

# “Jesus is Better than Humanity”

## Session 2 – Hebrews 2:1-18

### Week 2 Bible Study Method:

Cross Referencing



**Leaders Notes:** If time runs short, protect Section 2. If something must be cut, cut illustrations—not Scripture or discussion.

Times are only suggestions. Aim to keep discussion going but be respectful of end times.

## INTRO – 3min

**Say It:** (Lead your group by reading this section aloud to them.)

Last week, we saw that Jesus is better than prophets, angels, and all creation. This week, the author shows that Jesus is better than all of humanity. He shows them that Jesus does what they cannot. Jesus is better than us. He wants them to know they can trust in Jesus when they are weary from all the persecution and unrest. He is all they need when they are tempted to give in and settle into the culture around them. Like ourselves, they needed encouragement to be intentional about their faith so they wouldn't drift.

Today, we'll practice cross-referencing by allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture. Since His audience had a Jewish history, the author of Hebrews quotes some Old Testament passages that would have been familiar to them. The author is reframing their understanding to help them see Christ in places where they hadn't noticed Him before. We will examine their Old Testament context, summarize their original meaning, and then see how the author uses them to show that Jesus really is better for them.

## SECTION 1 – 2 Questions - 14min

**Hebrews 2:1-4** (Focus: Warning against drift.)

**Read It:**

- Hebrews 2:1-4

**Say It:** (Lead your group by reading this aloud to them.)

Hebrews 2 is the first of a few warnings in the book. The author isn't concerned about dramatic rebellion. It's something much more subtle. The author tells them to pay much closer attention *"to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away."* He is also concerned that they might *"ignore such a great salvation"* neglecting their faith.

**Discuss It:** The "Discuss It" sections of this guide should be the main course of your time together. The goal is 100% participation in discussion. We want everyone to feel like they are a part of the group. Most of these sections start with Bible questions and move toward personal application so those who don't know Scripture (or are uncomfortable talking about it) can still participate.

- **How have you witnessed or experienced "drift" that came from neglect or a lack of intentionality in your own life?**

Examples: Sunday activities, sleeping in instead of time with God, convenient attendance instead of committed presence, lack of effort to encourage others, overcommitted or too tired for small group, etc.) Our culture says that true belief doesn't require diligence or intentionality. The author of Hebrews seems to be saying the opposite urging diligence and intention instead of neglect.

STICKY IDEA: "What you do not actively attend to, you inevitable drift from."

- **To keep from "ignoring such a great salvation," what actions will you take to intentionally pursue your relationship with Jesus?**

This is really just an intentional "next step" question. Have group members think through specific and practical ideas. (Examples: follow a Bible reading plan, meet regularly and intentionally with another Christ follower, give to or serve in a ministry regularly, commit to church/small group attendance, etc.)

**Bonus Leaders Note:** To tie our study with the message from last week, it might be good to note the roles of the Holy Trinity in verses 3-4. Jesus announced salvation, God the Father gave signs and wonders, and the Holy Spirit distributed gifts.

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## SECTION 2 – 2 Questions - 18min

**Hebrews 2:5-9** (Focus: Jesus is the fulfillment of God's intention for humanity.)

**Say It:** (Lead your group by reading this aloud to them.)

In the next section of Hebrews, the author quotes from Psalm 8, so a good understanding of it will be helpful before we tackle the rest of the Hebrews passage. As we read it, notice all that God intends humans to be.

**Read It:** (Ask someone in your group to read this passage. No explanation yet.)

- Psalm 8:4-8

**Say It:** (Lead your group by reading this aloud to them.)

Human beings were created with dignity, purpose, and responsibility. Crowned with glory. Created with purpose. Mankind is given authority over creation . . . yet that purpose would have felt fractured and incomplete to the Jewish people. The next section of Hebrews has the answer though. Let's read it.

**Read It:** (Ask someone in your group to read this passage. No explanation yet.)

- Hebrews 2:5-9

**Say It:** (Lead your group by reading this aloud to them.)

Did you notice the difference between Hebrews and the original text from Psalm 8? The author of Hebrews has taken a passage about all of humanity and applied it to Jesus. These formerly-Jewish people would have been intimately acquainted with the original verses, so this new application would have been surprising. Hebrews 2:7-8 is not talking about humanity in general, but about Jesus. The author uses Psalm 8 to show us how Jesus is the true fulfillment of what humanity was meant to be. He accomplished it all.

(If anyone questions how it can say that Jesus is a "little lower than the angels," this is referring to Him in His temporary human form.)

