

“The Indestructible Priest”

Session 5 – Hebrews 7:1-28

Bible Study Method:
Inductive Study
(Observation, Interpretation, Application)



Leaders Notes:

BE SURE TO PRINT A COPY OF THE SCRIPTURE FOUND ON PAGES 9-10 FOR EACH GROUP MEMBER. This session uses a "Blueprint vs. Building" approach. Melchizedek is the blueprint; Jesus is the actual building. Use the marking activities to help your group see that while Melchizedek was great, he exists in the text primarily to point us to the "better hope" found in Jesus' indestructible life.

Inductive Bible Study Note: This Bible Study method requires patience and some of it may feel like "busy work." However, we encourage everyone to simply "try it." The busy work has a pay off because it requires our brains to engage with the Scripture differently. Often, these practices reveal new ideas and insights that are valuable. We have included a sample of the marked passage as a resource. (pages 11-12)

Timing tips & Notes for Skipping:

- The "5-Minute Warning": In Sections 1, 2, and 4, once the "Mark It" activity is done, you only have about 10 minutes for discussion. If you find the group is stuck on the first question, give a "30-second wrap-up" and move to the next one to ensure you hit the **Bolded Sticky Phrases.**"
- Section 2 Transition: Because Section 2 is the most "technical" part of the chapter (discussing genealogy and the change of the law), the "Mark It" activity is your best tool. Don't let the group get bogged down in the history the passage; keep them focused on the Triangles vs. Boxes contrast.
- The Visual Payoff: Save at least 5 minutes for the very first question of Section 4. Asking them to look at the "Stars" next to the "Circles" from Section 1 is the most powerful moment of the study.

- The best parts to skip are those sections which are less central to the overall direction of the study.
 - Section 3 is always optional. Losing it will not hinder the core teachings.
 - Section 4, question 3

INTRO – 3min

Say It: (Lead your group by reading this section aloud to them.)

Last week, we saw that our hope is an "anchor." Today, we look at Melchizedek, a mysterious figure who serves as the blueprint for Jesus. As we compare them, we'll see the strength of Jesus' priesthood (based on an eternal identity) over the old Jewish priesthood (based on family trees and rules). Jesus' priesthood is better because it is permanent and not based on performance.

The author of Hebrews is still chipping away at the Jewish system that is oppressing these Christ followers. He urges them to continue following Jesus despite the world around them and wants them to know that standing with Christ in tough circumstances is still better than standing on traditions and easy path of the Jewish world they had known their whole lives.

We are also introducing you to the Inductive Bible Study method. In its most simple form, this method is:

- 1) Observation
- 2) Interpretation
- 3) Application

People who use this method practice the "Observation" portion by slowing down their reading of Scripture and marking it up. We have given you a page with our passage printed so you can practice these markings and experience the ways it helps you see the Scripture differently. Feel free to mark in your own Bible if you're comfortable doing so.

SECTION 1 – The Blueprint: Melchizedek

Hebrews 7:1-10 - (19min: 6min reading/marking + 13min 3 questions)

Read It: (Ask someone in your group to read this passage aloud.)

- Hebrews 7:1-10

Mark It: (Allow group members several minutes to quietly mark all of these references.)

- Circle the name "Melchizedek," his titles ("King" and "priest"), and any pronouns (he, him, his) referring to him.
- Put a "v" above any Action Verbs (words that show Melchizedek doing something or working).

Discuss It: The “Discuss It” sections of this guide should be the main course of your time together. The goal is 100% participation in discussion. We want everyone to feel like they are a part of the group.

- **Looking at your circles, it's clear that there are two distinct roles Melchizedek holds simultaneously. (King and Priest) In our world today, the person with the 'power' to rule (the King) and the person who provides 'mercy' and spiritual help (the Priest) are different people. Why do you think it's significant (or even a relief) to have one person who holds both of those roles at the same time?**

In the Bible (and history), these roles were kept separate. Kings came from the tribe of Judah and Priests were from the Tribe of Levi. A king has the power to fix things but might not care; a priest has the heart to care but might not have the power to fix things. Melchizedek is the "two-for-one" blueprint and a forerunner to Jesus . . . the one who has the authority to fix our lives (King) and the heart to forgive our lives (Priest). **In Jesus, the King who rules us is the Priest who represents us.**

- **Now look at your "v" markings for action verbs. Notice how few there are. The author tells us who Melchizedek is, but almost nothing about what he did to earn his titles. How does this challenge the modern idea that we have to "do more" or "work harder" to be right with God?**

This is the "Identity over Effort" principle. Melchizedek's authority doesn't come from his "action verbs" (his work), but from his "identity verbs" (his state of being). It reminds us that our security is based on Jesus' identity, not our performance. **Our security isn't in what the Priest does, but in who the Priest is.**

Say It: (Lead your group by reading this section aloud to them.)

