

# LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

## citygroups

Fall 2021

Week of October 31

Studies in Hebrews

### DISCUSSION FOCUS

Read (Primary Text): Hebrews 1:1-14; 2:1-4; 4:12-13

Supporting Texts: James 1:22-23

MAIN IDEA: Christ is better.

The book of Hebrews is written to a group of Jewish believers who are now undergoing persecution and intense pressure to abandon the faith. The author uses a simple formula to encourage them to persevere in their faith and love of the Lord: he points to the superiority and preeminence of Christ, which he then uses to warn us away from the dangers of turning away and rejecting such a magnificent savior.

### OBSERVE

Read Hebrews 1:1-14.

What are some ways God has delivered His word to man in the past? *the apostles, prophets, angels, and “forefathers”*

What are some ways that Jesus is described as better than the angels? *He is God’s Son; the angels worship Him; the angels are servants, but Jesus is given rule and authority; He is eternal*

Now read Hebrews 2:1-4. We are warned about two things in this passage. What are they? *“drifting away” in 2:1, and “neglecting... salvation” in 2:3*

The writer of Hebrews continues in chapters 2 through 4 to build his theme of Jesus being a better. Despite receiving God’s word through the messengers of Moses and Joshua, Israel ignored God’s word and hardened their hearts in unbelief and disobedience.

Read 4:12-13. This passage is often quoted in the context of us wielding God’s word like a powerful weapon. But what is the primary target of this weapon according to the author of Hebrews? *Ourselves. He says this as a warning to not fall into faithless disobedience as did the Israelites.*

### INTERPRET

The word translated “angel” literally means “messenger.” In what ways is Jesus a superior messenger? *He is the very Son of God, God’s very Word in the flesh. 1:5-14 also describes His superiority in various ways.*

How does the author tell us to combat this drifting and apathy? *Hebrew 2:1 “we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard...” The superior word, delivered by the embodiment of God’s Word, Jesus*

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### RESPOND

What are some things that have caused you to “drift away” (as described in 2:1) in your Christian life?

The word translated “neglect” in in 2:3 literally means to ignore something from a sense of apathy. Have you ever experienced apathy in your Christian life?

When was a time you felt this almost eviscerating power Word of God described in 4:12-13?

### APPLY

How does the “living and powerful” Word of God help us combat unbelief?

Read James 1:22-23. How should we respond to God’s word? What happens if we neglect it?