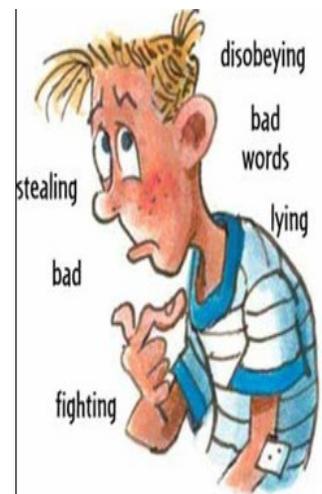
Hebrews 11:1-7

"Now **faith is the substance** (*real or essential part*) **of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**" All around us we see the physical evidence of God: in the beauties of nature, in the birth of new life, in the balance and precision of our universe, in the complexities of the human body. We can't see God, but we can see the evidence of God's existence. We have faith in Him and His Word. Although we can't see heaven right now, we have a glorious hope that one day we will get to spend eternity there.

Chapter 11 lists several Old Testament characters who accomplished much because of their steadfast faith: Able, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Gideon, David, and others. **ARE PEOPLE EVER LIMITED TODAY IN WHAT THEY CAN ACCOMPLISH FOR THE LORD BY NOT HAVING A STRONG AND STEADFAST FAITH? HOW? WHAT KIND OF FAITH DO YOU HAVE?**

Hebrews 12:1-2

In these verses we are told to "...lay aside (**get rid of**) **every weight, and sin which clings** so closely..." When we do wrong, we sin. If we continue to repeat that same wrong, we are making that sin a habit. It is sticking to us. We are told to get rid of it. Stop doing it! Then what? "...let us **run with endurance the race** that is set before us, **looking to Jesus**, the founder and perfecter of our faith who...endured the cross, despising the shame, and is **seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**"



Everyone who goes to heaven will have won the race. As young people you are just getting started on your race. Always be mindful of your position in the race (*how you are living your life*) and win the goal that is before you--**Heaven!!**

