



UNIT 26 | SESSION 4

JESUS IS OUR PERFECT PRIEST

HEBREWS 7

CHRIST CONNECTION

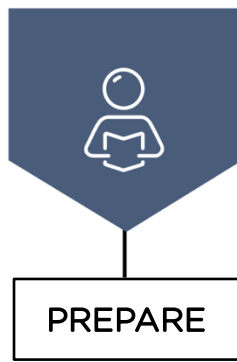
Jesus is the perfect Priest and the once-and-for-all sacrifice for sin.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

How is Jesus the perfect Priest? Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin, and He speaks to God the Father for us today.

MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 4:15



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

It's difficult to comprehend the gospel's richness without understanding Christ's role as 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 kids 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

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group.

ACTIVITY PAGES

Invite kids to work on their coloring or activity pages before heading to Large Group.

- K12 has the “Find the Match” activity page.
- 345 has the “Finish the Drawing” activity page.

Connect the Dots: To help prepare kids for the Bible story in Large Group, you can ask something like, “Is there a chore or a job at home you have to do every day? Why does it need to be done? Do you mind doing it? Why?”

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

- It's Bible Bucks Day!
- Today, kids can share the scripture(s) they've memorized to our Bible Bucks leader. This can be the memory verse you have been working on with them in the classroom or other scripture they have memorized at home on their own.
- The Bible Bucks Leader will come to each classroom throughout the morning.



AFTER LARGE GROUP

ACTIVITY

Find the Perfect Sacrifice

- Pass out the lambs to each table. Tell kids that they're trying to find a perfect lamb to offer as a sacrifice for sin.
- Have them examine each lamb to see if it's perfect (no blemish, spots, crumples, etc.). Give them a few minutes to look through each one before explaining that none of them are perfect.
- Instead point to the picture of Jesus on the board and explain that only Jesus was a perfect sacrifice because He lived a perfect life.

K12 CRAFT

Bubble Wrap Lamb

- Take the pieces of painted bubble wrap and help the kids cut it into a "fluffy" shape. Using the double-sided tape, place it onto a larger piece of paper.
- Then, using the black construction paper cut out and tape a face and legs onto your lamb. Put googly eyes on your lamb to finish!

Connect the Dots: To help kids connect the Bible story with the craft, you can say something like, "Jesus was the perfect priest because He was able to offer the perfect sacrifice – Himself! He was the spotless perfect lamb that died for our sins."

345 CRAFT

Tape-Resistant Cross

- Using the provided painter's tape, create a cross on a piece of cardstock. Paint the entire paper with watercolors.
- Kids can use one color or a bunch of different colors. Once dry, remove the painter's tape to reveal a white cross underneath.

Connect the Dots: To help kids connect the Bible story with the craft, you can say something like, "Jesus was the perfect priest because He was able to offer the perfect sacrifice – Himself! Jesus was able to pay for our sins because He had none."



AFTER LARGE GROUP

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Distribute Bibles to each kid who needs one and have everyone open them to **Hebrews 7**. Then, read and review the Bible story below.

JESUS IS OUR PERFECT PRIEST

The early church was made up of almost all Jewish believers who were persecuted for following Jesus. Because their lives had become difficult, many believers began to wonder if following Jesus was worth it. Some may have even thought about giving up on Jesus altogether.

In the past, God's people—the nation of Israel—were led by priests. Priests led the people to worship God through sacrifices. Aaron the Levite and his descendants were priests.

The Holy Spirit helped a Christian leader write words of encouragement to the early church in the book of Hebrews. The author of Hebrews told Jesus' followers that Jesus is better. Jesus became like us in every way so He could become a merciful and faithful High Priest for us. Because Jesus suffered and was tempted, He is able to help us when we are tempted.

The writer of Hebrews reminded the believers about Melchizedek. Melchizedek is the first person in the Bible to be called a priest. This is what the author wrote:

"We know Melchizedek was greater than Aaron, the first chief priest of Israel, because Abraham gave him a tenth of his treasure. Melchizedek, the king of Salem and priest of the God Most High, reminds us of Jesus—the Son of God. Aaron and all the priests who came after him were men who died. Jesus is our Priest who lives forever."

The priesthood of Aaron and the Levites, who made sacrifices for the sins of the people, was not enough to save them forever. The law set up as priests men who were weak, limited by their sin and by death. Their work pointed forward to a greater priest—Jesus. Jesus fulfilled God's promise and became the perfect sacrifice. Now we have a perfect Priest forever.

"Jesus is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, since He will never die again; He always lives to intercede for them.

"Jesus is the priest we need. He is holy and without sin. Jesus doesn't need to offer sacrifices every day, as high priests do—first for their own sins, then for those of the people. Jesus did this once for all time when he offered himself. God sent to us His Son, our perfect Priest forever."

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is the perfect Priest and once-and-for-all sacrifice for sin, who interceded on behalf of the people by laying down His life. Everyone who trusts in Jesus has salvation from sin through His perfect life, death, and resurrection.



AFTER LARGE GROUP

DISCUSS THE BIBLE STORY

After reading the Bible story, ask the following questions and lead the group to discuss.

- If Jesus was tempted, how did He never sin? How can Jesus help you when you are tempted to sin?
- Why do we not need to offer sacrifices for our sins? Are our future sins forgiven? Why?
- Do we need to follow rules and religious laws to be saved? Can you work hard to earn God's love or favor? Why not?
- How do you feel knowing Jesus lives forever to speak to God for you and always acts for your good?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

Play Bible Battleship! See the sheet in your binder for instructions on how to play.

Kinder class – your kids may still be too young to know the answers to the questions provided so adjust the game by asking questions from the lesson, about your classroom expectations, or other simple questions they would know the answers to

BEFORE YOU GO...

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another leader if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for Jesus' power over sin and death. If time allows, let kids keep working on their coloring or activity pages.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!