In Hebrews 7:3, when the Bible says Melchizedek is “without genealogy” or has “no beginning or end,” it isn’t saying he was a supernatural being who never died. Instead, the author is highlighting a unique literary silence in the book of Genesis.

Usually, the Bible is very specific about birth certificates and death records, but with Melchizedek, there is no record of his parents, his birth, or his death. This 'missing paperwork' is a deliberate blueprint. On the pages of Scripture, he looks eternal, which makes him the perfect blueprint for Jesus, who actually is eternal. While other priests eventually had to retire or die, we have a Priest in Jesus whose help never 'expires' because He remains a priest forever.

- In Hebrews 7:4, we find one of the few action verbs as Abraham gives Melchizedek a "tenth of the plunder." If Abraham, the "Father of the Faith," honored Melchizedek, what does that tell us about the status of this kind of priesthood?

It demonstrates that this priesthood is superior to the entire Jewish system.
If Abraham acknowledged Melchizedek as greater, then the order of Melchizedek (which belongs to Jesus) is the highest authority.

SECTION 2 – Why the System Shifted

Hebrews 7:11-19 - (16min - 5min reading/marking + 11min 2 questions)

Read It: (Ask someone to read aloud.)

- Hebrews 7:11-19

Mark It: (Allow group members several minutes to quietly mark all of these references.)

- Draw a triangle on or near words (or ideas) that describe failure or limitations in the old system. (Examples: nothing perfect, weak, useless, etc.)
- Draw a box on or near words (or ideas) that describe how Jesus' priesthood is better. (Examples: indestructible life, better hope, draw near, etc.)

Discuss It: (Spend most of your time in discussion.)

- Looking at your page, contrast the triangles (what the law couldn't do) with the boxes (what Jesus does). Why is it a 'better hope' to have a Priest who lives forever rather than a system of rules that eventually fails?
"Triangles" show us the limitations of our human effort. A system of rules is only as strong as the person trying to keep them, and we are "weak." The

"Boxes" reveal that Jesus provides what the law never could: **Power. It is a "better hope"** because our access to God is no longer tied to a "fragile" regulation that ends when we fail or die; it is tied to a Priest who conquered death. We don't just have a new set of rules; we have an invitation to a relationship with God. **The Law was a compass that showed us we were lost; Jesus is the Priest who carries us home.**

- **Hebrews 7:19 says the law made nothing perfect, but a "better hope" is introduced. According to this verse, what is the ultimate goal of this better hope?**

That we may "draw near to God."

The Law was a "Keep Out" sign; Jesus is the "Open Door."

SECTION 3 – Reflection (Optional)

(5min)

Reflect on It: (Optional Activity) Give your group a few minutes to quietly reflect on what God might be trying to say to them and specifically how He might want them to respond to His Word this week.

Say It: (Lead your group by reading this aloud to them.)

We often revert to "rules" to feel right with God.

If you truly believed your access to God was based on Jesus' indestructible life and not your fluctuating performance, how would your life change this week? What performance would you let go of? How would you rest in His indestructible life?

(Give them 2 minutes, and then say . . .)

Now say: Take two minutes to simply "draw near" (v. 19). Don't bring a list; just rest in the reality that Jesus is not available, He is standing at the door and knocking.

SECTION 4 – The Building: Jesus

Hebrews 7:20-28 (15min: 5min reading/marking + 10min 3 questions)

Read It: (Ask someone in your group to read this passage aloud.)

- Hebrews 7:20-28

Mark It: (Allow group members several minutes to quietly mark all of these references.)

- Put a “Star” above every word that refers to Jesus. (Jesus, son, priest, He, Him, etc.)

Discuss It: (Spend most of your time in discussion.)

