



Jesus is Greater than all the Noise LEADER GUIDE - March 8, 2020

PRIMARY PASSAGE

We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. ²For since the message spoken through angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, ³how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. ⁴God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. ⁵It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. ⁶But there is a place where someone has testified: “What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? ⁷You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor ⁸and put everything under their feet.” In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. ⁹But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. ¹²He says, “I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.” ¹³And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.” ¹⁴Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. ¹⁷For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Hebrews 2:1-18 NIV)

ICE BREAKER

How many in your group sleep with a white noise machine?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1) All of us are surrounded by noise in our everyday lives. Some by choice, others not so much. What are the main sources of noise in your life?

- Television, news, social media, advertisements, talk radio, podcasts, music, self-help books/talks, chatter/conversations at work, demands of relationships, etc.

2) Hebrews 2:1 states we are *to pay the most careful attention to what we have heard so that we do not drift away*. Have you ever felt yourself drift away from Jesus? What were some of the causes?

- We never just sit idle in our faith -> we are either moving towards or drifting away from Jesus.

- Causes -> excess noise drowning out the voice of God, distractions, questions, complacency, fear, embarrassment, forgetfulness, business, etc.

3) In Hebrews 1 we see the author describe that Jesus was greater than the angels. Why was this comparison important to the audience of the time? What are the major voices in our culture and your life today?

- Angels were authoritative voices for God throughout the OT and Jewish History - this shows that Jesus' voice/authority was greater. He speaks with the authority of the Son when angels spoke with the authority of servants.
- Political leaders, pop culture celebrities, professional athletes, business leaders, talk show hosts, YouTube personalities/influencers, podcasters, etc.

4) The author describes that there was punishment when people ignored the angels' message, and then asks *how will we escape then if we ignore the great salvation of Jesus*? What is the consequence ignoring the message of salvation Jesus offers?

- Non-believer -> spiritual death // eternal separation from God
- Believer (the person who trusted in Christ, but then ignores the ongoing effects of His salvation) -> lack of abundant life // no flourishing // judgment of God

5) In Hebrews 2:3-4 the author describes four different ways Jesus' message of salvation was announced confirmed. What are they and what do they mean?

- First announced by the Lord -> Salvation is declared directly from God (see Hebrews 1:2 and Genesis 3:15)
- Confirmed by those who heard Him -> eyewitness accounts // no one dies for what they know to be a lie
- Signs, wonders, and various miracles -> they weren't random showings of power but were pointing to something greater
- Gifts of Holy Spirit -> not for our personal gain or enjoyment, but to build of the church and declare Jesus by pointing to the Resurrection

6) In Hebrews 2:5-18 we see three outplaying's of Jesus' salvation in our life - recaptures our destiny (5-9), brings us into His family (10-13), and helps us in daily life (14-18). What do these look like in your life? How do they push you to turn down the noise and tune into Jesus?

- Recaptures destiny - He reminds not only of who we are in Him, but who He made us to be
- Brings us into His family - We are now His brothers and His sisters. We don't just belong to Jesus, we belong with Jesus. Also, we now have a new family - other believers!
- Helps us in daily life - Most of us key into noise in order to improve our life, but it always leaves us wanting more. Jesus not only promises us abundant life, but is sufficient to help us live it.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

1) The way we are able to *press on* in our life is to *press in* to the fact that Jesus is Greater, and some time to *press in* we have to *press off* on other noise. What are some ways you can press off on the extra-curricular noise in your life this week?

2) Who can you invite to this series so they can hear the truth that Jesus is Greater than anything they will ever face?