

LIFE Group Discussion Questions
Hebrews 7:1-28 – Who Was Melchizedek?
Week of Nov. 22-28, 2009

Summary – We now get to the topic that our writer felt he couldn't get to earlier because of their immaturity, and that's the subject of the priesthood of Melchizedek and how it relates to Jesus as our great high priest. The big idea is that Jesus is a high priest of the order of Melchizedek, far superior to the old priesthood of Aaron and his progeny. Now this passage has great relevance to those of a Jewish background. For the rest of us, it's a bit murky. I'm not as concerned that you get all the details down about Melchizedek and Jesus. I'd prefer we "keep it simple stupid." The main message: priests facilitate access to God. We cannot reach God on our own (no more than we can access the President of the US on our own). Jesus is the one true priest that makes access to God actual. Jesus, and Jesus only, gives us access to God, saves us to the uttermost, and intercedes for us. Those benefits we can understand, and apply.

General questions:

1. What grabbed your attention the most?
2. What was the big idea?
3. Any questions that arose for you?

Specifics:

4. What's the purpose of a priest?
5. If you grew up in the church, what role did the priest or pastor play in your life? Did you have a good experience or a bad experience with priests or pastors in your life?
6. Let's review the story of Melchizedek. What happened? You may want to refer back to Genesis 14:15-20.
7. How is Melchizedek a "type" of Christ? (a type is a symbol or foreshadowing of a greater reality to come)
8. What contemporary human problem(or problems) does the priesthood of Jesus address - and solve?
9. Let's review the main takeaways from the message:
 - a. Jesus gets us to God
 - b. Jesus delivers us to the uttermost – as far out to the end of our lives and as far down to the depths of our being
 - c. Jesus intercedes for us
10. Now let's consider personal apps from these takeaways:
 - a. How does (a) apply to us?
 - b. How does (b) apply? Where do I need deliverance today? What "below-the – surface" needs for deliverance are there that have been neglected? How will I obtain that deliverance?
 - c. What part of my life does (c) relate to? How does Jesus intercession encourage or instruct me?

Prayer suggestion: Spend some time praising Jesus for His attributes as gleaned from this chapter.

Rabbit Trail of the week: What does this passage teach us about tithing? (really not much-it's interesting that this is a pre-Mosaic Law reference. Some say the tithe is obsolete, others that it is still a law to be obeyed by Christians. What does your pastor believe? Hint: it's in the Inq. Class manual.)