

## SPARKS

**MAIN POINT:** For each child to hear about the book called Hebrews and how it tells us that Jesus is higher than the angels.

**ADDITIONAL LEARNING:** For each child to hear how Jesus traded everything so that we could be friends with God again.

**10:50am Free Play:** *Some time to play before beginning the main session.*

**11:15 Tidy Up Time:** *In order to keep their attention during the crafts and story be sure to tidy away everything so that there are no distractions in the room.*

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### **11:20 Story + Snack:**

**Talk about what it means to TRADE something.**

*Have you ever swapped something? Maybe you traded toys? Maybe you swapped something with someone else so you could play with something different.*

*Maybe you swapped a red car for a blue car? Or a one chocolate bar for a different one? Or have you ever traded or swapped money in a shop to buy something you really wanted?*

### **TELL THE CHILDREN YOU'RE GONNA PLAY A QUICK GAME**

*Tell them that you are going to swap toys! Get them all to get one toy that they like that's in the room.*

*Then the volunteers and helpers get some drinks and snacks and the child needs to swap the toy in order to get the snack+drink.*

*Some children may not want to swap or relinquish the toy so just be sensitive to avoid any tears! If they won't swap then that's fine, still give them the snack+drink but a little after the others.*

*We are starting a new series all about a special book in the bible called Hebrews. And in this book we can learn some special things about Jesus. It was a letter written for new Christians the followers of Jesus who were really struggling. They needed some encouragement and they needed to be taught more things about Jesus to help them live better.*

*At the beginning of it we hear how Jesus traded his life for all the bad things so that we could have good things: new life and a special friendship with God!*

*Jesus needed to swap the bad stuff for the good otherwise we could not be close to God and that would not be good.*

*How amazing is it that Jesus would swap something so special for us!*

*That's how much he loves us! Get the children to stretch out their arms to remind them of how much God loves them.*

*Tell them that in this book it also says that Jesus was higher than the angels and God put him in charge over everything. So today we are going to colour in and make some angels to remind us how amazing Jesus.*

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**11:30 Craft:**

**COLOURING SHEETS - HEBREWS COLOURING**

**ANGEL CRAFT** - Print out of the angels will be provided and cut in advance so children will only need to add colour to them and maybe add some stickers too. Once they have finished the back part of the angel can be stuck to the front so that it can stand up.

Play a game together with these angels.

**SAY: Jesus is...HIGHER (everyone raises the angels into the air) than the angels.**

**THEN SAY: Bring all your angels down to the ground because Jesus is...HIGHER**

You can then repeat this a number of times!

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**11:40 Pray together:**

Ask if to repeat this prayer (LINE BY LINE)  
(Have kids repeat each line)

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for Jesus.**

**Thank you that he died for us.**

**Thank you for trading our sins for goodness**

**Help us to remember this love**

**Help us follow you each day**

**We love you, God!**

**In Jesus name, Amen!**

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**11:50 Songs:** Use the iPad to worship God. Feel free to pick whichever songs you'd prefer by searching on YouTube. Some examples: Our God is a great big God/Alive by Hillsong/My Lighthouse by Rend Collective.

**If ahead of time then free play or play games together like duck duck goose or musical statues using CD player. 12pm Children given their crafts and taken down stairs to the meeting point ready to be picked up.**

## **FLAMES + BLAZE**

**MAIN POINT:** For each child to hear about the book called Hebrews and how it tells us that Jesus is higher than the angels.

**ADDITIONAL LEARNING:** For each child to hear how Jesus traded everything so that we could be friends with God again.

**10:50am Play a collective game once all children have arrived.**

**Something like duck duck goose, bean game, simon says, number ladders, what's the time Mr.Wolf, ZipZapBoing!**

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### **11:00 GROUP TIME**

**Sit as a group and ask:** How are you doing?

Name one of your favourite toys that you got for Christmas and one of the favourite things you did. (Some children will have got more expensive and 'cooler' gifts than others so make a big deal about how great everyone's gifts are.)

Then chat about church at Christmas and ask if they watched the Family Carols service online? Ask if they saw spotted Clive the Sheep!?

You could find the video on YouTube if lots of them say they didn't see him

Search 'stwderby Family Carols' and it should be the first video and if you skip to time 44:00 you should see Clive in his pen with the Shepherds!!

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### **11:15 BIBLE + Snack**

**Tell the children that we are starting a brand new series on the book of Hebrews. Ask if they've heard of it before or ever read any of it.**

→ **BLAZE:** give out bibles and challenge them to find it as quickly as they can

→ **FLAMES:** give out bibles and in teams or as one big group see if you can find it.

We will be going through the book chapter by chapter and so we're starting at the beginning CHAPTER 1. We won't read ALL of it as it's a little long so whilst you have your snack we will chat a little about it.

Hebrews 1 absolutely marvels at Jesus. What do you think I mean by the word marvel?? Hopefully the children will use words like amazed or incredible.

The first 4 verses are filled with such a glorious description as to make you stop and stand in awe at this savior with whom we claim such personal intimacy.

**READ THOSE VERSES TOGETHER** using the bibles you have or read this below:

*In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets. He spoke to them many times and in many different ways. **2** And now in these last days God has spoken to us through his Son. God has chosen his Son to own all things. And he made the world through the Son. **3** The Son reflects the glory of God. He is an exact copy of God's nature. He holds everything together with his powerful word. The Son made people clean from their sins. Then he sat down at the right side of God, the Great One in heaven. **4** The Son became much greater than the angels. And God gave him a name that is much greater than theirs.*

Jesus gave up everything in order to give us life. He took on our sin and shame and “swapped” us for eternal life with Him. Jesus humbled Himself and came to Earth from Heaven in order to know us and provide us with salvation. This message reminds us of the beauty and wonder that come from knowing Christ and accepting the free gift He gives us, with no strings attached.

He's better than angels! Angels with their glowing radiance and their wings who fly in and out of God's very presence, carrying out his will and being all important and stuff.

And if flowery descriptions aren't your thing, the author then goes on to prove via multiple scriptures just how Jesus is better. How is he better?

He's God's son! This means he is **equal** and he is his **heir**. Everything that is God's, he will give to him!

And it doesn't stop there. If we jump ahead to 2:11 we see we are called **brothers** with Jesus. Now don't get all women's lib and insert sisters too, because this is saying something specific. In Jesus' time only the men could inherit. So here we see all of us, men and women, as “brothers” becoming heirs with Christ!

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#### **11:40 CRAFT**

**Get creative allowing children to make their own Angels.**

**FLAMES:** *There will be an option of some precut angels to colour in as well as some other materials with which the children can make angels in whatever way they would like.*

**BLAZE:** *There will be a range of materials from which the children can make angels. Give them a chance to think about how they will make an angel.*

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#### **11:55 PRAY**

**Ask the children if there is anything they want to pray for and then say this prayer together.**

Ask if to repeat this prayer (LINE BY LINE)

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for Jesus.**

**Thank you that he died for us.**

**Thank you for trading our sins for goodness**

**Help us to remember this love**

**Help us follow you each day**

**We love you, God!**

**In Jesus name, Amen!**

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***If you have time left over play another game together.***