

Sunday School Lesson Outline



Lesson: The Priest we can't see
Passage: Hebrews 8
Big Idea: God says Jesus is a priest, but not in a place we can see.
Main Aim: Trust that even though we can't see Jesus, he is still our priest for us.
Key verses: Hebrews 8:1-2

Please pray for the lesson preparation, that God's word would feed us and the children.

Laptop/tablet + speaker: You will need to bring a device to play media.

If needed, Jonny can provide **a laptop and Bluetooth speaker.** 😊

Additional resources for prep: Grace Group booklets or talk to Jonny if needed.

Hebrews Overview

The Letter to the Hebrews tells us (at least) two things: why we must keep going as Christians, and why we are absolutely able to keep going to the end. It's Jesus. Jesus is Even Better, he is The Best. He is the help we need to run across the finish line.

We need to learn from Israel's mistakes, and also realise that with Jesus we have all we need.

Passage overview – Talk outline on page 3.

There are lots of details. Here is the basic train of thought:

1. Jesus is a better priest: because he's in the true tent. *Hebrews 8:1-5*
 He's at the right hand of the Father, in heaven.
 So, he's a heavenly priest.
 He's not on earth.
 He's not an earthly, Levite priest.

2. Jesus is a better priest: because he brings the New Covenant. *Hebrews 8:6-13*
 The New Covenant is better.
 The prophets predicted that the New Covenant would replace the Old.

Main Aim/Application - For them then & us now.

We'll focus on the idea of Jesus and his tent not being visible, like the earthly tent.

We trust that even though we can't see Jesus, he does get us to God.

That means we don't need anything else visible to do so.

Groups

At CW – Prepare for **Sailors and Officers**, taught together.

At GR & EC – Prepare for either **Sailors or Officers**, taught separately.

Ages
Sailors: Age 3 to Year 2
Officers: Years 3-6

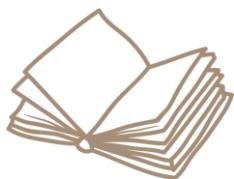
Lesson Overview

Get Going ~3 min + Song



Welcome & Pray
Intro Idea
Song

Bible Talk ~10 mins



The Big Idea
The Main Aim

Heart & Hands ~30 mins



Craft/Worksheet
Further teaching
Memory verse

Catechisms ~10 mins

The New City
Catechism for Kids



Practice Together

Land the Lesson



Recap
Pray
Extra Fun Time



Get Going

Welcome, Pray, Introduction idea & Song

At GR and EC the Sailor Leader will lead the “Get Going” section, by default.

Welcome and connect briefly with the children

- Ask a fun question. Something like:
Was your week good or bad? Show me with thumbs up/down/halfway. Why?
How was your week out of 10? Show me with fingers. Why?
What's the most fun/boring thing that happened? The best food you ate? Smelliest smell?

Prayer by the leader

- Help us to listen carefully to what God has to say to us today, and to have fun.

Set expectations:

- Rules:
 - We listen to the leader.
 - We love our neighbour.
- We're here to learn about Jesus and have fun.
- If you need the toilet, let us know and we'll take you.

Intro Idea - Introduce the “Big Idea” of the passage with Intro Powerpoint slides.

- Ask the children – Are these things real? (We can't see them)
 - Ice cream. How do you know? You can see it.
 - The wind. How do you know? You can't see it?
 - The London Eye. How do you know? You can see it.
 - The Great fire of London. How do you know? You can't see it?
 - Rain. How do you know? You can see it.
 - Love/Kindness. How do you know? You can't see it?
 - Priests in the Old Testament. How do you know? God tells us about them.
 - Jesus in heaven. We can't see him now. God says that he's there.

We believe lots of things are real, even if we can't see them. Just like Jesus.

Sing - If needed, talk through the words and actions before singing.

Lift up your voices. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrR8Pvy-7FI>



Bible Talk

Teaching the Big Idea & Main Aim.

Using the ICB translation: International Children's Bible.

Available at: [Bible Gateway](#)

Keep it clear and snappy.

Centre the talk on the Big Idea and the Main Aim.

Have a Bible open throughout to show that we're teaching from God's word, and not from our heads.

Think of ways to make the Bible talk engaging. Ideas for this are below.

