



**Mustard Seed Sunday School Lesson Summary for June 1, 2008
Released on Wednesday, May 28, 2008**

"Jesus, God's Son"

Printed Text: Hebrews 1:1-12

GOLDEN TEXT—"God . . . hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things" (Hebrews 1:1-2).

Hebrews 1:1-12

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets.

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands.

11 They shall perish; but thou remainest: and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;

12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON

Because of its Jewish background, the book of Hebrews is probably one of the most difficult New Testament books to understand. Although the author is not identified, many give credit to Paul.

Jews of the first century found it hard to let go of the law and grab hold of the gospel. The law, the temple customs, and animal sacrifices were a part of daily life. The thrust of this letter written to Hebrew Christians is that Jesus is better than any person or thing.

Hebrews 1:1-2 shows that Jesus is better because of His relationship to God the Father. He is God's Son.

For centuries God had spoken through prophets. Although Israel had killed many of these prophets because they wanted to go their own way and hated condemnation for their sins, they generally revered the prophets in Jesus' time (Matt. 23:29-30).

Old Testament writings and practices of worship pointed toward the coming of the Messiah, but the Jews' eyes were blinded (Rom. 11:7-8). They did not recognize God's Son.

Jesus had lived on earth during the lifetime of some of those who received the book of Hebrews. His death, burial, and resurrection were still current events, in a manner of speaking. At the least, they were recent history.

Hebrews 1:2-3 portrays Jesus as superior because of the works He had done. He is the Creator. Only God could create. Jesus is the image of God the Father. In John 14:9 Jesus told Philip, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."

Jesus completed the work of salvation. By His own power He laid down His life as a perfect sacrifice for sin and then rose from the dead (John 10:17-18). Only God's Son is worthy. Now He is reigning with God in heaven. No one else could do this.

Jesus is better than anyone or anything because of His superiority over even the angels. Angels are special heavenly beings, but they were created by Jesus Christ. They are higher than man (Heb. 2:7), but they cannot compare to God's holy Son.

God lifts up the name of Jesus. At His baptism, God said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17). Jesus is King forever. He is "the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Heb. 13:8). He will never fail.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Help the children understand that Jesus, God's Son, is better than anyone or anything.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Jesus is better than anyone because He is the Son of God.
2. Jesus is better than anyone because of His power in creation and salvation.
3. We should honor and worship Jesus, God's Son.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Telling the Lesson, you will need your Bible. Make a pennant (a long, narrow, triangular flag) from a sheet of yellow paper. Write "Jesus Is God's Son" across the pennant, and decorate the edges. Glue this to a pencil or a wooden dowel. Be prepared to display this pennant in your classroom throughout the lesson quarter for review purposes. . Each week you can add the week's visual aid to the collection.

For Telling How to Live, bring a photograph of yourself that shows you badly out of focus or far away.

For Helping to Remember, cut 2 1/2 by 8 1/2 -inch strips of card stock, one for each student. You will also need markers or crayons.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

"Good job, Tommy!" Mr. Bender cried out as he watched his next-door neighbor's son hit the ball and run toward first base.

When Billy stepped up to the plate for his turn to bat, Mr. Bender called out, "You can do it, Billy. Just keep your eye on the ball."

Sure enough, Billy had a good hit too. He ran safely to first base, while Tommy went to second.

Mr. Bender attended all the games that the boys played in their baseball league. Tommy, Billy, and the other boys knew he would be cheering them on whenever they played.

Soon the bases were loaded. Jeff stepped up to bat. "Hit a home run, Jeff!" Mr. Bender yelled loudly. "You can do it! You are the best!"

Mr. Bender cheered for all the boys, but he really got excited when it was Jeff's turn to bat. He was special. You see, Jeff was Mr. Bender's son. To him, Jeff was the best!

Today we will learn how special Jesus, God's Son, is. God says Jesus truly is number one. He is the best!

TELLING THE LESSON

After Adam and Eve sinned, God spoke to people many times and in many ways. He wants people to know the truth. He wants us to know that He loves us. God wants us to know how to be saved from our sin.

God spoke to Jacob in a dream while he slept. Sometimes angels brought a message from God. God chose prophets, men such as Moses and Daniel, to proclaim His words to people. They wrote down God's words. God's people, the Jews, studied and followed the Old Testament Scriptures.

All of these ways that He spoke were good, but God saved the best way to talk to us for last. (Open your Bible to the book of Hebrews. Help students locate Hebrews 1 in their Bibles.)

Open your Bible to the book of Hebrews. Look at chapter 1, verses 1 and 2: "God . . . hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son."

How did God speak to us? (Students answer.) Who is His Son? Yes, Jesus is God's Son. (Wave pennant.) Jesus is the best. He is number one! After talking to people through dreams and angels and prophets, God at last sent His Son. This was the best way for God to speak to us.

When Jesus came to earth, God spoke through Him, His Son. The words that Jesus said were directly from God (John 14:10).

Hebrews is a letter written to Jewish Christians. They had trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour, but these believers were used to following the ways of the Old Testament.

They were confused when they tried to make their old way of worshiping in the Jewish temple fit with the new way of worshiping Jesus. Hebrews was written to help them understand the new way.