- **Look at your Scripture page. What do you notice visually?**

In the first half, we have circles for the blueprint (Melchizedek). In the second half, we have stars for its’ fulfillment, the building (Jesus).

- **When you look at the starred verses, how does Jesus’ character (vs 26 - holy, blameless, pure, etc.) show Him to be better than the description of Melchizedek?**

Melchizedek was a "resemblance" of the Son of God, but Jesus is the reality. He doesn't just hold the title of King of Righteousness; He is actually holy and blameless in His nature. He is the only one qualified to bridge the gap between us and God permanently.

Melchizedek was a sketch; Jesus is the masterpiece.

Melchizedek was the blueprint; Jesus is the eternal structure.

- **Hebrews 7:22 says Jesus is the "guarantor" of a better covenant, and in verse 25, it says He "always lives to intercede" for us. How do these two roles—the legal promise and the ongoing prayer—work together to ensure we are "saved completely"?**

A guarantor steps in to pay the debt if the first person fails. **Jesus isn't just a "co-signer" who helps us get the loan; He is the one who puts up His own indestructible life as the collateral for our relationship with God.** Our security is based on His signature, not our "action verbs". He doesn't just pay the debt and leave either. He "always lives" to speak for us, and because He is currently speaking to the Father on our behalf, our case is never "closed". **You don't have to speak for yourself; you have a King who never stops talking to the Father for you.**

Bonus: (Make it personal)

If you have time, share a story of your own where someone stepped in on your behalf, acted as a guarantor, or spoke up for you. Allow your group to

share personal stories and emphasize how the relationship changed. With Jesus as our guarantor, what should our relationship look like?

DO IT – 5min

Ask your group members to choose one or two options to practice this week. Talk about your plan and encourage them to share their goals with one another. Plan to discuss their choices again next week. Create a little accountability within your group.

- **The "Guarantor" Mindset:** This week, when you feel the weight of "not being good enough," consciously say: "Jesus is my guarantor. My standing with God is based on His signature, not my effort."
- **The King-Priest Audit:** Identify one situation in your life right now where you need Authority (The King) and one where you need Mercy (The Priest). Pray specifically for Jesus to step into those roles for you this week.
- **The Intercession Reminder:** Set a daily reminder on your phone that simply says: "He is interceding for you right now." When it goes off, take 30 seconds to rest in the fact that your King is currently speaking your name to the Father.

PRAY IT: 2min

(Pray however your group prefers, but if your group struggles with prayer requests becoming a burden, we are offering an alternative each week. Remember: The goal is always **Bible Study, Community, and Care**, so praying for one another is important, but it doesn't have to take place inside your meeting times. As a matter of fact, it's better if it reaches beyond your time constraints. You are the leader and guiding your group to healthy practices is important.)

Prayer: (Lead your group by praying this prayer this aloud with them.)

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the fulfillment of the blueprint. Thank You that You are our holy, blameless, and pure High Priest. We rest in the fact that You are our guarantor and that You always live to speak for us. Help us to draw near to You this week, trusting in Your indestructible life rather than our own weak efforts. Amen.

TOTAL TIME: 65min

Melchizedek the Priest

¹This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, ²and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, the name Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.” ³Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever.

⁴Just think how great he was: Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder! ⁵Now the law requires the descendants of Levi who become priests to collect a tenth from the people—that is, from their fellow Israelites—even though they also are descended from Abraham. ⁶This man, however, did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. ⁷And without doubt the lesser is blessed by the greater. ⁸In the one case, the tenth is collected by people who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living. ⁹One might even say that Levi, who collects the tenth, paid the tenth through Abraham, ¹⁰because when Melchizedek met Abraham, Levi was still in the body of his ancestor.

Jesus Like Melchizedek

¹¹If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? ¹²For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also. ¹³He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. ¹⁴For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah,

and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.¹⁵ And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears,¹⁶ one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life.¹⁷ For it is declared:

“You are a priest forever,

in the order of Melchizedek.”

¹⁸The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless¹⁹(for the law made nothing perfect), and a better hope is introduced, by which we draw near to God.

²⁰And it was not without an oath! Others became priests without any oath,²¹but he became a priest with an oath when God said to him:

“The Lord has sworn

and will not change his mind:

‘You are a priest forever.’ ”

²²Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant.

²³Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office;

²⁴but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.²⁵Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

²⁶Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.²⁷Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.²⁸For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weakness; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.

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