Hebrews 7

“An Unchangeable Priesthood”

**Scripture:** Hebrews 7:1-28

**Memory Verse:** *“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”* Hebrews 7:25

**Lesson focus:** Through our Priest and King Jesus we can know God.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring page, Work Sheet

Craft for 1st and 2nd Graders: King Jesus Necklace

**Introduction:** Game “Step Forward” The teacher and the kids will be on opposite walls. The teacher will give some facts and if the fact applies to them they can “step forward” one step towards the teacher. The child that gets nearest the teacher wins.

1. Tell the kids to stand up
2. Tell them that you are going to give some facts and if they apply to them they can take one step forward towards you.

Example of Facts: If you wear glasses step forward; If you have blue eyes, if you have on tennis shoes; if you have white socks, if you have dark hair, etc.

Have the kids sit down and tell them they could only get near to you by having one of the qualifications that allowed them to take a step forward. Today in our Bible lesson we are going to see how we come near to God and we only have one qualification to get there.

**Bible Lesson:**

Hebrews 7:1-13

 √ Who is Melchizedek?

 A Priest ( a priest represents God to the people)

 Hebrews 7:2, tells us that Melchizedek’s name means

1. King of Righteousness
2. King of Salem
3. King of Peace

Hebrews 7:3 tells us that we have no record of his parents, or a genealogy that

 tells us who he came from, or when he was born or when he died.

 √ Where do we see Melchizedek in the Bible?

 There is only three verses in Genesis talking about Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20.) This is the only historical mention of Melchizedek in the Old Testament. Abram fights a big battle to rescue his nephew Lot and wins.

1. As Abram is on his way home Melchizedek meets him
2. Melchizedek greats Abram and brings bread and wine
3. Melchizedek is called the priest of the “God Most High”
4. Melchizedek is a King
5. Melchizedek blesses Abram

 √ How does Abram react to Melchizedek?

 Gives him a “tithe.” That means that Abram gave him 1/10 of all that he had

1,000 years after Abram met Melchizedek, King David wrote Psalm 110:4, *“The Lord has sworn and will not relent, You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”* When Abram met Melchizedek he recognized someone greater than himself, and this is why he gave a tithe to Melchizedek.

Psalm 110:1-2 and 4, are all a prophecy that God was going to change things up. He was going to both priest and king in the order of Melchizedek. But his priesthood would last forever. And God would appoint this priest like God appointed Melchizedek. Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Melchizedek is what we call a “type” of Christ. The Bible gives us a picture of what Christ will be like before Christ came to earth. Let’s compare Jesus and Melchizedek:

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| Melchizedek | Jesus |
| King of Salem | “King of Kings and Lords of Lords” (Revelation 19:16) |
| Priest – appointed by God | Priest (Zechariah 6:13) – appointed by God |
| King of Righteousness & Peace | 1 John 2:1 “Jesus Christ the Righteous One”Ephesians 2:14; “For He Himself is our peace.” |

Illustration: Ask the kids, “How many of you liked to be kissed?” (have fun with it.)

 Well the Bible talks about kissing too.

Psalm 85:10; *“Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have*

 *kissed.”*

Righteousness is to be sinless. What God did through Jesus is bring a sinless life together with giving us peace. Righteousness and peace kiss and bring the gift of salvation to us.

 √ Who is Levi?

1. He is the father of the tribe of Levi
2. He was not born when Abram met Melchizedek.
3. The priesthood was not set up yet
4. You had to be from the tribe of Levi to be a priest

Hebrews 7:11-28

 Let’s compare the Levi Priesthood and Jesus’ priesthood

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| --- | --- |
| Priesthood of Levi | Priesthood of Jesus Christ |
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| Tribe of Levi | Tribe of Judah |
| Not perfect – human | From the order of Melchizedek |
| Under the Law | Lived a perfect life |
| Where human and all died | Did not die “power of an endless life” |
| Many priests through the years because they died and others would be born | Jesus continues forever – “an unchangeable priesthood” |
| Levi Priests offered sacrifices | Jesus offered Himself one time – once for all |
| Levi priests could not save a person | Jesus saves to the uttermost those who come through Him to God |
| Levi Priests pray for the people at certain times | Jesus prays for us always |
| Levi Priest are human with sin that needed to be forgiven | Jesus is:1. Holy
2. Innocent
3. Sinless
4. Higher than the heavens
5. Offered Himself as a sacrifice for sin
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 The Law and the Levitical priesthood could not make us perfect before a perfect God so

 there was the need for a “perfect” priest. The word “perfection” usually means

completeness but the meaning here is “to put someone in the position in which he can come, or stand before God.” Perfection here means access to God. The Law and the Old Testament priests could not make us perfect before a holy God, only Jesus who lived a perfect life and gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sin could. The law and the sacrifices under the Old Testament covered over sin, but did not remove it. But our sin is removed through Jesus and through Jesus we come near to God. Through Jesus we have a relationship with God. We are brought near and we can know Him and worship and have fellowship with God through Jesus.

√ How do you know a friend? How do you get close to them?

 Because of the salvation we have through Jesus we have a relationship

with God. He wants us to know Him; He wants us to worship Him and talk to Him in prayer about every area of our life.

1. A better hope (7:19) Our hope is eternal life through Jesus.
2. A better covenant (7:22) Our promise or covenant through Jesus is sure.

Hebrews 7:25

1. Jesus saves completely! Jesus saves us “to the uttermost” or completely. This word completely combines the word complete with eternal. It means that through Jesus we have complete, eternal salvation.
2. Jesus intercedes for us. Intercession is prayer. Jesus is praying for us, He is praying for you right now!

**Conclusion:** Jesus is our Priest and King. He is our Salvation. He is the way we draw near to God. We have direct access to Jesus at any time. We do not need an earthly priest to talk to God. How much time do you spend drawing close to God? How much time do you spend in prayer?