

Our Great High Priest

Hebrews 4:14-5:11

MEMORY VERSE

HEBREWS 4:16

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many envelopes as the number of children in your class, leaves, coins or shapes cut out of heavy paper and crayons.

Construction paper, clear contact paper and scissors.

ATTENTION GETTER!

What's Really There?

Give each child an envelope containing a leaf, coin or shape cut out of heavy paper. Ask them to just look at the envelope at first without touching it. Can they see anything inside it? No, but give them crayons to color on the envelope while keeping it very still. This will reveal what is inside.

We all need to be reminded that God is always there even though we may not be able to see Him. Seeing what He does, and what He has done in our lives can encourage us. What are some things God has done for you? **God is always there for us.**

LESSON TIME!

In Bible times the High Priest represented the spiritual matters of God to the people. He offered animal sacrifices for sins for himself and for all the people so that they could be forgiven. He was also to give spiritual guidance to God's people and explain the Scriptures.

One of the things that a High Priest would do is to offer an animal sacrifice once per year in the temple for the sins of the people. He did this on a special day called the Day of Atonement.

When Jesus came to earth He became a man. Even though He did not sin He died on the cross for our sins. He took all of our sins upon Himself and became our sacrifice. We no longer need animal sacrifices because His blood cleansed us once and for all time. Being both the Son of God and Son of Man he represents us to God the Father. He became our High Priest. **God is always there for us.**

HEBREWS 4:14

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Since Jesus Christ, Our High Priest has returned to heaven to help us, we should always continue to trust Him. This verse talks about “holding fast” to our confession. A confession is a belief. If I say that I believe in Jesus that is my confession. Even though life may be difficult at times we can hold on to our confession because of who Jesus is, the Son of God.

HEBREWS 4:15

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus, as our High Priest understands our weakness. He was tempted just like us, yet He did not sin. Maybe there has been someone you know who has been sick or hurt in some way. When you sympathize with them you feel bad with them. Jesus can understand everything that we go through because He went through it all Himself when He was here.

The only difference is that He never sinned. He lived out a perfect life unto the Father. And because He is perfect that makes Him qualified to be the One to take on our sins and be a sacrifice for us.

HEBREWS 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Since Jesus understands us, through Him we can come confidently to the throne of God and receive mercy and help in our time of need. He knows everything that we are going through. Throne means power or authority and grace means giving us what we don't deserve. So, when we go to God with any situation He will help us and use His power and authority for our good. He loves us and desires our best in every situation.

We will always find mercy, grace and help when we need it from God. Does God always do things or answer our prayers the way we think He should? No! He is also a sovereign king and will do everything according to His plan. But we can rest assured that whatever He does and however He answers us it will always be with a loving heart towards His children. **God is always there for us.**

HEBREWS 5:1

For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

The earthly Jewish High Priest was just a man like any other man. He was chosen to represent the people in spiritual matters to God, to offer gifts and animal sacrifices to cover the people's sins and his sins, since he was not perfect either.

Jesus was appointed to offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice once and for all for our sins. The difference with Jesus is that He was

perfect. He was the spotless sacrifice without blemish, which paid the penalty for our sins, through His death.

HEBREWS 5:2

He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.

The earthy High Priest was able to deal gently with those who were going astray since he was weak and sinful too. He was able to understand what the people experienced because he was also weak.

HEBREWS 5:3

Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins.

This was why he had to offer sacrifices for himself and for others. The sacrifices in the Old Testament were just a covering for sin, really a picture of what Jesus would finally do on the cross. But because these sacrifices were incomplete they had to be offered again and again.

When Jesus came, His sacrifice was complete. He only had to take our sins upon Himself once because He was perfect. Anyone who believes in Jesus can be forgiven of their sins once and for all. **God is always there for us.**

Something to Fall Back On

Pick two very brave students to demonstrate how that **God is always there for us.** Let the strongest one stand behind the other student. Have both students face the same direction. Ask the front “man” if he knows the back “man” is there. Then ask if he is sure. Then ask how sure (without looking). Then explain that the back “man” will now catch the front “man” as he falls backward

into his arms. Ask the front “man” if he is ready; then have him try to fall backward.

What the children will discover is that this is very hard to do. Do we know that God is always there for us? Do we always trust Him in every circumstance and know that He will hold us up?

HEBREWS 5:4

And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.

To be a High Priest in Bible times, he had to be called by God just like Aaron, Moses’ brother. It was not something that you could just begin to do because you wanted to. Jesus was appointed to be our High Priest.

HEBREWS 5:5,6

So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You."

As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek";

This is why Christ Jesus did not make Himself High Priest; He was called by God. God honored Him by calling Him to be our High Priest forever in the highest order of Melchizedek, who came to Abraham in the Old Testament (Genesis 14:18-20). Melchizedek is a picture of Jesus in the Old Testament.

HEBREWS 5:7

who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear,

While Jesus was on earth He prayed and pleaded to God, who could save Him from death. God heard Him because He was willing to obey God in all things even unto death. Think about the time that Jesus spent in the Garden of Gethsemane as He poured out His heart to the Father. He was still willing to be obedient to the will of the Father no matter what the cost was to Him.

HEBREWS 5:8

though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

Even though He was God's son, He had to learn what it was like to obey even when it meant to suffer. He could have called down a legion of angels at anytime to rescue Him from the cross, but He chose not to because His will was to do the will of the Father.

HEBREWS 5:9

And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

After He proved Himself perfect through obedience by dying on the cross, He became the giver of eternal life to those who would accept Him and obey. Just by simply believing in Him anyone can have eternal life, their sins once and for all forgiven.

HEBREWS 5:10

called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek,"

He was then chosen by God to be our High Priest and to represent us in the order of Melchizedek.

Since Jesus was perfect and without sin, His blood cleansed us from our sins forever. Jesus as our Great High Priest represents our needs to God the Father. He is both God and man. As man, He understands and loves us. He became the perfect sacrifice for our

sins when He died on the cross. As the Son of God in heaven, He represents and defends us to the Father. **God is always there for us.**

We need to ask for forgiveness for our sins, ask Him to come into our hearts as our Savior and to obey His Word and instruction on how to live. Our Great High Priest is worthy of our love and praise. He is all-powerful yet loving and compassionate. God the Father has given Him glory and honor.

“Divine-One-One”

Ask your class what they would do if there was a fire or another emergency at their house. Many will say, “Call 911.” Of course they should call 911 immediately. But something the children should remember is that God is there even quicker than 911. No matter what our emergency is we can go to God immediately.

Make a “calling card” out of construction paper or other heavy paper that says, “Free unlimited calling/Direct line to the God of the universe/For now and all eternity.” Let the kids cut them out and decorate, cover with clear contact paper, trim to wallet size.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving, taking everything to His throne of grace, remembering that God is always there for them, whenever they have needs. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.