



What Do We Believe?

Lesson 31

What Do We Believe?

Lesson 31: Salvation: Priesthood of Believers

Scriptures:

Matthew 27:51; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 2:17, 18; I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:23 – 8:13; I Peter 2:5-9; Revelation 1:1-6; 5:10

Lesson Goals:

To guide the learner in understanding the Old Testament priesthood
To guide the learner in understanding how Jesus changed that
To guide the learner in understanding his or her role as a priest before God

Scripture Memory:

But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do His work and speak out for Him..."
I Peter 2:9 (MSG)

The Lesson:

Do you know what a Jewish priest is? Let's remember what the Old Testament of the Bible says about Jewish priests. They were called by God for special tasks. Just like God called kings to their job and judges to their job, God called priests to a task. It was actually two jobs. First, they were responsible for the work in the Temple which included offering animal sacrifices and the other parts of worship. They led the people and actually represented the people before God. Second, they were mediators (a go-between and messenger) between God and humans.

Think about it this way. Let's say you have a friend, Carlos, who wants to communicate with one of your friends, Gina. Gina doesn't know your friend, Carlos. So, Carlos asks you to be the go-between and help with communication. First, you tell Gina about Carlos and then you tell Gina what Carlos wants her to know. Gina has a response, so you communicate Gina's response to Carlos. Not only are you representing Carlos to Gina, but you are also representing Gina to Carlos.

That was the task of the priests in the Old Testament. They communicated for God to the people, and they communicated for the people to God. There was also one High Priest. That person was responsible for representing all the people, including other priests, to God. He was to enter the most holy place in the Temple once each year to speak directly to God. He was the only one who could do that...the only one who entered into the personal presence of God.

All that changed when Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life, died on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for all our sins, rose from the dead, and ascended into Heaven.

The need to make animal sacrifices is gone. Jesus became the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all humans for all time. Also, Jesus became our High Priest and entered into the presence of God to be there for us forever. The Scripture says that when He died on the cross and rose from the dead, the veil in the Temple, that separated the most holy place, the Holy of Holies, from the rest of the worship area, was torn from top to bottom. This indicated that there was no more separation and that no one was forbidden entry.

Also, when Jesus became the perfect sacrifice for our sins, we no longer needed a priest to offer sacrifices and no longer needed a priest to speak to God for us.

The Scripture says that now all believers are priests. All of us can speak to God personally. God places His Spirit in us so that we are directly connected to Him. Priest now is not the name of a job, but the name of a task given to all who believe that Jesus is Lord. This gives us a wonderful opportunity: direct, personal communication with God, just like we have with our parents, school teachers, people with

whom we work, and friends. What a great privilege it is to be able to speak personally with God!

Being priests also means we have personal responsibility to God. As God's priests, we are responsible to tell others what we know about God...just as the priests of the Old Testament were responsible to communicate what they knew of God to the people.

Pastors of churches are not priests like Old Testament priests. Pastors give leadership to the ministries of the church; they preach or teach lessons from God's Word, the Bible; they may give advice or suggestions to persons who request it; and they pray for persons who need prayer. However, the pastor does not represent individuals, other than themselves, to God as did the priests in the Old Testament.

Everyone must communicate personally with God, representing themselves, both in giving their lives to God, asking forgiveness for sins, asking God's guidance in their lives as well as asking for strength and wisdom in carrying out God's will.

Life Application:

Once, priests were mediators (a go-between and messenger) between God and humans. They represented God to the people and represented the people to God. There was a problem, though. Not only did the priests offer sacrifices before God for the sins of the people, they first had to offer sacrifices for their own sins.

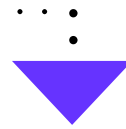
The need to make animal sacrifices is gone. Jesus became the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all humans for all time. God made Jesus, who was sinless, to become sin for us. Also, Jesus became our High Priest and entered into the presence of God to be there for us forever. Jesus talks to God for us. And we can talk to God because when Jesus became the perfect sacrifice for our sins, we no longer needed a priest to offer sacrifices and no longer needed a priest to speak to God for us.

Will you come to God? Jesus has already paid the price for your sin. Will you accept God's gift of eternal life and a relationship with Him? Jesus is the way to God. There is no other.

