



Authorised Mess — HEBREWS

Your details

Name: Jo Birkby

Church: St Saviour's, Brookwood, Surrey

Bible book	Hebrews
Theme of session	'New and improved!'
Notes	Hebrews examines the old way and looks at how Jesus is God's new design. The author compares the inadequacies of the Old Testament's sacrificial system to the perfection and completion in Christ. The old covenant required continual sacrifices and a once-a-year atonement for sin offered by a human priest. The new covenant provides a once-for-all sacrifice through Christ and direct access to the throne of God once for all who are in him!

Session details

Categories of activities to get a mix	Activity name	Instructions	Resources needed	Reason for doing this activity
Younger participants	Rainbow badge	Cut out a cross shape from the scratch art card and then scrape a rainbow pattern on it. Tape a safety pin on the back of the card and wear as a badge.	Scratch art card (from Baker Ross or similar), cross template, scissors, scrapers, safety pins, sticky tape.	Mix of old and new covenants. Rainbow reminds us of the covenant God made with Noah while the cross reminds us of the new covenant made through Jesus' death.



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Girls	Starchy hearts	Cut sponge cloth into heart shape and spray with spray starch. Write on verse from Hebrews 3:7–8 with permanent marker.	Sponge cloths, spray starch (available from Amazon), scissors, bowls of water, permanent markers.	'Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts' (Hebrews 3:7–8, NIV). Jesus came to show us how to change: we need to listen to him. Instead of being inflexible and stubborn, we need to be flexible and obedient.
Boys	Two-edged sword	Make a sword from the corrugated card. Cover in foil and embellish with gems on the hilt. Glue on the Bible verse.	Corrugated card, sword template, scissors, foil, glue, fake gems, printed Bible verse from Hebrews 4:12.	'For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword...' (Hebrews 4:12, NIV). In another book in the Bible, Jesus is described as 'the word' and the writer of Hebrews wants us to understand that Jesus is alive, active and judges even our thoughts, not only our actions.



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Word based	Jesus 10:10	Glue a picture of Jesus to the centre of the paper plate. Cut out two arms from card and fix to the plate with split pins. Write the numbers of the clock 1 - 12 all around the outside of the plate. Position Jesus' arms at '10 past 10' and stick the Bible verse at his feet.	Paper plates, pictures of Jesus, card, split pins, pens, glue, scissors, printed verse from Hebrews 10:10.	'... we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all' (Hebrew 10:10, NIV). Talk about how Jesus died so that everyone who believes in him would be holy in God's sight.
Food-based	Baby food	Mix together any foods which are runny or can be mashed.	Angel Delight, milk, bananas, melted chocolate, sprinkles and other similar foods.	'In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!' (Hebrews 5:12, NIV). Babies need milk and soft foods before they can move on to solids. Ask the children if they know the story of Peter Pan. Like Peter, the people were refusing to 'grow up' in their new faith in Jesus, sticking to their old habits. Talk about how sometimes it can be hard to do new things.



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Explores global aspect of faith	Hebrew name plate	Go to the website http://www.my-hebrew-name.com/ and follow the instructions to translate a name into Hebrew. Right click on the image and cut and paste into a word document. Enlarge to size and print. Decorate with felt tip pens/stickers.	Computer (with access to the Internet), printer, paper, felt tip pens, stickers.	Talk about how the book of Hebrews would have been written in the Hebrew language, which is very different from our own. Talk about how the Bible has been translated into over 2000 different languages.
Quiet	Throne of grace	Drape a chair with the velvet cloth. Stick on sequins, jewels and prayers written on diamond/heart-shaped card.	Velvet throw, chair, sequins, jewels, heart-shaped paper/card, pens, glue.	'Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need' (Hebrews 4:16, NIV). Jesus understands all of our needs and difficulties because he's 'been there and done that'. We can approach him any time and ask for his help through prayer.



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Really messy	Draw near to God	Get everyone to 'sign' the poster with a red handprint.	Red paint, large poster with words from Hebrews 8:10–12 (the version from The Message is particularly good).	Talk about how God devised a new plan, but his people found it hard to keep their part of the bargain, so he sent his son Jesus, so that through his death, when we do things wrong, we can be forgiven. Red paint symbolises blood of Jesus.

Celebration suggestion

Song: 'I am a new creation'.

Prepare PowerPoint images of things that have been replaced by a 'new and improved' version—for example, a quill, a typewriter, a book, an old-fashioned phone, a washboard, a '78' record. Ask the children what each of the things are. Talk about how each of these things now seems rather old-fashioned and how they've all been updated and improved. Ask the children what we use instead of each of these things and have a further updated PowerPoint ready to put on screen as they give you the answer—pen, computer, kindle, mobile phone, washing machine, iPod... I'm sure you can think of lots of other examples!

If possible, have some of these things actually there physically... you may be able to get hold of an old-fashioned phone with a dial that needs to be turned, complete with separate mouth and ear-piece! You could even have a series of phones, giving an idea of how many 'new and improved' versions there have been through the ages.

Explain how we've been doing crafts all based around a particular book in the Bible called Hebrews. One of the big messages in this book is how Jesus is God's 'new and improved' plan! The author compares the old way of how people would ask God's forgiveness—they would have to go to the temple once a year and a human priest would have to sacrifice the life of an animal on their behalf—with God's new plan—Jesus'



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death on the cross, a once-and-for-all-time sacrifice for ALL people, which would give direct access to God for everyone who believes in Jesus! Prepare suitable PowerPoint images to portray this—for example, a picture of a sheep with a big 'X' over it and a picture of Jesus with a tick, or perhaps a graphic found by searching 'new and improved'.

Meal suggestion

Have a selection of different and interesting foods, perhaps things that the children might not have tried before. This could be done very simply: for example, sandwiches with different fillings. Perhaps have bowls of different fillings and ask the children to fill their own sandwiches? Also offer a selection of exciting fruits: star fruit, Sharon fruit, lychees, mangos and so on.

Faith in Homes suggestion

- ✿ Try something new this week that you've never done before.
- ✿ Set up a place in your home as a 'throne room' where you can go and be alone with God.
- ✿ Use your sponge hearts as you do the washing-up and try to memorise the verse each time you use it.