

Dig Deeper @Home – “Alive and Ascended”

Complement to lesson on 3/23/2025 – “A Permanent Priesthood”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. Imagine being a priest from the Old Testament. What would you love about it? Hate?
2. When asked to explain the gospel, would you include the fact that Jesus is ascended and reigning? What difference does this make to the “good news?”

MEMORIZE – 1 Thessalonians 5: 9-11

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

READ – Hebrews 5

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
 - a. What did the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read?
 - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
 - c. What in these verses is interesting? What is confusing?
 - d. What are the verses revealing about God? What are the verses saying about people?
 - e. In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. In what ways is Jesus like the high priests that came before Him? In what ways is He unique?
3. What is the significance of Jesus being called a high priest “in the order of Melchizedek?” Who is this Melchizedek guy, anyway? (Hints: Genesis 14:17-24, Psalm 110, Hebrews 7:1-3,15-19) Need more help? Check out www.gotquestions.org/Melchizedek.html
4. Reread verses 11-14.
 - a. How do they make you feel? (Encouraged? Convicted? Condemned? Inspired?)
 - b. In what ways might you have grown “dull of hearing?”
 - c. What steps are you taking to move from “milk to meat?”
 - d. How is the Holy Spirit calling you to respond?

EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – Act Like a Priest

The Bible teaches that all believers in Christ are priests. Read 1 Peter 2:4-12 to see this for yourself. Spend some time, individually or as a group, considering what this means for your life:

- a. What are the spiritual sacrifices you are called to offer? (v5)
- b. What areas do you need to grow in holiness? (v9)
- c. Do you need to come out of the darkness and into the light in any way? (v9)
- d. How connected are you to the people of God? (v10)
- e. What passions of the flesh are currently waging war against your soul? (v11)
 - i. Ask a brother or sister in Christ to pray for you!
- f. Is your conduct among unbelievers honorable? (v12)
- g. Do your good deeds bring glory to God? (v12)

SING (or listen to)

Arise, My Soul, Arise – Mennonite Hymnal #244

Awesome God - <https://youtu.be/7LJ8lmofX0E?si=6siFAtbksJYWfxxX>

Holy Forever - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkHgXKemCRk>

Because He Lives - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBvU7arNhQs>

Listen: Bloodlines / Holy - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FzMAgzT_Wa8

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us, for this week.

Sending prayer based on Hebrews 4:14-16:

God, we are eternally grateful that we do not have a great high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Reassure our hearts that we may draw near Your throne of grace with confidence to find mercy and grace in our times of need!