

Melchizedek, the Jewish priests, and Jesus.

- Have members read through Hebrews 7:11-24 and find the Biblical basis for the statements on the chart.

Listing

- Give each person a pencil and a copy of the following, but without the list completed (duplicate Item 3).

What are the advantages of having Jesus as our great high priest?

1. He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him.
2. He always lives to intercede for us.
3. He meets our need for a high priest, one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.
4. He, being sinless, covered our sins, once and for all, when he offered Himself.

Wrapping It Up

Summarizing

- Hebrews 10:11-14 offers a good summary statement of what we have just studied. Have someone read it aloud.
- How would you summarize the teachings of Hebrews about Jesus as our high priest in 25 words or less? Let several try their hand at this. Then read the following statement, but don't say that it is the "correct" summary; just read it as a closing: **Jesus Christ is our perfect high priest because He lived without sin and offered Himself as our sacrifice; He lives forever and intercedes for us.**
- Call on someone to lead the class in prayer.

Making It Personal

Personal sharing

- Have members look back at the verses not covered yet, Hebrews 6:18b-20.
- **Because of Jesus' permanent priesthood, based on the power of His indestructible life, He is able to go into the holy of holies on our behalf and even usher us into the very presence of the Father. This sure hope serves as an anchor for us, giving us confidence in our eternal salvation because it is not based on anything we have done but on what Jesus, our great high priest, has accomplished for us.**
- Ask volunteers to share a sentence or two about what the truths in today's lesson mean to them on a personal, daily basis.

Teacher's Toolbox

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

ExcitingBibleStudy.com

Bible Series

Hebrews 6:13-7:28

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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

Noticing distinctions

- Ask the class to think of various words used of members of the clergy. Have someone list their responses down the left side of the chalkboard. They may mention: minister, pastor, rabbi, priest, preacher, bishop, reverend, father, brother.
- **What does each title emphasize about the position and its responsibilities?** As members answer, have their ideas listed next to the titles they are describing. For example, minister emphasizes that the person is a servant; pastor emphasizes the shepherding role; rabbi emphasizes teaching; priest emphasizes mediation between God and man; preacher emphasizes proclaiming the Word; bishop emphasizes broader administrative responsibilities; reverend emphasizes the respect due the position; father emphasizes authority over others; brother emphasizes equality of position.
- **Which of these titles might we use in our church?** Wait for re-

sponses. Which would we not use of a leader in our church, and why? Your church would probably not use the term “rabbi” because it refers to a teacher of the Jewish law. The terms “father” and “priest” are used of Catholic clergymen, but shunned by evangelical churches because of their conviction that they have direct access to God through Jesus Christ without going through another human being.

● The Bible uses the term “priest” and its derivatives (priests, priest’s, priests’, priesthood) about a thousand times from Genesis through Acts, nearly always referring to Jewish priests. After Acts in the New Testament, we find the term only 43 times: six times it is used in Romans, 1 Peter and Revelation to refer to all Christians, and 37 times it is used in the Book of Hebrews as the writer contrasts the old way of Judaism with the new way of Christianity. His main point is that Christianity does not have human priests standing between believers and God, but that Jesus is our perfect high priest who on the cross made the ultimate sacrifice for us and in heaven lives eternally to intercede with the Father for us. Today we are going to dig into some of what the Book of Hebrews tells us about the high priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Exploring God's Word

Fill in the blank

- Have someone read aloud Hebrew 6:13-18.
- Here we read about something that strikes us as odd. Why would God swear?
- Give each person a pencil and a copy of the following, but without the blanks completed (duplicate Item 1).

WHY WOULD GOD SWEAR?

PURPOSE

Read Hebrews 6:16-18a.

- Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what

was said and puts an end to all argument.

- God swears by Himself to make the unchanging nature of His purpose very clear to those to whom He was making a promise.
- This is a double guarantee, since God is providing two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie:
 - God’s promise
 - God’s oath

EXAMPLE

God’s promise to Abraham. Read Hebrews 6:13-15 and Genesis 22:16-17.

