



UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

WEEK 5 - *HEBREWS 4:14-5:10* - SEPTEMBER 9-15

LEADER NOTES

Leaders, the writer of Hebrews labels Jesus with one of His most important titles: the Great High Priest. Jesus is the Great High Priest who offers complete atonement for sins and provides us access into God's presence. Lean into the importance of Jesus' role, His work as the High Priest, and what that means for us.

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You can find other sermons from our Teaching Pastor's [HERE](#).

COMMUNITY

OPEN THE GROUP BY CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER AND ALLOWING A MOMENT FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE A PLACE TO BELONG.

START THE GROUP BY TAKING PRAYER REQUESTS, FINDING OUT ABOUT PEOPLE'S WEEK, AND PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER.

OPENING QUESTIONS:

WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF A PRIEST? IS THE OLD TESTAMENT IMPORTANT IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT? HOW WERE PEOPLE MADE RIGHT WITH GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT? HOW HAS JESUS GIVEN US ACCESS TO GOD NOW?

SCRIPTURE

TAKE THIS TIME TO STUDY THE BIBLE TOGETHER. REMEMBER, THE GOAL IS NOT JUST TO CONVEY INFORMATION, BUT TO HELP PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP LEARN TO READ THE BIBLE FOR THEMSELVES.

THE POINT

JESUS IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST.

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. 3 Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.

4 And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

5 So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;
6 as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
after the order of Melchizedek.”

7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus[a] offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, 10 being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Heb 4:14-5:10.

STUDY NOTES

WEEK 1 NOTES : Hebrews 4:14-5:10

The High Priest in Israel had various roles, but his prominent responsibility was offering the sacrifice on the Day of Atonement. The role of the High Priest began with Aaron. In short, the High Priest performed specific rituals in order to prepare himself for the task. This process is described in Leviticus 16 and 23:27-28. After bathing and wearing special garments, the High Priest would then sacrifice a bull for a sin offering for himself and his family. He would bring two goats, one to sacrifice and the other to serve as the scapegoat. He would place his hands on the scapegoat to represent the sins of Israel being released, thus allowing Israel forgiveness for another year. After sacrificing the other goat, he would enter into the Holy of Holies and sprinkle the blood onto the ark of the covenant in order to pay for the sins of Israel.

The High Priest was the only person allowed behind the veil into the very presence of God. Many men had this role, however, there is only One Man that earned the title Great High Priest. Jesus both offered the sacrifice and became the sacrifice. He did not need a goat, because He is the Lamb. Jesus' sacrifice also needs no repetition—it is once and for all. But what else makes Jesus the Great High Priest?

He is a Sympathetic Priest.

He is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. He knows how we have stumbled into sin. He understands how we have been tempted. He knows the pain of loss, He has undergone humiliation, and faced so many difficulties. He has, in a sense, been in our shoes. He is a priest who understands what we face.

He is a Sinless Priest.

Tradition tells us there were a combined 78 High Priests who served in either Solomon's Temple or the Second Temple. Of all the High Priests, each could likely sympathize with us in one way or the other, but not one of them lived a life of perfection. Jesus is the Great High Priest because He was the sinless Servant. No Old Testament priest could claim perfection. This is demonstrated in the fact that after presenting the sacrifice in the holy of holies, the priest would immediately leave the presence of God. Jesus, however, was able to pass through the heavens and is now seated at the right hand of God making intercession for us.

He is a Sufficient Priest.

Hebrews 5 tells us that Jesus is "a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." What does this mean? It teaches us that Jesus has no beginning and no end, and He is a priest outside of the order of Levi. This means He is both priest and King. Not only is His job as the High Priest sufficient for the atonement of sins, but it also grants sufficient access for saints to approach His throne.

He is a Suffering Priest.

Let's not forget that in order for Jesus to become the Great High Priest, He had to suffer. Jesus suffered on the cross. He didn't offer the blood of goats or bulls. He offered His own blood on the cross... the blood of the Lamb. Jesus paid it all. His payment completely cleanses anyone who places their faith in Him. Don't miss the power of this. Right now, Jesus gives you access to the presence of God through prayer any time you want.

For more resources, click [HERE](#).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *Have you considered how important it is that Jesus sympathizes with you?*
- *Why is it important that Jesus sympathizes with us without ever sinning?*
- *Are there times in your life where you think (or believe the lie) you couldn't possibly be forgiven?*
- *Discuss all Jesus suffered and endured on the cross as a group.*
- *Do you take the invitation in Hebrews 4:16 seriously? How often do you approach the throne of grace for help in time of need?*

COMMISSION

AS YOU WRAP UP YOUR GROUP, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EVERYONE KNOWS WE GO INTO THE WORLD ON MISSION FOR JESUS. USE THIS TIME TO FOCUS EVERYONE TO LIVE ON MISSION AS YOU LEAVE.

THERE IS A WORLD THAT NEEDS TO HEAR ABOUT THE WORK OF OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST. TAKE SOME TIME TO PRAY FOR THE LOST AND ASK GOD TO GIVE YOU OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS.

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