Faith and Love C.O.G.I.C Sunday School

Lesson 7 October 18, 2026

Our Great High Priest

Sunday School Core Values

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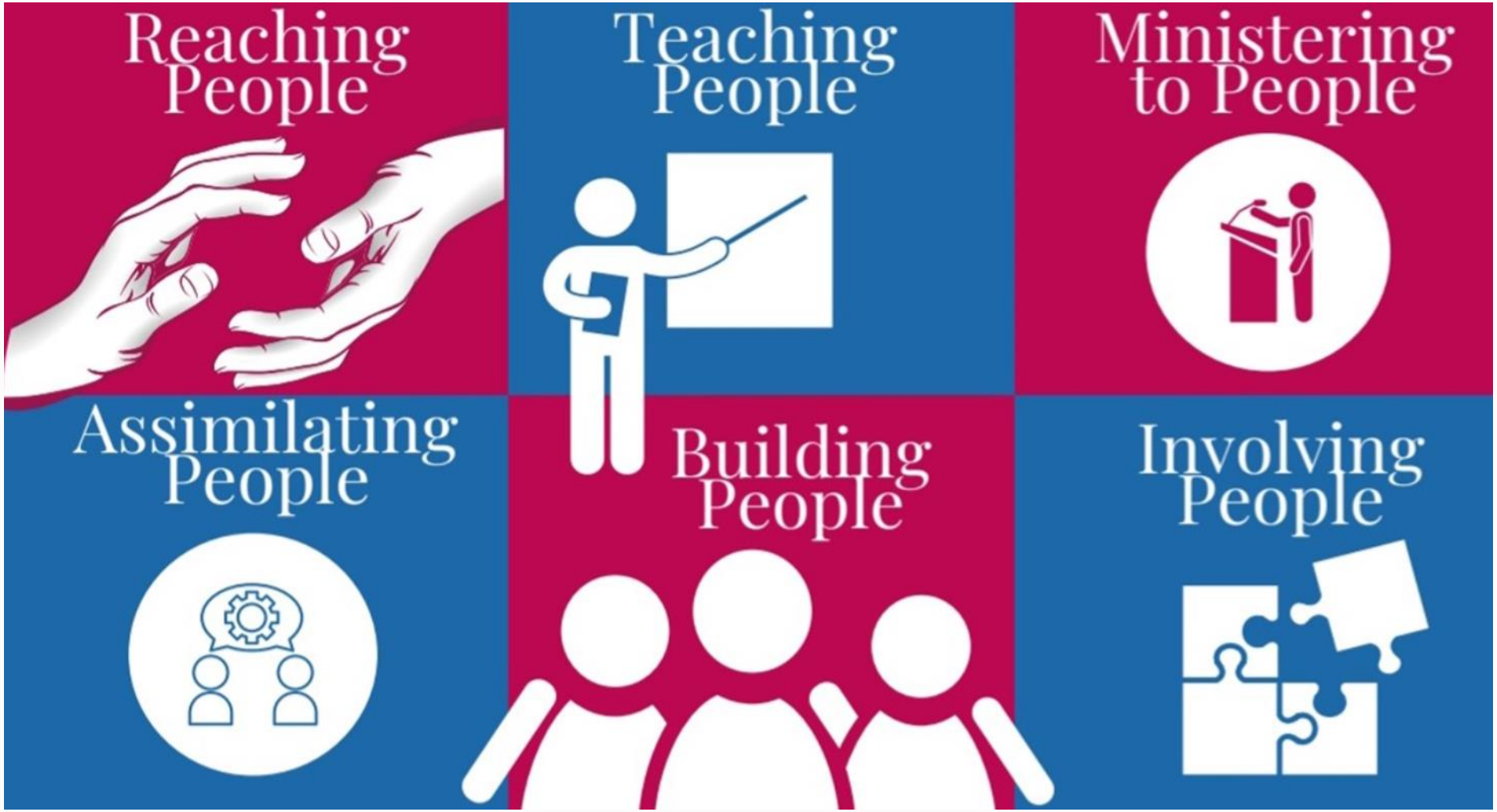

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Sunday School Responsive Reading

Superintendent/Teacher: Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. **Psalm 133:1**

School/Class: But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Hebrews 13:16**

Superintendent/Teacher: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16**

School/Class: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. **Psalm 119:105**

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Sunday School Responsive Reading

Superintendent/Teacher: Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Philippians 2:4**

School/Class: He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. **Proverbs 22:9**

Superintendent/Teacher: Therefore he says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive and gave gifts to men.” **Ephesians 4:8**

School/Class: As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **1 Peter 4:10**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:12**

