

March  
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# Jesus Shows Us a Better Way!

## The Book of Hebrews

### A Family Study from Today in the Word

This family study is a companion to the *Today in the Word* devotional *A Better Way: Hebrews* (March 2024). The whole family can learn from God's Word together. In each of the four lessons, you will:



#### Read

Read a passage  
in the Bible



#### Understand

Understand the biblical  
text in a deeper way



#### Imagine

Imagine the lesson  
with hands-on activities

## About Hebrews

The book of Hebrews teaches that Jesus is better than everything! The author is writing to Christians who were being persecuted (ill-treated) because of their faith. Some of them had returned to their old ways of Jewish rituals instead of clinging to the new way of the gospel given by Jesus. In this book we learn why Jesus is superior (better) in every respect. By placing our trust in Christ, we can walk confidently in faith, just as many have done before us.



This *Today in the Word* family study was written by Moody Bible Institute students Haylee Grindal, Annie Cornette, and Ashleigh Hildebrandt under the direction of Elizabeth Smith, Program Head and Associate Professor of Moody's Children and Family Ministry program. Please visit [moody.edu/academics/programs/children-family-ministry](https://moody.edu/academics/programs/children-family-ministry) for more information.

**TODAY** IN THE **WORD**

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# The Hall of Faith

## Read Hebrews 11

1

### Abel

pleased God with His obedient offerings (Genesis 4:1–7).

2

### Enoch

walked with God (meaning He obeyed Him in all things) and didn't experience death as we do (Genesis 5:21–24).

3

### Noah

followed what God commanded even when people made fun of him, and he built an ark that was home to a lot of animals (Genesis 6–9).

4

### Abraham

left his home and lived in a tent in a faraway country (Genesis 15–17; 22).

5

### Sarah

believed God would give her a baby, even though she was too old (Genesis 15–18; 21).

6

### Isaac

blessed the future of his sons Jacob and Esau even though they were fighting with one another (Genesis 27).

7

### Jacob

worshiped God as he was dying (Genesis 48–50).

8

### Joseph

believed God's promise to set His people free and gave instructions to bury his bones in the Promised Land (Genesis 50:22–26).

9

### Moses

led his people out of slavery in Egypt and through the Red Sea that God parted (Exodus 12–19).

10

### Rahab

helped hide Israeli spies in the city of Jericho (Joshua 2).

# A Better Sacrifice

## Memory Verse

*Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many.—Hebrews 9:28*



## Read Hebrews 9:11–15; 23–28

Do your parents have rules for you to follow? In much the same way, God had rules for His people. If they broke His rules, they would go to a priest and offer sacrifices to God so their sins could be forgiven. The Bible teaches that when Jesus died on the cross, His sacrifice paid the price for sin forever! We have all sinned, but Jesus, as our High Priest (v. 11), sacrificed His own blood (v. 14) to free us from sin and death. He did not need to do this again and again. His perfect sacrifice was enough.



## Understand

1. What did a priest do?
2. Why did people offer sacrifices to priests in the Old Testament?
3. Why do Christians believe that Jesus is the better high priest? (Hint! Look at verses 26–28.)
4. What was Jesus' sacrifice? What did it pay for?
5. Why was Jesus' sacrifice enough?



## Imagine

Parents, help your child understand that Jesus paid for their sins! Grab a backpack, and make a small pile of heavy objects such as books, rocks, canned goods, etc. Have your child put the backpack on. Read some “sins” to them, such as “cheating on a math test,” “saying something mean to a sibling,” “disobeying your parents,” etc. Each time you say one, you (or another child) can place one heavy object into their backpack. Explain that these things are sinful and do not honor God. When the backpack gets heavy, take it off your child's shoulders and put it on your own. Explain that God loves us so much that He sent His Son to be the greatest sacrifice, and we are saved from our sins forever! Jesus saved us from the weight of our sins!



# A Better Hope

## Memory Verse

*We have this hope as an anchor  
for the soul, firm and secure.—Hebrews 6:19*



## Read Hebrews 6:11-20

Hope is something that can be hard to understand, even for adults! To hope means to believe or put your trust in something. The author of Hebrews says that people who believe in Jesus put their trust in Him, both for today and for the future. Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, but then He rose again! That is why Christians can hope and not be afraid. Hope means we have confidence in the future. When you place your trust in Jesus, He will be with you for your whole life!



## Understand

1. What does it mean to hope? Can you give an example of something you hope happens?
2. Our hope in Jesus is an anchor for what? (Hint: Look at verse 19!)
3. What happens when you place your trust in Jesus?
4. Why do Christians hope in something better?
5. Read verse 12. What did God promise? How does that change how we act?
6. Read verse 17. What did God want to make very clear?



## Imagine

Parents, help your children understand hope. Purchase a small pot, garden soil, and some seed packets. Allow your children to plant the seeds in the pot and water them. Have them display the seed packet photo near the potted seed. Explain that even though we expect the plant to grow, we cannot see it right away. Hope is important because we have confidence that the plant will grow one day. We trust that the seed will grow into the plant pictured. In the same way, we hope that Jesus will come back just as He promised in the Bible!



# People of Faith

## Memory Verse

*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.—Hebrews 11:1*



## Read Hebrews 11:1-3, 39-40

In Hebrews 11, we read about people who showed great faith. They believed what God said, even though they could not see the result. Abraham was promised that the world would be blessed through his children and grandchildren. We know that God is faithful and keeps His word, so God's promise to Abraham came true at a later time. When Jesus (one of Abraham's great, great, great, grandchildren!) came and offered Himself as a once-for-all perfect sacrifice, the whole world was blessed by His atoning work! God was faithful to Abraham and He is faithful to us!



## Understand

1. What is faith?
2. How did Noah show his faith in God? (v. 7)
3. What promise did Abraham have faith in? (vv. 8–12)
4. What did Moses do when He was called by God to lead the people of Israel? (vv. 24–28)
5. How can we show faith in God?
6. What promise are we still waiting for? (Revelation 21:3–4)



## Imagine

After reading Hebrews 11, have your children write the name of each person mentioned in the Hall of Faith (see the beginning of this study) on an index card or a piece of paper. Spend some time talking about each person and why God used them as an example of faith. Then, fold each name card and put them in a large bowl. Play a game of charades, pulling out a card and acting out the character mentioned. You can use motions, but not words! Have the others guess who you are! You can even use props or dress like the person to make it easier to guess.



# A Better Way to Love

## Memory Verse

*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,  
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.—Hebrews 13:16*



## Read Hebrews 13:1-7

This passage in Hebrews outlines ways we can share the love God has given to us. One day we will live in perfect harmony with the children of God. So here on earth, we need to show God's love to others. We also need to have a special love for those who are in our church. We can show love through acts of hospitality to those who are in need. Another way is to respect and care for those who oversee us—our parents, teachers, or our pastors.



## Understand

1. What does “hospitality” mean?
2. Why does God care about how we treat others?
3. How can you show hospitality to people? (Think of some different ways.)
4. Whom does the author of Hebrews say we should respect? What does respect mean?
5. What are some ways you can show more respect to those who are over you?



## Imagine

Parents, talk about the people in your children's lives that they are called to respect. Help your children choose one or two adults who are leaders at your church. These people may be the head pastor, children's director, a missionary family, a janitor, someone on staff, their Sunday school teacher, etc. Have them write letters and/or draw pictures to the people they choose to encourage and thank them for the role they have played in their lives!



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