

★ Our Great Savior

Better Than All Things

Lesson 5

The Teacher's Preparation

Scripture Passages to Study: Hebrews 10

Study Guide: Read "Our Great Savior: *Better Than All Things*" from *New Testament Highlights - Part 2*.

Lesson Objective: There is a big difference between the sacrifices made in the Temple by the Levitical priesthood and the sacrifice made by the Son of God. The Temple sacrifices were only "a shadow of good things to come." Christ supersedes all other sacrifices, satisfies all sin debts, and settles all prophecy.

Lesson Application: Our great Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, is better than all things!

Memory Verse: Hebrews 10:12



"THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MINE HEART..."

But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.

—Hebrews 10:12

5

The Teacher's Checklist

- Activity Worksheets and Pencils
- Attendance and Record Notebook
- Lesson Plan
- Cue Card
- Memory Verse Card
- Music Player
- Visual Illustrations for the Lesson
- Attention Getter: Oregon Trail

Teacher Tips

Inspire your class to do better with an incentive for bringing their Bibles, inviting friends, or memorizing a verse.

The Teacher's Lesson Plan

Materials: *Picture of the Oregon Trail*

You could also bring a map of the country.

What You Could Say:

A pioneer is someone who does something that not many people have tried to do or goes somewhere that most would not head. The word pioneer is often used to describe astronauts, inventors, explorers, or any other groups who are one of the first to help change how people view or respond to different things.

In the mid-1800s—almost two hundred years ago—the word described the men and women, boys and girls who journeyed across the United States in wagons to settle different parts of the West. (You must remember that, in the 1800s, most of the people in the United States lived on the East Coast; and not many dared to venture into unknown territory.) The route that these pioneers took to the West was called the Oregon Trail. The trail itself was about 2,170 miles—that is more than half the length of the United States!—and led the people through six different states (from Missouri, through Kansas, through Nebraska, through Wyoming, through Idaho, and finally to Oregon). These pioneers weathered lack of food, treacherous storms, wild animals, and many other dangers on their journey.

Today, if you wanted to travel by wagon from Missouri to Oregon just like the pioneers, you would need to plan to be on the road for at least four months. To travel the same distance in a car would take you a little over a day's drive. To travel by plane would be even less. The difference between four months and one day is huge, I would say. Today, people no longer have need of wagons because of automobiles and planes.

In today's lesson, you will learn about the Old Covenant and the New Covenant and how the old one is no longer needed because of the new one. Animal sacrifices are no longer needed because of Christ Jesus' ultimate sacrifice.

Teacher's Notes

"Enthusiasm
is excitement
with inspiration,
motivation,
and a pinch of
creativity."
—Bo Bennett

★ Our Great Savior

Better Than All Things

4th - 6th Grade
Lesson 5

Have you ever read a book that took place a long time ago, maybe back in the 1800's? Back in those days, things were very different; people didn't have cars and planes. They didn't have cell phones or television. Life was very different. In our time, we are used to being able to get things done quickly. We are used to having things that make life a little easier. Back in the days of George Washington, sending a letter took a long time and had to be delivered on horse-back. Now, we can send an e-mail across the world, and it will reach someone in a matter of seconds.

This lesson is about the book of Hebrews. The Bible doesn't say who wrote Hebrews, but many people think it was Paul. Hebrews tells us that Jesus is better than all things. More specifically, Hebrews talks about how Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross was much better than the Old Testament sacrifices that had to be made every day. We are going to learn why Jesus is so much *better than all things*.

The Old Covenant

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

—Hebrews 10:1

Back in the days of Moses, God established the priesthood. The priests had many responsibilities. These priests were not like the catholic priests of today. They worked in the Tabernacle. The priests were responsible to intercede to God for the people. The priests had to wear special clothing. They had to make sure they were right with God so that they could go into the holy of holies.

The Tabernacle, the Temple, and the priesthood were all a part of God's covenant with His people. Once a year the high priest would apply blood to the "mercy seat" as a sign of remission for his sins and the sins of his people. For a very long time, people brought their best animals to the Temple or the Tabernacle to be sacrificed for their sins. But the people couldn't do this just once. They had to keep doing it over and over again; because, no matter how many animals they offered, the people still weren't perfect.

The priests had to stand in the Tabernacle during the day and offer the animals brought by the people. But the priests weren't perfect either. The priests were sinners just like the people were. The sacrifices offered by the people provided remission for their sins, but those sacrifices could not forgive their sins permanently.

The New Covenant

In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.

—Hebrews 8:13

The old covenant must have been frustrating for the people. They had to keep offering sacrifices all the time. But when Jesus came and died on the cross for the sins of the world, He was the new covenant—and a better covenant! God's Son, Jesus, was perfect. He wasn't like the priests or the people. Jesus was God Who became man. He never sinned when He was here on earth—not even once. Jesus' sacrifice was better than any sacrifice ever made because He was perfect. When He died on the cross, He was able not only to forgive all our sins, but also to take them away forever!

Jesus is a better sacrifice and a better priest. Although the Old Testament priests worked in the Temple and tried to intercede for the people, they could never completely take away everyone's sins, because they were sinners, too. But Jesus was perfect! He paid the price so that, in God's eyes, everyone who accepts Him can be sinless and go directly to God for help instead of going through a priest.

Jesus is better than any high priest because, although He lived a sinless life on earth, He knows how it feels to be tempted and troubled. He understands how we feel and will help us in our difficult times. He knows what we go through, and He wants us to come to Him for help.

Conclusion

When Jesus came to earth and died for us, He became our sacrifice for our sins. He is our High Priest. He is so much better than the old covenant that was made in the Old Testament with Moses. Jesus knows and cares about everything that we go through.

Although Jesus was the perfect sacrifice and He paid for all of our sins, we must accept the sacrifice that He paid for us. Jesus' sacrifice was like a gift. He paid the price for our sin so that we could go to heaven someday. All we have to do is accept His gift. We only need to believe that He paid the ultimate sacrifice for our sins and ask Jesus to save us. We truly have a Great Savior!