Key Verses – Hebrews 8:1-2

Teaching an Epistle

- It can be easy to get bogged down in details.
Stick to the Big Idea as we teach it to the children.
- Use the narrative elements where possible.
The sermon to the Hebrews has many references to Jesus' story and Israel's story.
We can pick up and dramatise these elements.

Lesson Points

Introduction

Who can remember which book we're looking at in Sunday school?

What's one thing we can remember about Hebrews?

Jesus is amazing.

But there is something which some people might think is strange about Jesus.

We can't see him.

Who here has seen Jesus to touch him? None of us have.

Today the big idea is seen/unseen.

I suggest some actions involving covering your eyes and opening them.

Jesus – can't see. Cover eyes.

Some things we can see. Open eyes.

Some people might think,

I can't see Jesus, so I can't be sure if he's really there.

Maybe I need something else so I'm sure that I'm friends with God!

Some people might think, if I'm not sure Jesus is really there.

So, I need things that I can see instead of Jesus!

(Thinking of traditional Anglicans, Roman Catholics/Orthodox here)

I need things I can see, to tell me I'm friends with God.

Maybe I need a special building.

Or special people wearing special clothes.

Or special words with special traditions. Burning candles.

Things I can see.

Those things look more real than Jesus.

Those things might look better than Jesus.

Could you get some props to act this out?

A candle, a bedsheet to wear like a robe, say something Latin over a Bible.

The teaching images will have a couple of extra things for the intro.

People might think that we need things we can see.

So we can be sure we're friends with God.

These things we see are better than Jesus we can't see. They think.

But today we'll see why, having Jesus is the best thing ever.

We can't see Jesus, but that's exactly why he's so amazing.

1. Jesus our priest is not seen in heaven. This is better.

Hebrews 8:1-2

Boys and girls, Jesus is amazing, because he is our priest.

A priest we can't see.

Can someone tell me what a priest in the Bible is?

A priest is someone who helps us be friends with God:

He takes our sins away.

And means we can talk to God.

The Old Testament had priests, lots of them!

Boys and Girls, can someone tell me where the Old Priests worked?

In a Tabernacle/Temple, on earth.

The Tabernacle is like a big tent, where God lived in the Old Testament.

It was a very special place, only the priests could go in.

The priests could only go in at special times.

Could you drape a bedsheet over a table to make a mini tabernacle?

Jesus is a priest. But we can't see him.

Who here has seen Jesus to touch him? None of us have.

Old Testament Priests worked in a temple on earth.

Where does Jesus work as a priest?

Jesus works as a priest in heaven!

It is a VERY VERY special place, only Jesus can go in.

Jesus is a priest, right next to God.

Old Testament priests worked on earth. Which was a special place.

Jesus our priest works in heaven. Which is a VERY special place.

Which is better?

In heaven is better.

Yes, people could see Old Testament priests.

But Jesus is better than them. Even if we can't see him.

So we can be sure that we're friends with God.

2. Old Priests were seen in the copy of heaven. This is worse.

Hebrews 8:5

Where did the Old Testament Priests work?

In the tabernacle/temple. A special place.

Where does Jesus work?

In heaven.

God tells us, that the tabernacle is just a copy of what's in heaven.

What's better, the thing, or the copy of the thing?

Teaching images might help here.

If I copy a beautiful painting, is it better or worse?

Worse!

If I copy someone's school work, is that better or worse?

Worse!

If I try to copy someone's voice, is that better or worse?

Worse!

The tabernacle, the special place on earth. Was just a copy!

It was a copy of the VERY special place in heaven!

Yes, people saw the tabernacle.

Yes, we can't see heaven.

But heaven is better.

Jesus is the best.

So, we don't need things we can see to tell us we're friends with God.

Jesus is our priest in heaven, we can be sure we're friends with God.

Conclusion – Intro Recap and then give the passage answer

Jesus is amazing.

But there is something which some people might think is strange about Jesus.

We can't see him.

Who here has seen Jesus to touch him? None of us have.

Some people might think,

I can't see Jesus, so maybe he's not really there.

Maybe I need something else so I'm sure that I'm friends with God!

Some people might think, I need things that I can see instead of Jesus!

(Thinking of traditional Anglicans, Roman Catholics/Orthodox here)

I need things I can see, to tell me I'm friends with God.

Maybe I need a special building.

Or special people wearing special clothes.

Or special words with special traditions. Burning candles.

Things I can see.