School/Class: For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. **Romans 12:4**

Superintendent/Teacher: By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:35**

School/Class: For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **Gal. 5:13**

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SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

ALL:

But grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

Lesson 7 October 18, 2026
Our Great High Priest

- **Bible Basis**: Hebrews 4:14-5:10
- **Bible Truth**: God appointed Jesus, the High Priest, as an intercessor on behalf of His people.
- **Memory Verse**: “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.” (Hebrews 4:14)

Lesson Aim

AGREE	APPRECIATE	ASPIRE
That God appointed Jesus as High Priest for the people.	That Jesus, in His humanity, fully understands and identifies with the daily life of all peoples.	To become the kind of leaders who suffer, serve, and obey God’s intentions in the spirit of Jesus.

Background Scriptures: Hebrews 4:14-5:10; Ephesians 4:7-13

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Hebrews 4:14-5:10 KJV

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

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

Lesson 7 October 18, 2026
OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST

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Hebrews 4:14-5:10 KJV

5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:

2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.

3 And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.

4 And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.

6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

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Hebrews 4:14-5:10 KJV

7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Melchisedec. Melchisedec is first referenced in Genesis as the king of Salem and "priest of the most high God" (Genesis 14:17-20). Even though there is no biblical record of Melchisedec's ancestry, he is a real person. Since he lived in Canaan, an area occupied by descendants of Ham, it is quite possible his ancestry is Hamitic, from which Africans descended. His encounter with Abram (who would later be renamed Abraham) was after the defeat of Chedorlaomer and his allies, including the king of Sodom. Abraham's victory was not a single-handed success, but was given by the hand of the Lord who moved on his behalf. King Melchisedec, whose name means "My king is righteousness," brought out bread and wine to celebrate Abram and spoke a blessing over him. In response to God's goodness and honor, Abram gave King Melchisedec, the priest of the Most High God, one-tenth of the spoils of his victory. This is the first biblical instance of tithing.

LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON:

AIM: We will agree that people often have someone who makes special effort on their behalf.

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INTRODUCTION

Hold onto Your Faith

Jesus was chosen by God to be our High Priest – our divine advocate who bridges the gap between heaven and earth. He didn't remain distant from human experience; He stepped into our world, felt our pain, and faced our struggles. Because of that, we can trust that He understands us deeply and offers mercy with power. With this premise in mind, Hebrews was written to encourage Jewish Christians who were struggling to stay faithful in the face of pressure and persecution. Many were tempted to return to old religious traditions, losing sight of the power found in Christ's life, death, and resurrection. The letter also draws sharp contrasts between the Torah and the New Covenant, demonstrating that Jesus is greater than any prophet or priest, which urges believers not to drift but to remain anchored in their faith.

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BIBLE LEARNING

AIM: We will agree that Jesus is our Elder brother and High Priest, seated at the right hand of God with all power and majesty.

I. JESUS THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 4:14-16

Jesus in His role as our High Priest ends the need to petition anyone else for the forgiveness of sins. The writer reiterates to his audience that Jesus as the Son of God is the profession of the faith, and that because of Him, we are able to approach God's throne. Through this passage, Christians are invited to stand strong in this belief in the face of those who disagree. Throughout the opening of Hebrews, the writer makes the point that Jesus is the express image of God, just as in the world a child is the very reflection of his or her father in DNA, behavior, and character (Hebrews 1:3). Because of what Jesus accomplished through His death and resurrection, He is seated at the right hand of the Father with all power and majesty.

Lesson 7 October 18, 2026
Our Great High Priest

I. JESUS THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

The author turns our attention to Jesus as the great High Priest. The adjective "great" (Gk. *megas*, **MEH-gahs**) places Him in a different category from any other high priest; He is the High Priest of all high priests. The phrase: “passed Into the heavens" is similar to what the high Priest did on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:2-3, 17-18). He “passed through“ the curtain of the Temple and entered the Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant was placed. The Holy of Holies was where God resided. Jesus passing into the heavens suggests that He has gone into the very presence of God. This passage has two admonitions: to hold firmly to our faith and approach the throne of grace. Both are possible only through Jesus Christ, our great High Priest. Jesus was "touched with the feeling of our infirmities."

