

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Series: Better: A Study of Hebrews
Message Title: Better Than the High Priest
Speaker: Lance Burch
Date: September 18, 2016

UP NEXT

- **Big Live Celebration** - Church-wide celebration service on September 25th at 5:00pm at Reality Church. *Our regular church service times will be cancelled.*
- **Launch** - *Launch* is a new "Inside Out" sermon series focusing our desire to build out the building in order to launch the next generation of kids and students. Please be in prayer as the church comes together to accomplish this goal.
- **Inside Out Gala** - Part of *Launch* is the Inside Out Gala on October 14th. Come join us for a free evening of food, entertainment, and auctions. Register online at reality.church/events.
- **Halloween Bash Video** - We are asking all of our Life Groups to help us create the greatest Bash video of all time. Visit reality.church/bash for all the necessary information and to download this year's Bash song.

MAIN IDEA

When you feel like running, Do It! (*Just make sure you're running to Jesus and not away from Him*)

INTRODUCTION (please read aloud)

- The idea that Jesus is a greater High Priest than the earthly High Priest is a major theme in Hebrews. As you read through it, you will discover several ways the author argues that Jesus is a greater/better High Priest. The differences between the two are introduced in Chapters 4-6 and developed in Chapters 7-10.
- It is important to remember that at the time of this writing, the temple still stood and sacrifices were continually being made by priests on behalf of the people. This was a system that the Hebrew believers knew well and were tempted to return to. After all, it was real, visible, & concrete.

DISCUSSION

- Why is it that we always tend to paint ourselves and our motives in a better light than others?
- Have you ever had one of those "*maybe it's not them, maybe it's me*" realizations?
- Often people are tempted to run away from God/Jesus out of shame or embarrassment. Do you think how we react to God the Father has anything to do with the relationship we have/had with our own dad?
- Have someone read [Hebrews 4:14-16](#).
 - How is it possible that Jesus faced all the temptations that we do? (*for example: was Jesus tempted to look at Internet pornography or overspend on his credit card?*)
 - How would you answer this question from a skeptic? "*If Jesus is the perfect Son of God, what can He know about the problems of weak sinners like us?*"
 - Why is it important that we are encouraged to come boldly to the throne of grace?
 - Before Jesus, who only was allowed to approach the "throne of God"
- Have someone read [\(Hebrews 5:1-3\)](#).
 - Based on these verses, how are Jesus and the earthly high priest different? (*there are at least three differences*)

Did You Know?

Common people were not permitted to enter the holy precincts of the tabernacle and the temple, and the priests got only as far as the veil. The high priest alone went beyond the veil, and only on the Day of Atonement (see Leviticus 16).

- An earthly high priest could only be a high priest for a lifetime, he would eventually die and relinquish the role to his successor. The author is claiming Jesus is our high priest *forever!* At least six times the author claim's that Christ's priesthood is "forever" (see Heb. 5:6; 6:20; 7:17; 21, 24, 28).
 - Why is this "forever" status significant?
 - Have someone read [\(Hebrews 7:23-28\)](#).
 - HINT: Since Jesus is our high priest *forever*, He gives His people salvation *forever*.
 - Does this then mean that we can be assured our salvation will last forever? Read [\(Hebrews 7:25\)](#) again.
 - If yes, how should this make us feel?
 - If no, what Biblical evidence supports your decision?

Did You Know?

Old Testament priests were from the order of Aaron, Jesus is said to be from the order of Melchizadek. Melchizadek is only mentioned in two places (Genesis 14:17-24 & Psalm 110:4). His name means "King of Righteousness. He was both a King and a Priest. The reason Jesus can be a priest forever is because He belongs to the order of Melchizadek. As far as the Old Testament record is concerned Melchizadek did not die (though we know he must have at some time). Melchizadek becomes a picture of Jesus Christ who is a priest forever.

- If Jesus is our priest forever, and if His sacrifice on the cross was sufficient forever, is there a need on our part to return to Him periodically to "seek forgiveness" from the sin we've committed?
- Multiple Choice: When Jesus died on the cross and offered the ultimate sacrifice for us, what sin of ours were covered?
 - A. Previous sins before we became believers?
 - B. Sin we committed after we became believers?
 - C. Sin we are currently in or struggling with?
 - D. Future sin we have not even committed yet?
 - E. All of the above
- How did Old Testament believers receive forgiveness from their sin prior to Jesus?
 - If you're thinking it was the sacrificial system... think again.
 - Have someone read [\(Hebrews 10:1-4\)](#).
 - We will get into this in more detail when we pick up the *Better* sermon series after the *Launch* series, however, it has to do with Faith. This is why Hebrews chapter 11 is so important.

APPLY IT.....

- During your 15 minutes with God, change your prayers. Don't try to "smokescreen" God. He already knows the truth so Pray the Truth!
- Believe that He is truly for you. That will help you pray the truth.

NEXT STEPS

- Please pray for the Launch series as we begin to Launch the next generation into the world. Pray for the following:
 - How God wants you to be involved
 - How you can support Reality Church and in what ways