**Discuss It:** (Spend most of your time in discussion.)

- Hebrews 2:8 says, "*at present we do not see everything subject to him.*" Humanity has fallen short and extended the gap between real life and the vision

**in Psalm 8 of stewarding creation and representing God. However, in verse 9, Jesus is presented as the answer. Why do you think He came as the fulfillment of humanity rather than as an escape from it?**

God doesn't abandon humanity. He sends Jesus as the solution. He doesn't rescue us from being human but sends Jesus as fully human to live as we were meant to live. (Obedient, loving, sacrificial, faithful, etc.) By entering our weakness, suffering, and death, Jesus restores us and becomes an example for us. The problem isn't that we were human, but that humanity was incomplete. Jesus is the completion of humanity. In Him, we are equipped to live out all of God's intentions for us.

- **How does this reframe success, power, and glory in our culture?**

It's not about winning, overpowering, or asserting authority, but rather about being "in Him." In Christ, we are all of these things. Without Him, we aren't capable. Jesus not only saves us by His work on the cross. By the Holy Spirit, He also restores our purpose in stewarding creation and representing God to the world.

**Say It:** (Lead your group by reading this aloud to them.)

**Worldview thought:** In our modern culture, we tend to either overestimate humanity believing we don't need God, or we undervalue humanity saying we are just accidents and don't really matter. Hebrews points to a 3rd way: Humanity is glorious by design, broken by sin, and restored by Jesus, the one who became human. In Him, our destiny is fulfilled.

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## SECTION 3 – 3 Questions - 16min

**Hebrews 2:10-18** (Focus: Suffering and Sonship)

**Read It:** (Ask someone in your group to read this passage.)

- Hebrews 2:10-18

**Discuss It:** (Spend most of your time in discussion.)

- **Create a list of all the things suffering and death accomplish according to verses 10-18.**

Suffering and death:

- Vs 11 - made Jesus fully human and allows us to identify with Him. (This is also why He is able to call us “brothers”)
- Vs 14 - destroys the enemy
- Vs 14-17 - demonstrate God’s character and strength. He confronted and defeated it.
- Vs 17-18 - makes Jesus a better High Priest

- **How should this redefine the ways we view suffering?**

Suffering isn’t wasted and hurtful. God uses it to form and shape us into His image. Jesus entered suffering and it is in suffering that we might come to know Him the most.

- **In verse 11, Jesus calls believers “brothers and sisters.” Why would this have mattered deeply to persecuted believers? Why does it matter to you?**

These believers probably recognized the deep bonds they had with one another, but in the moments of fear, isolation, and persecution it was also easy to forget. The author of Hebrews wanted to strengthen their resolve by reminding them of their identity in Christ.

**Worldview thought:** Many worldviews imagine God as removed . . . too holy, too busy, or too abstract to truly understand human weakness, but God chose nearness over distance. When Hebrews 2:17 says Jesus is like us “in every respect,” it means Jesus experienced real limitation, temptation, suffering, and emotional pain, not from a safe distance but from inside the human story.

The Christian claim is radical: God does not observe our pain; He enters it. We don’t approach a detached deity. We trust a High Priest who understands us from lived experience, not theory.

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## DO IT – 12min

(Ask your group members to choose one way to “do something” with the lessons from today. Choose from the list below or allow them to come up with their own. Talk about your

plan and encourage them to share theirs and then talk about it again next week. Create a little accountability within your group.)

- **Anti-Drift Action:**  
Choose one intentional act of faith this week that resists spiritual drift (Scripture, confession, worship, community, etc.).
- **Attention Practice:**  
Each day this week, reread Hebrews 2:1 and ask yourself, “What am I giving my attention to and how is it shaping me?”
- **Fear Inventory:**  
Identify one fear that quietly influences your decisions (loss, rejection, control, failure). Pray Hebrews 2:14–15 over it.
- **Humanity Reminder:**  
When you feel weak, tempted, or exhausted this week, intentionally pray, “Jesus, I know you understand this.”

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## PRAY IT: 2min

(Pray however your group prefers, but if your group struggles with prayer requests becoming a burden we are offering an alternative each week. Remember: The goal is always **Bible Study, Community, and Care**, so praying for one another is important, but it doesn’t have to take place inside your meeting times. As a matter of fact, it’s better if it reaches beyond your time constraints. You are the leader and guiding your group to healthy practices is important.)

**Say It:** (Lead your group by praying this prayer this aloud with them.)

Jesus, thank You for stepping into our humanity and carrying what we could not. When we feel weak, afraid, or unfinished, help us fix our eyes on You instead of ourselves. Shape our lives this week around the freedom and purpose You won for us. AMEN.

## TOTAL TIME: 65min