Lesson 7 October 18, 2026
Our Great High Priest

I. JESUS THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

This does not mean that He experienced every circumstance that we have experienced, but that He experienced and felt the same emotions and pain we feel in our own moments of weakness and suffering. As a human, Jesus experienced what we are going through, so we know that when we approach God in prayer, we will receive empathy and understanding. When we pray, we can also approach God with great hope and expectation because we know we will find forgiveness, mercy, and help to overcome our problems. The mention of the "throne of grace' alludes to the area of the Ark of the Covenant that was called the mercy seat, where the high priest sprinkled the blood of the sacrifice to make atonement with God for the people. The author is saying that unlike those other high priests who went into the Holy of Holies trembling, we can come boldly to God because of the work of Jesus, our great High Priest.

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LIGHT ON THE WORD

A major theme of the book of Hebrews is showing Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, in His position in the lives of believers as Savior, Priest, and King through His deity and humanity. It should also be noted that this audience of believers was the second generation of the church, who were enduring persecution for their faith. Hebrews sough to provide sound doctrine for them to follow, to further root them in the faith by teaching Christs superiority over angels and prophets, including Moses, and His position as the great High Priest.

Lesson 7 October 18, 2026
Our Great High Priest

I. JESUS THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 5:1-3

5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:

This section does not discuss all the features of this office, but it highlights those that correspond with what the author wants to say about Jesus as High Priest (vv. 1-4). A high priest must be one of the people in order to fulfill his role effectively. He is taken from among the people to mediate between them and God. These points are essential in understanding Jesus' priesthood. One of the high priest's functions is to "offer both gifts and sacrifices" or make atonement for sin. The high priest must be holy in all that he is and does, when representing a person or people before God. The high priest's life was governed by a particular set of rules regulating his behavior, even down to his apparel when offering sacrifices for the people. The high priest was a representative for the people in "things pertaining to God." Jesus is also holy, pure, and able to represent the people before God, not because of what He wears or by adhering to certain ritual regulations, but because He is holy in His very nature.

I. JESUS THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 5:1-3

2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.

Another function of the priest is to empathize with the people. Even though this is not one of Aaron's specific requirements, it is implied to be his responsibility. The word translated "compassion" is *metriopatheo* (Gk. **meh-tree-oh-pah-THEH-oh**), used only here in the New Testament and meaning to act in moderation or control one's emotion. A high priest is expected to have compassion toward those who are ignorant and "on them that are out of the way" ("going astray," NIV; see also Leviticus 4; Numbers 15:22-29). The high priest should be compassionate toward those who have ignorantly sinned against the Lord. He should neither dismiss sin lightly nor severely condemn the sinner, but he should act in moderation. Jesus is able to have compassion because He was a human, and although He was without sin, He could identify with human weakness.

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I. JESUS THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 5:1-3

3 And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.

The high priest in the Old Testament also had to offer sacrifices for himself (Leviticus 16:11) because, like the people, he had sinned. His task, therefore, was not to condemn sinners, but to stand in solidarity with them. In doing so, he could offer a sacrifice for them. By recognizing his own weakness, he could be deeply compassionate toward and patient with those who were not walking in the truth.

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Our Great High Priest

I. JESUS THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 5:4-5

4 And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

A high priest must be "called" (Gk. *kaloumenos*, **kah-L0O-men-ose**) or selected by God. One cannot just decide to enter into this high office and mediate between God and people. Since sinful humanity has violated God's righteous law, we cannot select the mediator. Only God can decide whom He wants as mediator. Aaron and his sons were appointed as priests by God Himself (Exodus 28:1).

Lesson 7 October 18, 2026
Our Great High Priest

I. JESUS THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST

Hebrews 5:4-5

5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.

Although Christ is compared to the high priest and they are both called by God, Christ is superior. In verse 4, the word "called" indicates that the calling to the office of the high priest is an honor that God gives to whom He chooses. However, a stronger word, *doxazo* (**doke-SAHD-zo**), which means "to glorify, praise, or honor," is used to describe Jesus' becoming High Priest. Christ is glorified or exalted to this office. In verse 5, God's call is expressed in the words of Psalm 2:7 (which was also quoted in Hebrews 1:5).

II. JESUS IS OUR HIGH PRIEST FOREVER

Hebrews 5:6-10

Verse 6 is a quotation of Psalm 10 (which was also quoted in Hebrews 1:13). Unlike Aaron, Melchisedec was both king and priest. No king in Israel functioned as both king and priest. As priest and king Melchisedec had no predecessor nor successor.

Similarly, Christ is our High Priest forever. His perfect work of atonement is perpetual; He cannot be succeeded Jesus Christ is the Son of God, our High Priest and King.

II. JESUS IS OUR HIGH PRIEST FOREVER

Hebrews 5:6-10

7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared.

