



UNIT 26 | SESSION 4

JESUS IS OUR PERFECT PRIEST

HEBREWS 7

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is the perfect Priest who gave His life for us.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

How is Jesus the perfect Priest? **Jesus gave His life for us.**

MEMORY VERSE

Jesus lived a perfect life. **Hebrews 4:15**



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

It's difficult to comprehend the gospel's richness without understanding Christ's role as the perfect Priest. Because we do not live in the same religious and sacrificial system that the early church was so familiar with, we may struggle to savor the nuances of all this divine position entails.

Throughout the promises of the old covenant, priests were necessary to represent the people before God and make atonement for sin. However, because these priests were not sinless themselves, they could not fully and perfectly pay the price for the sins of their fellow man. For this reason, the greater, perfect Priest—Jesus—was needed, and only He could satisfy the wrath of God on our behalf.

Only Christ held the power of an indestructible life, having been crucified and raised again for all eternity. Whereas earthly priests could only serve for the duration of their lifetimes, Jesus holds this position forever, now seated at the right hand of God the Father. The promises of God through Jesus were perfected and completed through His eternal, all-encompassing sacrifice.

In Christ alone we find salvation and relationship with the Father. When we trust in Jesus by faith, we are made righteous and find peace with God; these are the promises foreshadowed by Melchizedek, whose name means king of righteousness and of peace (Hebrews 7:2). Jesus, the perfect Son of God, is even greater than this priest who blessed Abraham and reminded him of the victory God granted him in battles before.

Explain to preschoolers that in Jesus we find complete forgiveness and victory in the war against sin and death. He rose again that we would experience the promise of eternal life that only comes through faith in Him. No earthly priest was able to accomplish such a feat. Without His work on our behalf, we would remain condemned by the law. Through Jesus, we are held back no longer, fully alive and set free to love the Lord with all we are.

Doctrine to Know

Christ as Priest: Jesus reconciles us to God. His perfect righteousness is presented to the Father for our justification, and He intercedes for us and prays for us to remain faithful.



OPENING & ACTIVITIES

WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with other children.

ACTIVITY — OPTION 1

Follow the Leader

- Lead children to copy your actions. Give each child an opportunity to lead the group in an action for the others to imitate.
- **Suggested actions:**
 - Pat your head
 - Stomp your feet
 - Touch your nose
 - Waddle like a penguin
 - Spin around three times
 - Quack like a duck
 - Clap your hands

Say: "You did a great job following the leader! In our Bible story, we learned that long ago, God's people were led by priests. Priests helped the people worship God. Many priests lived for a while and then died. But Jesus is our priest who lives forever. Jesus is the perfect Priest who gave His life for us. Everyone who trusts in Him has forgiveness and life with God forever."



OPENING & ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY — OPTION 2

Good or Great?

- Designate one wall in your class as the “good” wall, and the opposite wall as the “great” wall.
- Ask the children to choose between what they think is good or what is great and walk to the appropriate wall.
- **Examples include:**
 - A spoon full of ice cream or an ice cream cone?
 - A few minutes at the beach or a whole day?
 - Playing at the park with one friend or playing at the park with all your friends?

Say: “Playing at the park with one friend is good, but getting to play with all your friends is even better! God gave His people priests to help them worship Him and this was a good thing. But Jesus is better and greater than the priests before Him because His sacrifice is perfect. Jesus is our perfect Priest and He gave His life on the cross. Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever.”

CRAFT

Make Bookmarks

- Place stickers, crayons, washable markers, and the memory verse labels on a table.
- Give each child a prepared paper strip and encourage them to decorate their bookmark as they choose. Help them place a memory verse label on their bookmark if they need assistance.
- Read and talk about the memory verse phrase while children complete the craft.

Say: “Our memory verse phrase reminds us that Jesus never did anything wrong. He lived His whole life and always obeyed God. None of us have lived a perfect life. We have all sinned. We sin when we say unkind things or say a lie. Jesus came to be our perfect Priest, to live a perfect life, die for us, be buried, and rise again. Jesus lives forever. Anyone who trusts in Him has forgiveness and life with God forever.”



PREPARE

Open your bible to **Hebrews 7** and tell the following story.

THE STORY

JESUS IS OUR PERFECT PRIEST

Following Jesus was difficult for many of the first Jewish believers. Some of them began to wonder if following Jesus was worth it. It might be easier to stop worshiping Jesus.

In the past, God's people were led by priests. Priests helped the people worship God with sacrifices. Aaron the Levite and others from his family were priests.

The Holy Spirit helped a leader write words to encourage the early church. We can read these words in the book of Hebrews. The leader wrote that Jesus is better than anything or anyone. Jesus became a human like us so He could be a merciful and faithful high priest for us. Jesus was hurt and tempted to sin, so He can help us when we are hurt or tempted.

The writer of Hebrews reminded Jesus' followers about a priest named Melchizedek (mel KIZ uh dek). Melchizedek is the first person in the Bible to be called a priest. This is what the writer wrote:

"We know Melchizedek was greater than Aaron the priest because Abraham gave him a tenth of his treasure. Melchizedek the priest reminds us of Jesus — God's Son. Aaron and all the priests who came after him were men who lived for a while and then died. Jesus is our priest who lives forever."

Aaron and the other priests in his family made sacrifices for sin, but those were not good enough to save people forever. The work of those priests pointed forward to a greater priest — Jesus. Jesus came to be the perfect sacrifice God promised. He is alive and will never die again. Now we have a perfect priest forever.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is the perfect Priest who gave His life for sinners. He is the true and final sacrifice for sin. Everyone who trusts in Jesus has forgiveness and life with God forever.



SNACK & CLOSING

SNACK TIME

Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. Who is the perfect Priest?
4. How is Jesus the perfect Priest? **Jesus gave His life for us.**

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible Story Coloring Page or Activity Page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to the children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have the children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant
2. Spot sweep if needed
3. Return toys to closet, close door
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room
5. Return tan storage cubes to **Room 108**

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!