



Mustard Seed Sunday School Summary for 8 June 2008

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"Jesus Prays for Us"

MEMORY VERSE:

"He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25)

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: (Hebrews 7:20-28)

20 And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest:

21 (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)

22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

23 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

26 For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

28 For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach the children that Jesus loves and prays for His followers.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God promised to send Jesus, the eternal High Priest.
2. Jesus' death provided salvation for everyone who trusts Him.
3. We can know that Jesus is praying to God the Father for us.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For Telling How to Live, write 1 Timothy 2:5 on a dry erase board or chalkboard. Make a cross and a crown from paper. Punch a hole in the cross and use string to hang it on a student.

For Helping to Remember, you will need white or light colored paper, pencils, scissors and markers.

You will also need copies of the Word Search activity for each student.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

Time: about A.D. 67

Place: unknown; but probably sent to Jewish Christians in Italy (Hebrews 13:24)

Hebrews 6 and 7 speak of hope (6:11, 18-19; 7:19). Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, all creation has been hoping for redemption from the bondage of sin (Romans 8:21-24).

The law, ceremonial practices, and sacrifices could not redeem mankind. They all pointed to the Jews' hope of a Redeemer to pay for sin and establish a never-ending kingdom of righteousness. The Jews as a nation did not accept Jesus as their hope. The book of Hebrews deals with the confusion of those Jewish believers who did place their hope in yet and yet were trying to reconcile the old and the new.

When God gave Moses the law, He established the priesthood through the tribe of Levi and family of Aaron. Jesus is a high priest, but not a part of the Aaronic priesthood and this confused many believers. How could he be a high priest and not be descended from Aaron? The writer of Hebrews shows that Jesus is a priest after the order of Melchizedek – mentioned in Genesis 14:18-20 during the time of Abraham – and that this order was greater than Abraham and the future Levitical priests.

TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:

1. Why did God's people offer sacrifices as part of their worship?

For hundreds of years, God's people, the Jews, offered sacrifices in their worship. God had commanded them to do this. The people would bring a lamb or other animal to the priest. After it was killed, it would be offered to God to pay for their sin.

God had said that blood must be shed to provide forgiveness for sin (Leviticus 17:11). Only the priest could offer the sacrifice; the people could not do it for themselves. When the priest made the sacrifice, he prayed to God, asking Him to forgive the sin of the people.

2. Who served as high priests for God's people?

Aaron and his sons were the first priests. Aaron was the brother of Moses and a descendant of the tribe of Levi. He was later consecrated and anointed as high priest (Leviticus 8). When Aaron and his descendants had sons, they became priests. These priests eventually died, and their sons took their places. Priests were chosen not because they were godly men but because they were from Aaron's family. This is usually referred to as the Aaronic priesthood or the Levitical priesthood.

3. Who is our great High Priest?

God made a promise, or an oath, that He would send a Priest who would never die. This Priest would live forever and always be the Priest. This great High Priest would always be with God the Father. Because He would never die, He could always pray for those who believed in Him.

Jesus is the great High Priest. He is a fitting high priest because He is holy, without a sinful nature, morally undefiled and separate from sinners.

4. How is Jesus' sacrifice better than the priests before Him?

Jesus is far better than the high priests who came from Aaron. These high priests had to offer sacrifices for their own sins as well as for the sins of the Jewish people. Jesus is holy, without sin. That is why He could offer Himself as the sacrifice for our sin.

The Jewish high priests made many sacrifices. Jesus died once and for all for our sin. Jesus was the perfect, sinless sacrifice. His death paid for all sin forever. He put an end to animal sacrifices.

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross has made salvation from sin available to anyone. His blood paid for all sin. It will never be used up or come to an end.

5. What is intercession and how does Jesus fulfill this for believers?

Intercession simply means that Jesus is praying for us. He is interceding, or praying, to God for us. When a person asks God to forgive his sin, Jesus is right there beside God the Father. He asks the Father to forgive that sin. Jesus can do this because He already paid for our sin with His blood. Christ will always live to pray for us.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Point to the verse you wrote on the board – I Timothy 2:5 which says, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

There is only one person that can go between God and us. Jesus is the only priest who can make us right with God. He is in the middle.

Use the following activity to help your students understand. Choose three children to stand before the class. Place the crown on the first to represent God and the cross on the second to represent Jesus. The third child is a sinner like all of us. He cannot come to God. He is sinful. (Stand the first child several feet to the side.) God is separate from sin. He is holy. So how can God accept this sinner?

Jesus paid for sin by shedding His blood on the cross. He is the Mediator – the one in the middle, between God and us. (Place the second child between the first two).

Jesus is the only way for people to get to God. (Have the three join hands.) Jesus is our High Priest. When we confess that we are sinners, Jesus asks God to forgive us. God forgives our sin because Jesus' blood paid the penalty for it.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Give a sheet of paper to each student. Have them fold the paper in half. They should place their left hand on the paper, putting the left side of their hand on the fold. Have them trace their hand and then cut it out, being careful not to cut the folded edge. They can draw lines for fingers and fingernails and on the inside write these words: "Jesus Prays for Us."

A word search with key words from the lesson text is included at the end of this summary.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25).

Jesus is able to give eternal salvation to everyone. Anyone can be saved. No one is too bad.

There is no limit to how many can be saved. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world. He is the only way to God. He lives forever.

Jesus is praying for us. When we repent and confess our sin, He asks God the Father to give us eternal salvation. Jesus prays for those who are believers. He prays that we will obey His Word and live righteously.

CONCLUSION:

The Hebrews of Bible times were very familiar with the priests who offered sacrifices in the temple. Since Moses' time, the priest had served as intercessors before God for the people.

In this week's text, the writer to the Hebrews portrayed Christ as the ultimate intercessor, far superior to the priests of the old covenant. He is timeless and sinless. His work of self-sacrifice on the cross is a completed work that results in complete salvation for those who trust in Him.

Christ is not like the priests of old, whose death ended their priesthood ministry. Just the opposite took place with Christ because it was His death that made it possible for Him to become our High Priest. Christ is our High Priest forever and always prays for His followers.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "Jesus Forgives Us" and focuses on our redemption through the death of Christ on the cross. Read Hebrews 9:11 – 10:18.

Lesson Summarized by:

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WORD SEARCH
"Jesus Prays For Us"
(Hebrews 7:20-28)

Find each of the following words.

HOLY

SACRIFICE

UNCHANGABLE

INTERCESSION

HARMLESS

BETTER

UTTERMOST

UNDEFILED

CONSECRATE

OFFER

COVENANT

OATH

PRIEST

FOREVER

PRAY

SAVE

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

Answer Key for Word Search

“Jesus Prays for Us”

(Hebrews 7:20-28)

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