Verse 7 emphasizes the humanity of Jesus, which was previously mentioned in Hebrews 2:9-18. The phrase "in the days of his flesh" refers to His earthly ministry. The phrase "offered up prayers and supplications" is a reference to Jesus' "High Priestly" prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:40-46). The Gospel accounts clearly describe the fervency and intensity of this prayer. This shows that Jesus can completely empathize with our human condition of weakness. Jesus prayed for deliverance from death, and was heard. God's answer was not that He would escape death, but that He could be resurrected.

II. JESUS IS OUR HIGH PRIEST FOREVER

Hebrews 5:6-10

7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared.

The writer closes this phase of his argument by introducing the order of Melchisedec and makes the link that Jesus is the High Priest forever. He draws this conclusion because in Old Testament Scripture, Melchisedec has no recorded father, his priesthood predates Aaron's, he is also a king and he has no recorded end. Psalm 110:3-5 is a prophetic foreshadow of Christ saying "The LORD has taken an oath and will not break his vow: You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek (v. 4, NLT).

II. JESUS IS OUR HIGH PRIEST FOREVER

Hebrews 5:6-10

8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.

Through His suffering, Jesus learned obedience. This does not mean that He was at any time disobedient, but He learned how to submit in obedience, laying down His will and rights. The writer engages in wordplay between the verb forms for "learned" (Gk. *emathen*, **EH-mah-thehn**) and "suffered" (Gk. *epathen*, **EH-pah-thehn**). In doing so, the writer suggests the falsity of the common understanding that obedience always results in peace and disobedience in suffering. Jesus' life and His death on the Cross prove that obedience can lead to suffering.

II. JESUS IS OUR HIGH PRIEST FOREVER

Hebrews 5:6-10

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.

The phrase "being made perfect" (a single word in Greek; Gk. *teleiotheis*, **teh-lay-oh-THASE**) is not a reference to moral perfection, but the satisfactory completion of Christ's role as High Priest. The same word is used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament to refer to consecration and ordination (Leviticus 8:33; Numbers 3:3). Upon completion of this responsibility, Jesus became the “author" or source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him, just as He learned to obey God. The Greek word for "author” (*aitios*, **EYE-tee-ose**) could also be translated as "cause." The term "eternal salvation" is to be equated with eternal life, which Christ offers to those who believe in Him. Therefore, the reference to eternal salvation here is a description of Christ's work. His work of procuring salvation as our High Priest is eternally powerful – a perpetual priesthood.

II. JESUS IS OUR HIGH PRIEST FOREVER

Hebrews 5:6-10

10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

Verse 10 ends this discussion of Jesus as our High Priest the way it began: with God's calling. It also introduces the new thought "after the order of Melchisedec," which points to His role as both Priest and King. He is a High Priest, but a different kind of high priest. As the pre-incarnate Son of God, He is one with royal authority.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

The High Priest, Set Apart

Under the Mosaic Law, God set apart the high priest to represent Himself to the people and the people to Him. God specifically established the priesthood to hail from the lineage of Aaron; he wore special clothing while functioning as priest. While before the people, he wore a uniform of great grandeur, and each piece represented a facet of his office on behalf of the people. However, when he went before the Lord in the Holy of Holies, he was stripped of that grandeur to represent the people. The high priest entered the Holy of Holies once a year to make atonement of sins for himself and the people. The point the writer makes is that God the Father established His Son as the high priest when He called Him out in His humanity to represent the people by bearing our sins and glorifying His name (v. 5, John 12:28).

BIBLE APPLICATION

AIM: We will evaluate the role of Jesus as our High Priest who is the author of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.

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BIBLE APPLICATION

We have a great High Priest who sympathizes with our weakness. He invites us to come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in the time of need (Hebrews 4:16). Do you have a prayer request that seems too big to ask? Why not pray a bold prayer today?

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STUDENT RESPONSES

AIM: We will validate that followers of Christ know that advocating for the needs of others is obedience to Jesus in action.

STUDENT RESPONSES

It is wonderful to know that in Heaven, we have the best representation that money cannot buy purchased with the blood of Christ. Hebrews 7:25 says "He always lives to intercede and intervene on their behalf [with God]" (AMP).

Praise God that Jesus intercedes for us!

Reflect and share how you can advocate for those whose voices and needs are overlooked or under-represented in your family, job, and in church.

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Prayer

We lift You up, Our High Priest, Jesus,

You have all the authority from God. We are Your vessels to break open the good news of who you are and in whom we can trust. Create in us clean hearts so that we may serve You, Jesus, and tell others of the saving love that You have for all.

In the name of Jesus we pray,

Amen.

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Next Sunday
October 25, 2026

Lesson 8
The High Priest Forever
Hebrews 7:1-3, 19b-28