

## LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

**Message Series:** Better: A Study of Hebrews  
**Message Title:** Better Than the Angels  
**Speaker:** Lance Burch  
**Date:** September 4, 2016

**LIFE GROUPS RESUME  
SEPTEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Use this week's guide for your  
personal study.

### UP NEXT

- **Life Groups** - will resume next week beginning September 11. If you wish to be in a Life Group and have not heard from a Group Leader please contact [robert.conn@reality.church](mailto:robert.conn@reality.church)
- **Big Live** - We still have several opportunities for you to serve somewhere during the Big Live which is September 22-25. Contact [roger.graber@reality.church](mailto:roger.graber@reality.church) to get plugged in.
- **Big Live Celebration** - We will be having a church-wide celebration service on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm at Reality Church. This will be a fun time of games, music, and celebration from the weekend's activities. *We will only have the one church service at 5:00pm that day. Our regular church service times will be cancelled.*

### MAIN IDEA

Everybody got a better idea than Jesus, but Jesus is better than an idea.

### INTRODUCTION

- As you study the book of Hebrews, you will begin asking yourself, *"Am I trusting the Word of God or am I trusting the passing things of this world?"*
- Hebrews is a letter written to believers at a strategic time in history. The temple was still standing and animal sacrifices were still being offered. In a few years however, the temple would be destroyed and the Jewish nation (including Jewish believers) would be scattered.
- We are living in similar times and circumstances. Our culture is increasingly becoming dependent on things like money, success, and progress. As our world (and the things in it) continues to "fall away" as the Bible says, believers will discover that our only confidence must be in the Word of God. This is a key message of Hebrews: *"You can be secure while everything around you is falling apart."*
- Angels were very important in the Jewish religion and since the theme of Hebrews is the supremacy of Christ over the Law, the writer would necessarily have to deal with the topic of angels.

### DISCUSSION

- Hebrews begins by explaining how in the past, God spoke to people through a variety of ways. Today, He may still choose to speak to us (through Jesus) in a variety of ways. What are the different ways God speaks to you? *(For example: the Bible, sermons, books, silence, other people, the radio, etc?)*
- Why do you think we run from the uncomfortable call of Jesus to the familiar comfort of mysterious, spiritual things?
- Read **Hebrews 1:3-4**. What was it about Jesus that caused him to be "superior" to the angels?
  - Referencing verse 3, What does it mean that Jesus *"upholds or sustains"* all things?
  - Based on this passage, where is Jesus right now and what is He doing there?
  - See also **(1 Peter 3:22 and Romans 8:34)**
- Read **Hebrews 1:5-13**. This is basically a bunch of quoted verses from the Old Testament. Why do you think the writer chose to illustrate Jesus superiority to angels by quoting several passages from the Old Testament?

- What ideas does our culture have about angels? Where do you think those ideas stemmed from?
- What areas of religious activity can distract us from focusing on Jesus?
- Read **Hebrews 2:1**. The word “drift away” literally means, “so that we will not gradually give up believing what we have believed in the past.”
  - When things drift away from something it is usually a gradual (and even unintentional) occurrence. What types of decisions could cause us to “drift away” from believing what we have believed in the past?
- What things have caused you personally to “drift away” from God?
  - What would you say brought you back to Jesus?
  - Or maybe, would you admit to still feeling like you’re “at drift”?
- How can we as believers encourage those around us who have “drifted away”? (read **Hebrews 6:19** for comparison).
- How does knowing that Jesus is better than the angels cause you to feel? Is it wrong to want to be happy and follow Jesus?
- Author N.T. Wright has said, “How can you live with a terrifying thought that the hurricane has become human, that the fire has become flesh, that Life itself has walked into our midst? Christianity either means that or it means nothing. It is the most devastating disclosure of the deepest reality of the world; or it is a sham, a total nonsense. Most people, unable to cope with either of those two things, are condemned to live in the shallow world in between.”
  - Does this quote inspire you, frustrate you, or confuse you?
- When & Why are you most prone to “drift away” from Jesus?
  - When things are great? or When things are difficult?
- Let’s be honest, most of us don’t choose to worship angels more than Jesus.
  - So what types of other things are we placing our hope in that seem better than Jesus?
- Why do we tend to put emphasis on things that sound spiritually mysterious or intangible (i.e. angels) and yet ignore the tangible callings of Jesus and Christianity?

**Did you know?**  
 Angels were involved in the delivery of the law to the Jews at Mt. Sinai.  
*Deuteronomy 33:1-2, Psalm 68:17*

**Quote**  
 “You don’t go any deeper than the gospel.”  
 Lance Burch

## APPLY IT.....

Lance closed with these challenges:

- Write your “better” idea (what tries to sneak in and convince you?)
- Read Hebrews (a few times)
- Ask Questions

## NEXT STEPS .....

- For the next three weeks we will be discussing Hebrews chapters 1-8. We encourage everyone to read that section of Hebrews. Doing so, will help you get a better context for the sermons and ultimately the Life Group discussions.
- Get in a Life Group
- Serve in The Big Live
- Pray for Reality Church