



Hebrews 10:1-18 : The sacrifice to end all sacrifices!

1. Have you made any new year's resolutions? How's it going so far?
2. v1-4 tells us that the law and the Old Testament sacrificial system can never make people perfect:
 - Why do you think that is?
 - v1 describes the law as 'only a shadow of the good things that are coming'. How do you think that helps us understand the purpose of the law?
 - Whilst we don't offer animal sacrifices today, do you think there might be things you do (or resolve to do!) thinking that they will somehow make things right with God? How do v1-4 show these to be ineffective?
3. v5-14 show us the difference Jesus sacrifice makes:

- In what ways is Jesus' sacrifice different to the animal sacrifices of the old covenant?
- What is the significance of Jesus coming to do God's will (v7 and v9) for Jesus, and for us?
- What does v14 show us about the power of Jesus' sacrifice?

4. v14-18:

- How do v17-18 encourage us if there are times when we struggle with feelings of guilt or shame?
- How do v14 & 16 encourage us when we understand we are justified by Jesus' sacrifice but still feel the weight of our own sinfulness?
- In light of these wonderful truths, how can you encourage one another to resolve to 'fix your thoughts on Jesus' (Hebrews 3:1) this year?

For Junior Church Leaders:

Like previous passages in Hebrews, chapter 10:1-18 has lots in it, but it's okay to stick to one or two simple truths for the children to grasp and remember.

Two main ideas:

1. The sacrifices for sin before Jesus came were only shadows, they couldn't really take away sins. (v 1)
2. Jesus' death took away our sins once and for all and we are forgiven once and for all! (v 10/17-18)

Teaching time ideas:

(It might be helpful to recap (simply) what 'sacrifices' were in the Old Testament)

- What are shadows? Spend time creating shadows.
- Talk about/compare shadows to the real thing. What can the real thing do that the shadow can't? Demonstrate with objects.
- Illustration of a mirror could be useful too – the law was a mirror or 'reminder' of sin but couldn't take them away. A reflection of something can't be the real thing. Looking in a mirror can show us we are dirty but it can't make us clean.
- Now that Jesus has come and died to make us right with God, we don't need shadows or reflections because he is the real thing. (He is not just the shadow or the image of a saviour – he **is** the saviour!)
- Because he is the real thing, we are forgiven forever, and God doesn't remember our sins anymore.

Craft ideas:

- Chn could create a shadow/outline of Jesus on one side and contrast to a real picture of Jesus on the other. You could use torches to create an outline but no detail. If too tricky for younger children, they could use a cut out of a shadow.
- If you wanted to focus on Jesus as a sacrifice, you could use an outline of a lamb/filled in picture of a lamb.