

TCC Community Guide

For the week of March 17, 2024

Greater Than: A Series in Hebrews

Before working through this Guide, ensure everyone has listened to the teaching from March 17, 2024.

As your group transitions into a time of being present to God and one another, allow space for transition through quiet and reflection. Have everyone take a prayerful posture, slowly read the verse provided (perhaps a couple of times), allow for 30-60s of silence, and commit the time together to the Lord in prayer. Tonight's reflective reading: Psalm 25:11-22

Content Overview:

Read aloud together, Hebrews 5:1-10. Pastor Norb taught on this passage, highlighting the following:

- The author of Hebrews is highlighting the significance of Jesus being our eternal High Priest
- The sacrificial system was started by God and helps us to understand the cost of forgiveness, the punishment of sin, and that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness (c.f Heb. 9:22)
- The author of Hebrews teaches on the High Priests comparing them to Jesus in 3 ways:
 1. **Their Function:** The High Priests function as mediators between God and people and offer regular sacrifices on their behalf (v.1). Jesus, as the ultimate High Priest, offered Himself as an eternal sacrifice which brings eternal salvation (v.8). In this, He is greater than the High Priests as His sacrifice was required only once for all time.
 2. **Their Compassion:** High Priests were inherently flawed and so able to deal compassionately with those who were struggling (v.2). Jesus, as the ultimate High Priest, who became a man, offers compassion to us as well. The author cites Jesus' prayers in the garden of Gethsemane (v.7) bringing us to Matthew 26 where we read about the anguish Jesus endured. In His anguish He chose the Father's will even though it brought pain. In this way, Jesus is greater than the Old Testament High Priests in that while subject to temptation, He never sinned. Jesus' compassion towards us flows from this empathy.
 3. **Their Calling:** High priests were called by God (v.4). The author of Hebrews quotes Psalm 2 and 110 to demonstrate that Jesus was also called by God (v.5-6) but that His calling is greater (as God's son and in the order of Melchizedek).
- Having portrayed Jesus as our Great High Priest, Pastor Norb invited us to 1) run to Jesus, not from Him, trusting that we will be met with compassion, and 2) know that we are not alone. Jesus' earthly suffering reminds us that He can relate to our own suffering. He can empathize with our weakness (cf. Heb.4:15-16)
- Pastor Norb recommended reading Leviticus chapters 8-10 and 16 for additional Old Testament background on High Priests.

Discussion Questions:

1. What has resonated with you most from this message and Hebrews 5:1-10
2. Priests mediate between people and God. In a world saturated with idols (false-gods) where do you see modern priests at work? Brainstorm modern idols and the experts people turn to for intermediary help in order to experience the benefit of the idol. Consider their function, compassion and calling (credentials). Consider how these priest-like organizations or experts distract us from Jesus, our great High Priest. Example: an idol of perfect body image or health may be mediated by health experts..
3. When experiencing suffering, what keeps you from turning to Jesus?
4. In reference to Matthew 26:39, do you have any "cups" you wish God would take away? Allow the answers to these questions transition to your prayer time.

End in Prayer: Invite the group to additional sharing. What are people celebrating these days, what would they like prayer for? Take time to hear prayer requests or testimonies of praise from the group. Give all of these back to the Lord in prayer.