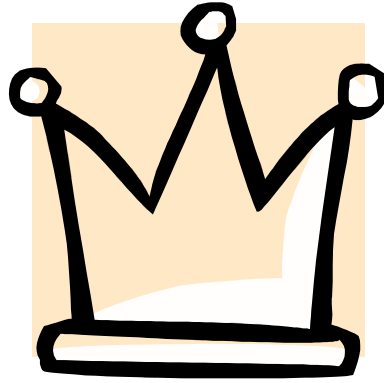
And if you are already in the service of this great and wonderful God who loves us so much, will you represent God to the people around you? They need a savior and you could be the tool God uses to reach them.



Planning for Lesson 32
Evil and Suffering:
Satan's Part



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - Review the memory verse. When your students feel comfortable to say the verse without looking, ask them to make a list of who they are (or who they can be if they don't already have a relationship with God) through their belief and trust in God. For example: chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, etc. Then discuss what each of those things mean.
- ◆ Set up a fake disagreement before class. Sit in as Mediator between the two parties. Speak to each person on the other's behalf. When your point has been made, draw your other students in with questions that lead into to the lesson.
- ◆ Sing "The Highest Place," "Heaven is in My Heart," "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love," "We Are One in the Bond of Love," "People of God," "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," "Speak to My Heart," and "The Church's One Foundation."
- ◆ **Dig Deeper:** Read Galatians 3:26-28. Talk about the unity, oneness, shared by believers - all of them.
- ◆ **Dig Deeper Still:** Continue to discuss the old sacrificial system. Compare and contrast it with the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross. Take a look at John 1:28-29 and discuss these verses in light of the old sacrificial system.



**But you are the ones
chosen by God,
chosen for the high calling
of priestly work,
chosen to be a holy people,
God's instruments
to do His work
and speak out for Him..."**

1 Peter 2:9

The High Priest
was the only one
who entered into the
personal presence
of God.

All that changed when

 S S

came to earth.

Word Search



I	B	U	L	D	P	S	E	R	S	E	E	D	K	H
F	U	W	H	M	L	E	H	R	S	N	R	N	R	S
S	T	N	E	M	U	R	T	S	N	I	S	D	O	G
O	Y	H	A	R	S	R	B	E	N	V	N	O	W	R
U	O	H	V	E	E	B	M	U	R	O	N	G	Y	I
R	U	D	E	H	L	N	R	E	S	L	R	Y	L	D
S	E	T	T	O	P	P	D	E	V	E	I	B	T	B
E	H	I	S	W	O	R	K	L	F	N	B	N	S	I
L	S	E	E	O	E	I	U	E	H	L	D	E	E	K
V	I	D	R	R	P	L	L	I	E	L	G	S	I	S
E	O	M	I	T	Y	L	S	I	S	U	S	O	R	V
S	O	G	N	I	L	L	A	C	H	G	I	H	P	F
I	E	D	H	O	O	T	R	B	R	N	E	C	S	E
K	W	H	T	M	H	R	C	I	F	U	L	E	H	P
O	R	S	P	E	A	K	O	U	T	R	A	V	E	L

_____ are the ones _____,
 chosen for the _____ of _____,
 chosen to be _____,
 _____ to do _____ and _____ for Him..."

I _____ 2:9

Word Search



I	B	U	L	D	P	S	E	R	S	E	E	D	K	H
F	U	W	H	M	L	E	H	R	S	N	R	N	R	S
S	T	N	E	M	U	R	T	S	N	I	S	D	O	G
O	Y	H	A	R	S	R	B	E	N	V	N	O	W	R
U	O	H	V	E	E	B	M	U	R	O	N	G	Y	I
R	U	D	E	H	L	N	R	E	S	L	R	Y	L	D
S	E	T	T	O	P	P	D	E	V	E	I	B	T	B
E	H	I	S	W	O	R	K	L	F	N	B	N	S	I
L	S	E	E	O	E	I	U	E	H	L	D	E	E	K
V	I	D	R	R	P	L	L	I	E	L	G	S	I	S
E	O	M	I	T	Y	L	S	I	S	U	S	O	R	V
S	O	G	N	I	L	L	A	C	H	G	I	H	P	F
I	E	D	H	O	O	T	R	B	R	N	E	C	S	E
K	W	H	T	M	H	R	C	I	F	U	L	E	H	P
O	R	S	P	E	A	K	O	U	T	R	A	V	E	L

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