

For now, let's just say that Melchizedek was a unique priest, one of a kind. Jesus is our one of a kind great high priest.

Group discussion

● Use these questions to guide the class in a discussion of role models:

- What is a role model? (someone after whom we pattern our lives)
- What types of people do children often choose as role models? (athletes, actors, teachers, parents, fictional characters)
- Who was your role model as a child, and why? How did having that role model affect your childhood and later years?
- What advantages are there in having a role model? (gives direction, goal)
- What disadvantages are there in having a role model? (role model will have flaws, may disappoint)

you, may cause you to do things that are not best)

○ If we had to choose one role model for life, who would be the best choice? (members may suggest various role models including some biblical figures; several will probably suggest Jesus Christ as the best role model)

● **The author of Hebrews presents Jesus as the perfect role model. He has set the example for us in his faithfulness, submission, obedience, and suffering.**

Making It Personal

Finishing a sentence

● Give each person a pencil and a copy of the following uncompleted statement (duplicate Item 2):
Because Jesus is my great high priest, I will:

- _____
- _____
- _____

● Ask learners to complete the sentence silently, listing three things they will do in response to today's study. Allow a minute or so, then let volunteers share one thing they will do.



Faith at Home

Ask family members to tell what it means to them that Jesus is our Great High Priest.

Wrapping It Up

● **Jesus is not just a priest, not just a high priest, but our great high priest, who went through the heavens into the presence of the Father where He intercedes on our behalf today. We can be forgiven because He not only died on the cross but arose from the dead and is alive.**

Teacher's Toolbox

*Getting your class into God's Word
and God's Word into your class*

ExcitingBibleStudy.com

Bible Series

Hebrews 4:14–5:10

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Prepared by David Williams

PO Box 628, Liberty, TX 77575 972-814-5378

davidwilliams@ExcitingBibleStudy.com

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HOW TO USE TEACHER'S TOOLBOX: Make a four-page folded teacher's leaflet from the first two sheets by printing two-sided (or by putting the blank sides together). The other two sheets are for duplicating, displaying, distributing, or otherwise using as called for in the lesson plan.



Faith at Home – A specific application of today's Bible passage to family life, to be used for individual reflection, family discussion, or class activity.



Getting Started

Defining a word

● **What is a priest?** Let members respond. After several have had input, write this suggested definition on the chalkboard:

priest: liaison between God and people

● **What are some religions that might have a priest?** (Judaism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism, pagan religions)

● **When you think about a religious priest, how do you think someone in that role might serve as a representative of people to God?** Wait for responses, which may include offering sacrifices for the people, taking the people to God in prayer, asking God's blessing upon people.

● **How would someone in that role serve as a representative of God to the people?** Teach them the Word of God, tell them what God's will is, offer them God's forgiveness or blessing.

- **Although Baptists have ministers, pastors, deacons and other spiritual leaders, we do not have the role of “priest.” Why is that?**

Explain that Baptists hold to the Christian belief that each person has direct access to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore we do not need a human priest to be a mediator between us and the Father.

- Write on the chalkboard:

priesthood of the believer

- **This Bible-based doctrine is called “priesthood of the believer.” We have direct access to God because Christ has broken down the barriers through His death on the cross.** Have someone read aloud Ephesians 2:14-16. **We have become a holy priesthood, where each of us is a priest, standing in the presence of God because of Jesus Christ.** Have someone read aloud 1 Peter 2:5. **Jesus Christ is the only mediator we need between ourselves and the Father.** Have someone read aloud 1 Timothy 2:5.
- **This is a major theme of the Book of Hebrews and we are going to begin learning more about that in today’s study.**
- Call on one of the “priests” in your class to lead in prayer.

Exploring God's Word

Study guide

- Give each person a pencil and a copy of the following study guide, but without the suggested answers given here in parentheses (duplicate Item 1). Allow ten minutes for learners to work in two’s or threes. Then lead them to share their answers with the rest of the class.

Study Guide

1. In Judaism, the high priest passed through the veil of the temple into the holy of holies, considered the dwelling place of God. What, according to Hebrews 4:14, did Jesus do instead?

(went through the heavens, or into heaven, into the presence of the Father)

2. Why is Jesus able to sympathize with our human weaknesses and sinfulness, according to Hebrews 4:15? (because He has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin)

3. What does Hebrews 4:16 say we can find as we approach God’s throne with confidence because of Jesus? (mercy and grace to help us in our time of need)

4. To what event in Jesus’ life does Hebrews 5:7 refer? (His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before

He was crucified)

5. Hebrews 5:7 says that Jesus’ prayer “was heard because of his reverent submission.” How did God answer that prayer? (God delivered Jesus from the effect of His death by raising Him from the dead)

6. According to Hebrews 5:8-9, through His suffering on the cross, Jesus . . .

- learned (obedience)
- was made (perfect)
- became the source of (eternal salvation)

Contrasting

- Erase the chalkboard and make two columns by drawing a vertical line down the middle. Head the left column:

Jesus, our Great High Priest

Head the right column:

Human High Priests

- Have someone read aloud Hebrews 4:14.
- **By calling Jesus “a great high priest,” the writer is declaring that Jesus is the epitome of high priests, the best of them all, superior to every other high priest. What are some of the ways that Jesus and human high priests are different?** As members respond, have someone jot down their input in the chart you drew on the chalkboard. Be sure they point out:

Jesus, our Great High Priest

- has gone through the heavens
- the Son of God
- able to sympathize with our weaknesses
- tempted in every way as we are
- without sin

Human High Priests

- has not gone through the heavens
- not the Son of God
- able to sympathize with our weaknesses
- tempted in every way as we are
- sinful

Finding Old Testament references

- **Today’s passage quotes two verses from Psalms. Each verse is in a messianic psalm, a prophetic Scripture pointing toward the coming Messiah. Let’s listen for what these passages tell us about the coming One, whom we now know to be Jesus Christ.**
- Have someone read aloud Psalm 2:1-12 and then have someone else read aloud Psalm 110:1-7.
- **Psalm 110:4 refers to an Old Testament priest named Melchizedek. To paraphrase an expression, he was a priest before priests were cool. Let’s read the passage that tells of the only event recorded from his life.** Have someone read aloud Genesis 14:8-24.
- **We’ll learn more about the connection between Jesus and Melchizedek in a later study.**

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a. learned _____

b. was made _____

c. became the source of _____

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