APPLICATION

Read Hebrews 5:5-6 and Psalm 110:4. The writer of Hebrews is applying this

teaching about God’s oath-backed promises to Jesus. We can be sure that Jesus is a priest forever because of God’s promise and God’s oath.

Question and answer

- Give each person a pencil and a copy of the following, but without the answers given in parentheses (duplicate Item 2).

Who Was Melchizedek?

Read Hebrews 7:1-2 and Genesis 14:17-20 about the very first priest ever mentioned in the Bible, Melchizedek.

1. What are some other names for Melchizedek? (King of Salem; Priest of God Most High; King of Righteousness; King of Peace)
2. What did Abraham give Melchizedek? (a tenth, tithe, of the plunder from his victory over four kings who had captured his nephew Lot)
3. What did Melchizedek give Abraham? (a blessing)
4. According to Hebrews 7:3, what are four unusual things about Melchizedek’s life? (the Bible is silent about his parentage, genealogy, birth and death)
5. In what way is Melchizedek like the Son of God? (he remains a priest forever)

Mini-lecture

- Have someone read aloud Hebrews 7:4-10.

- You may have difficulty following the logic here. Remember, we’re not dealing with “milk” now, but with “solid food” for the mature.

The Jewish law (given later) would require the tithe to be paid to descendants of Levi, himself a descendant of Abraham. But Levi’s ancestor Abraham paid his tithe to Melchizedek, a “type” or “forward-pointing anticipation” of Christ (because of Melchizedek’s lack of parentage, genealogy and biography, implying an eternal existence and unending priesthood).

This means that Melchizedek was greater even than the patriarch Abraham; therefore, Jesus (of whom Melchizedek is a type) is also greater than Abraham, being a priest forever. Like Melchizedek, Jesus predates and is superior to the Levitical priesthood.

Understanding a chart

- Display Item 4, a chart showing differences in the priesthoods of



Faith at Home

Lead your family to talk about some practical applications of the fact that Jesus is our eternal high priest. How does that affect our prayer life? Our worship? Our holiness?

WHY WOULD GOD SWEAR?

PURPOSE

Read Hebrews 6:16-18a.

- Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath _____ what was said and _____.
- God swears by Himself to make the _____ of His purpose _____ to those to whom He was making a promise.
- This is a double guarantee, since God is providing two _____ things in which it is _____ for God to lie:
 - God's p_____
 - God's o_____

EXAMPLE

God's promise to A_____. Read Hebrews 6:13-15 and Genesis 22:16-17.

APPLICATION

Read Hebrews 5:5-6 and Psalm 110:4. The writer of Hebrews is applying this teaching about God's oath-backed promises to Jesus. We can be sure that Jesus is a priest forever because of God's p_____ and God's o_____.

Who Was Melchizedek?

Read Hebrews 7:1-2 and Genesis 14:17-20 about the very first priest ever mentioned in the Bible, Melchizedek.

- What are some other names for Melchizedek?
- What did Abraham give Melchizedek?
- What did Melchizedek give Abraham?
- According to Hebrews 7:3, what are four unusual things about Melchizedek's life?
- In what way is Melchizedek like the Son of God?

Hebrews 6:13–7:28

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Item 2

What are the advantages of having Jesus as our great high priest?

- He is able to _____

- He always _____
- He meets _____ for a high priest, one who is h_____, b_____, p_____, set apart from s_____, and e_____ above the heavens.
- He, being sinless, covered our sins, once and for all, when he offered H_____.

Three priesthoods

Melchizedek

Jewish priests

Jesus Christ

before the law

under the law

after the law

based on power of
indestructible life

based on ancestry,
tribe of Levi

based on power of
indestructible life

one, permanent; no
mention of death

many, temporary,
because of death

one, permanent;
lives forever

"When there is a change of priesthood, there must be a change of the law."

Hebrews 7:12 (NIV)