



HEBREWS

Jesus is **GREATER THAN...SO STAND FIRM**

JESUS IS GREATER THAN...

MOSES—CHAPTER 3

FACILITATOR'S NOTE

This chapter addresses the prominence the Christ in the spiritual order and challenges the Jewish audience by placing Jesus above Moses. The author then issues a stern warning against unbelief and rebellion. He instructs the disciples to encourage each other through these faith-challenges and use each other to make it through. Belief or faith is strengthened in numbers and encouraged to grow. Unbelief kept some of the Israelites from ever entering the Promised Land. In the same way, unbelief will keep disciples from entering the eternal Promised Land that was bought at a great price through God's eternal plan.

IMPORTANT: As always, we encourage you to begin preparing for each lesson by committing the class and the teaching to God in prayer. After this, we encourage you to dig into not only the specific chapter in Hebrews for this week (Chapter 3), but also the book of Hebrews as a whole and the Scriptures at large. As you move through your readings, jot down any thoughts that come to you and particular passages that stand out and speak to you. We assure you that these will come into play as you facilitate this discussion. It is **ONLY AFTER DOING THESE THINGS** that you should approach this lesson plan and perhaps use it as a guide. Your group is different than all the rest and so your lessons should be adapted accordingly.

PRAYER

Begin your time with a prayer asking God to help us grow together in love and community for the purpose of strengthening our faith.

FOCUS

- Jesus is greater than even the patriarch Moses.
- **WARNING:** Keep the faith and do not rebel.
- Encourage one another as long as it is **TODAY!**
- Recognize that **JESUS IS GREATER THAN** and so we should stand firm in our faith.

LESSON

Discussion Starters (OPTIONAL)

- Coaches often tell their athletes what distinguishes an average athlete from a superior athlete: It is the will and motivation to win. Gifted with comparable physical strengths and abilities, one reaches the heights of glory while the other slips into obscurity.
- What differentiates the vibrant, growing Christians you know and those who appear to be apathetic and uninterested in growing in their faith and relationship with Christ?

FROM GOD'S WORD

- 3:1-6
 - Key Points
 - Having established Jesus as high priest and being above the angels, the author now makes a case for Jesus being greater than Moses.
 - Given that his audience was likely Jewish Christians, the author had to tread lightly because of the place of prominence Moses holds in the Jewish faith.
 - He does this by contrasting Jesus and Moses not in character but in role:
 - Moses was the best *servant* or *steward* of the house.
 - Jesus was the *son of the owner* of the house, and therefore over the entire house.
 - The "house" is the body of believers, as long as we are confident and hopeful.
 - For Discussion
 - What does a confident believer look like? What is his or her confidence in? How does this confidence affect our behavior, specifically in the practice of our faith?
- 3:7-11
 - Key Points
 - In v. 6, the contingent clause stating that our status as part of God's house is dependent on our ability to persevere leads directly into a warning about unfaithfulness in v. 7.
 - He begins with a quote of Psalm 95.
 - In this Psalm, Israel is charged with hardening their hearts, testing and trying the Lord, and letting their hearts go astray.
 - For Discussion
 - What did these sins look like when Israel committed them? What do they look like in modern times?
- 3:12-15
 - Key Points

- A warning against unbelief and hardness of heart.
- Admonition to encourage each other daily.
- The emphasis on perseverance and finishing.
- For Discussion
 - As the author uses the term in this passage, is unbelief the same thing as doubt? Why or why not?
 - How can we encourage each other against unbelief?
- 3:16-19
 - Key Points
 - God refused entry into the Promised Land for his chosen people because of their unbelief and their failure to persevere.

REFLECTION

- What does unbelief look like?
- What are the challenges of perseverance?
- What do you do when you are tempted to give up?
- What do you do for your brothers and sisters who are on the verge of giving up?
- Consider these two quotes:

"The sin of unbelief has its roots in deceit; and unbelief hardens us (lest any of you be hardened). Unbelief and sin is deceitful because when we are unbelieving towards God, we don't stop believing - we simply start believing in a deception."

David Guzik

"The Enemy has guarded him from you through the first great wave of temptations. But, if only he can be kept alive, you have time itself for you ally. The long, dull monotonous years of middle-aged prosperity or middle-aged adversity are excellent campaigning weather. You see, it is so hard for these creatures to persevere. The routine of adversity, the gradual decay of youthful loves and youthful hopes, the quiet despair (hardly felt as pain) of ever overcoming the chronic temptations with which we have again and again defeated them, the drabness which we create in their lives and inarticulate resentment with which we teach them to respond to it -- all this provides admirable opportunities of wearing out a soul by attrition. If, on the other hand, the middle years from prosperous, our position is even stronger. Prosperity knits a man to the World. He feels that he is 'finding his place in it' while really it is finding its place in him. . . . That is why we must often wish long life to our patients; seventy years is not a day too much for the difficult task of unraveling their souls from Heaven and building up a firm attachment to the earth."

C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*

- Agree or disagree? Why?

PRAYER

LESSON OUTLINE – Here are the lessons we will be studying the weeks to come.

- INTRODUCTION (January 5)
- JESUS IS GREATER THAN...Angelic Beings–Chapter 1 (January 12)
- JESUS IS GREATER THAN...Angelic Beings–Chapter 1 (January 19)
- JESUS IS GREATER THAN...But Still Human–Chapter 2 (January 26)
- JESUS IS GREATER THAN...Moses–Chapter 3 (February 2)
- JESUS IS GREATER THAN...The High Priest–Chapter 4 (February 9)
- JESUS IS GREATER THAN...The High Priest–Chapter 5 (February 16)
- THEREFORE, Don't Fall Away–Chapter 6 (February 23)
- JESUS IS GREATER THAN...Melchizedek–Chapter 7 (March 2)
- JESUS IS GREATER THAN...The Law–Chapter 8 (March 9)
- JESUS IS GREATER THAN...The Tabernacle –Chapter 9 (March 16)
- JESUS IS GREATER THAN...Sacrifices–Chapter 10 (March 23)
- THEREFORE, Have Faith–Chapter 11 (March 30)
- THEREFORE, Stand Firm–Chapter 12 (April 6)
- THEREFORE, Offer Acceptable Sacrifices–Chapter 13 (April 13)
- CONCLUSION (April 27)