The Jews honored the prophets and carefully studied the Old Testament writings. God wanted them to know that Jesus is better than the prophets. They were special men who loved and obeyed God, but only Jesus is God's Son. (Wave pennant.) God wanted people to honor His Son.

Does this mean the Old Testament is no longer important? No. What the prophets wrote is true. We should read and believe the Old Testament, just as people did many years ago when it was their only word from God. But now God has spoken through Jesus, His Son.

Jesus is bright and glorious. When He lived on earth, He showed who God is. He taught people about God, His Father. He showed us God by the way He lived. He spoke God's words.

"He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9), Jesus told His disciples. Jesus is better than anyone; He is God's Son.

Jesus is the Creator. He made all things. The prophets and angels could not create the earth. Jesus made everything—the sun and stars, the trees and flowers, the birds and animals, and people. His power keeps everything in the world working as it should. Jesus is better than anyone because He created everything. He is best! (Wave pennant.)

Jesus paid for our sin. Did anyone help Him do this? No. He is the only one who could die in our place. Jesus is holy. He never sinned. When Jesus died, His blood provided salvation for everyone who believes.

God has lifted up the name of Jesus. Jesus is holy. He is righteous. He hates sin. The name of Jesus is special.

This heaven and earth will not last forever. When your clothes get old and torn, you fold them up and get rid of them. One day the earth will be destroyed. It is old and full of sin. Jesus is eternal. He will always be the same. (Wave your pennant.)

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

(Hold up photo.) What does this picture tell you about me? (Let students answer. It shows a little about you.) Even if you had never seen me in real life, you could learn some things about me by looking at this picture.

Now look at me. What do you see when you look right at me? (Let students answer.) When God spoke through His prophets and angels, people could learn some truths about God. (Point to photo.)

When God sent Jesus to speak to people, He was a clear picture of God. Now they could see what God was like and hear God's words with their own ears. Jesus is number one. (Wave pennant.) Jesus is God's Son.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Give each student a strip of heavy paper. They should draw a pennant at the top and write "#1" inside it. They should write "Jesus Is God's Son" on the rest of the strip. They can keep this bookmark in their Bibles, using it to mark the lesson text each Sunday.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:

"God . . . hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things" (Hebrews 1:1-2).

God wants people to know the truth about Himself. He spoke in many different ways—through prophets, by angels, and in dreams.

Finally God sent His Son, Jesus. He told us about God the Father and showed how much God loved us by dying on the cross for our sin.

God has given everything to His Son. Jesus, God's Son, is the King.

Lesson Summarized by:

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"Jesus, God's Son" Puzzle

G K E H Y W J G D S D M R V F
N I A I G G J E K B E I D B G
I N T I U O T T Y V G D S F U
N G S Z R N D E A H R N J I J
N D S S I K A Y T W U A A K N
I O S O E R O E N S P H S O N
G M N L S N O I T A D N U O F
E A E D E U T G L A D N E S S
B M O D S G E H N E K O P S C
O G A N A N N W G O B I M H P
J I E J O M L A I I Z L A W O
X S M R E J E S U S R N G R W
S B H A Y S Y R O L G B P L E
L T C N G P T K E E P Y U V R
K K I Z F E M Y D O U E M E N

ANGELS

BRIGHTNESS

GLADNESS

HAND

KINGDOM

OIL

RIGHTEOUSNESS

SPOKEN

ANOINTED

CHANGED

GLORY

IMAGE

MADE

POWER

SIN

THRONE

BEGINNING

FOUNDATION

GOD

JESUS

MAJESTY

PURGED

SON

YEARS

24 of 24 words were placed into the puzzle.

"Jesus, God's Son" Solution

G K + + + + + D + D + R + +
N I + + + + + E + + E I + + +
I N + + + + T + Y + G D S + +
N G S + + N + E + H R N + I +
N D + S I + A + T + U A + + N
I O S O E R + E + + P H S O N
G M N L S N O I T A D N U O F
E A E D E U T G L A D N E S S
B M O D S G E H N E K O P S C
+ G A N A N N + G + + I + H P
+ I E J O M + A + I + L A + O
+ S M R E J E S U S R N + + W
S + H A + S Y R O L G B + + E
+ T + + G + T + + E + + + + R
+ + + + + E + Y D + + + + +

(Over,Down,Direction)

ANGELS (8, 11, NW)
ANOINTED (2, 8, NE)
BEGINNING (1, 9, N)
BRIGHTNESS (12, 13, NW)
CHANGED (15, 9, SW)
FOUNDATION (15, 7, W)
GLADNESS (8, 8, E)
GLORY (11, 13, W)
GOD (2, 10, NE)
HAND (12, 6, N)
IMAGE (2, 11, SE)
JESUS (6, 12, E)
KINGDOM (2, 1, S)
MADE (6, 11, NW)
MAJESTY (2, 9, SE)
OIL (12, 9, S)
POWER (15, 10, S)
PURGED (11, 6, N)
RIGHTEOUSNESS (13, 1, SW)
SIN (13, 3, SE)
SON (13, 6, E)
SPOKEN (14, 9, W)
THRONE (2, 14, NE)
YEARS (9, 3, SW)