Unit I. In Awe of God L1/December 7, 2014

Who's in Charge?

Background Scripture: Hebrews 1:1-9 • Print Passage: Hebrews 1:1-9

KEY VERSE: The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven (Hebrews 1:3, NIV).





Like many teens, Jamie loves music! She has thousands of songs on her iPod, phone, tablet, and computer. Whenever she has free time, she is listening to music. For her, one artist's music stands out from the rest. It is something about Kiki's lyrics, personality, and voice that are impressive to Jaime. Quite simply, Kierra Sheard is her favorite artist. Jaime has all of Kierra's music and follows her on Instagram, Twitter, and her fan page on Facebook. Jamie is Kierra's biggest fan. Jaime imagines meeting "KiKi" (as all of her adoring fans call her for short). What would she do...how would she act? Jaime just knew that if she ever met her favorite star, she would freak out, scream, and maybe even cry. She just loves KiKi!

KiKi had not done anything special for Jaime—Jaime just felt a connection with her music and she seemed to be a good person who does good things in the community from time to time. When Jaime found out that KiKi was coming to her city and was performing at the arena in a few weeks, she urged her parents to buy her a ticket and some new clothes—from KiKi's clothing line.

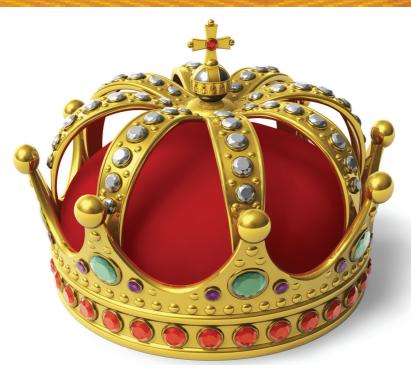
Jaime and a few of her friends made their way to the sold-out concert...and Jaime's dream came true: she met KiKi! She passed out!

Why do people go crazy about meeting their favorite artists, when they are just people like the rest of us?



1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he

sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. 4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. 5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? 6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." 7 In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire." 8 But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."



The Scripture for this lesson focuses on Jesus' being superior to the angels. The writer of the book of Hebrews stated (in the first lines of his letter) that Jesus is God's Son and is superior to the angels. In this short passage, Jesus is shown in three distinct roles that prove His superiority: king, priest, and prophet. He is a prophet—He spoke the Word of God. He is a priest—He provided purification for sins. He is King—He sits at the right hand of the Majesty. Jesus is simply superior to all; even if someone was one of these things, He is all!

The three distinct roles of king, priest, and prophet all held significance in the religious faith of the Israelites. All the leaders were considered to be representative of God in special ways. The prophet was the messenger of God to instruct the people of God's plan. The priest led the people in worship according to the ways that God instructed. The king was responsible for the oversight and governing of the people in ways that were pleasing to God. Each one of these leaders could have been anointed with oil to symbolize that God was with them and working through them.

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Why is it important to understand that Jesus is more than a prophet, priest, or king? As the Son of God, Jesus holds a unique position; how is His position different from those of others? What is the response that the writer of the book of Hebrews was pushing us to give Jesus (verse 6)?

There's an App for That!

If people freak out and go crazy when they meet their favorite stars—like how Jaime met Kierra Sheard—how should we react at the presence of Jesus? Why did Jaime think that Kierra was better than any other music artist? Why is Jesus better than any prophet, priest, or king?

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Sometimes we can get caught up in following trends of popular culture; there is nothing wrong with admiring artists or their music, but Jesus is greater than anyone that we have met or will meet. The book of Hebrews shows that Jesus is an all-in-one entity. How can you show that He is superior in your life?





During this week, think of a way to show that Jesus is the greatest revelation of God—that He is greater than one of your favorite artists or sports figures. Challenge yourself to find several worship songs that you can "rock to." These will help you worship as your proper response to His presence.

There's No Time to Wastel



We are living in the digital age! Most people are able to find any kind of music that they really want to find. Search YouTube, iTunes, the Amazon store, or any other online vessel through which people search for their favorite artist. If you are unable to find any worship music that fits your taste, ask your Youth Pastor—he or she might just surprise you.



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Fill in the blanks of the statements that relate to today's lesson.

- 1. In the past, God spoke through the ______.
- 2. This person is the Savior, priest, prophet, and exact representation of God:
- 3. I made sacrifices in the Temple of God: _____
- 4. The Son is ______ to even the angels.
- 5. God has set the Son above His companions and anointed Him with the oil of ______.



MEDIA MISSION



Look up the song, "Behold the Christ," by Christian rap artist Trip Lee. This song emphasizes who Jesus is and its hook partially comes from our focus verse. Use this as an example of the music you look for in your challenge.