But today's passage has shown us, we can be sure we're friends with God.

We have Jesus in heaven, working as our priest.

This is so much better than anything else that we can see!

We don't need special clothes, smells, buildings or words.
We just need Jesus, we can be sure that he makes us friends with God.

Pray – Big idea.

Brief application - The Main Aim expanded.

- **Sailors** State the Main Aim application and expand it a bit.
When we're at home/school/church or when we're sad/happy/tired...
This is how it's right to think/act/talk/feel.
Give a concrete example:
"When we feel x, we can remember y"
- **Officers** Ask questions to arrive at the Main aim application.
How does this help us think/act/talk/feel differently?
What about at home/school/church or when we're sad/happy/tired?
Give a concrete example:
"When we feel x, we can remember y"

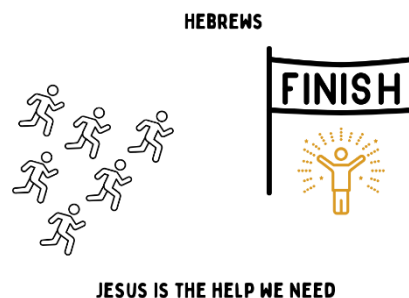
Teaching ideas - Ask Jonny if you'd like more ideas.

- Use the *Hebrews* series teaching image.

This is laminated and in the Sunday School box.

We're finding out why Jesus is The Best.

He is what we need to keep running the race to the end.



- Use the teaching images.

Lay them out as you explain. They can help children track through the talk.

- Act something out.

Could you act out what the passage is talking about?

- Use actions and a catch phrase.

For example: "We don't fear man (*trebling action and point at children*),
instead we fear God! (*Tremble and point up*)."

- **Sailors - More question ideas:** What noise/ smell do you think it made? How many stars did he see? Have you ever seen that before? How did he feel? What face would she have made?
- **Sailors - More teaching ideas:** Make actions to copy at certain points, act it out with costumes and scenery, go for a walk around the room, use Lego/Playmobile figures.
- **Officers - More question ideas:** Why do you think he did that? What did she get right/ wrong? What would you do in his situation?
- **Officers - More teaching ideas:** Act it out, have them draw scenes, shout out the best thing they see in the passage, make a puppet show using paper and card, go for a walk, use Lego.



Heart and Hands

More on the Big Idea & Main Aim with activities.

Table Activities - Craft or worksheet - Spares go to the Eltham service.

- **Sailors** *Craft.*
Cut, stick, fasten, colour. Chat about how it relates to the teaching point.
- **Officers** *Activity Sheet.*
This is a guided Bible study to help them learn how Bible studies work.
The sheet progresses from easy questions to harder questions.
Help them find answers in the Bible and think about them.

The New City
Catechism for Kids



New City Catechism

Practice Together

What is this? [Tim Keller Introduces the New City Catechism](#)

Why do this? [Why We Should Catechize Our Children](#)

This week - Question 35.

- **If you have time...**
- Open up the Catechism of the week.
Practice saying it with the children. Some might have learnt it at home to say it with less help.
Talk about difficult words and ideas.
- **Sailors** *Use Children's Mode and the songs to learn.*
Choose the right question from the following playlist:
[Q1 What is Our Only Hope in Life and Death?](#)
- **Officers** *Use Children's Mode where necessary.*
You could make up a rhyme or rap to learn it.
Or make up a game of trying to remember it: Get in a circle, say one word each.



Land the lesson

Bring everything together: Recap, prayer and game.

Recap - Use the craft/ worksheet to remind them of the Big Idea & Main Aim.

Pray - Encourage the children to pray with you about the Big Idea and Main Aim.
They could **thank/praise God** for it or **ask for help** in believing it.

- **Sailors** *You could suggest "Popcorn prayers" - really short prayers.*
Or "Arrow prayers"- We all shoot up like an arrow at the end.
Or you could try the idea we use with Officers.

- **Officers** You could pass an object, like a Bible, around the room.
When a child receives the Bible, they can choose to pray in their head or aloud.

Game idea - Check the OneDrive

Time fillers, Games and Music - Check the OneDrive

- I often play something from: <https://www.youtube.com/@thebiggeststory>
- A Spotify playlist of Sunday School songs can be found in the Term Overview Document.

Sign out - Give each family a Take Home Sheet

- Sign out with Check-In.