

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class
FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Hebrews 7:20-28

Remember, the “answers” provided below are not intended to be complete. They are to give you a bit of guidance on key elements to highlight in the discussion time and to help clarify the intent of some questions in case it wasn't initially clear. Not every question has an “answer” provided. Consider the comments more as insight and guidance rather than right vs wrong answers.

Remember to ask follow up questions, such as “Explain that further,” or “Who else has an answer?” to prompt additional input from the class or “Where do you see that in the text?” to remind everyone to be getting their answers from the Scriptures.

❖ Opening Prayer (3 min)

❖ Discussion (52 min)

Read Hebrews 7:20-28.

1. How does this final section of Hebrews 7 relate to the discussions of Melchizedek in the rest of the chapter?

The author has talked about the eternal, superior nature of Jesus' priesthood. This final section builds upon that foundation, contending that Jesus was appointed by an oath from God. We learn more about the superiority of Jesus' priesthood.

2. What didn't the Levitical priesthood have that Jesus' priesthood does?

The guarantee of an oath.

3. Where have we heard this language of oath before in Hebrews? What does that tell us about the significance of the oath here?

Hebrews 6:13-20. The oath is a certainty. Whatever God swears by an oath is a guaranteed thing. He swears by himself that this thing is true. When Jesus is made priest by an oath, the eternal nature of his oath is a guarantee from God. The OT priests are temporary by design, but Jesus' priesthood is eternal.

4. For what purpose does the author cite Psalm 110:4 here?

This is the oath that God gave, establishing Christ as an eternal high priest.

5. Who swore the oath to establish Jesus as our great high priest?

God the Father.

6. How can we have confidence that Jesus is our eternal high priest?

This is an oath made by God. This is not some fallible human saying this, but God himself. The Lord has sworn this and will not change his mind. Humans can waver back and forth, but God's oath demonstrated the utter certainty of his promise.

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7. In what ways is this new covenant, with Jesus as the guarantee, a "better covenant?"

This new covenant is eternal, guaranteed by an oath from God. Through this covenant, people will be reconciled to God.

The old covenant is temporary, weak, and unable to ultimately satisfy God.

8. Read verses 23-25. What words and themes appear prominently in these verses?

Permanently, forever, always = the eternal nature of Christ's priesthood. He is still alive, continuing forever, and thus his priesthood is guaranteed. Because of this, he will always be able to save everyone who comes to the Father through Him.

9. Contrast the former priests and Jesus in verses 23 and 24. In what specific ways are the Levitical priests and Jesus different from each other?

Former priests – "greater numbers".....they all died.....temporary priesthood

Jesus – there is no other priest besides him...."continues forever".....eternal priesthood

10. What is Jesus able to do as a result of his permanent priesthood, according to verse 25?

"...save forever those who draw near to God through Him"

11. How is he able to save those who "draw near to God through Him?"

"because he always lives to make intercession for them."

People are saved because Jesus makes intercession between the Father and them.

12. How does Jesus "make intercession" for us? Why is this necessary for us to be saved?

He is the way by which we receive forgiveness of sins. We have access to the Father through Him. He is the intermediary between us and the Father. We could not be saved unless we have some way to access a restored relationship with God. Jesus is that way.

13. What other Scriptures speak to Jesus interceding the behalf of believers?

1 John 2:1....1 Timothy 2:5....Romans 8:34

14. What feature of Jesus' priesthood is the author giving specific mention in these three verses?

The eternality of His priesthood.

15. What does the author mean in saying "it was fitting for us to have such a high priest?" Why was it "fitting?"

It's "fitting"/appropriate/proper because we needed a high priest. We would not be reconciled to go without Jesus the high priest offering his sacrifice for the sins of mankind.

16. List the 5 characteristics of the kind of high priest we need, according to verse 26.

holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens

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17. Why are those characteristics necessary for a high priest who would make intercession for us?

Because we are none of those things. Any high priest that would make complete, once for all intercession, needs to have those qualities. Only a sinless, holy high priest could satisfy the wrath of God against sin.

18. What doesn't our fitting high priest need to do, unlike the Levitical priests?

"offer up sacrifices"

19. What "once for all" sacrifice did Jesus give?

Himself.

20. Whom does the Law appoint as high priest?

Weak, temporary men.

21. Who is appointed by the word of the oath?

A Son who is made perfect forever.

22. As you read over verses 20-28 again, how would you summarize the argument of this passage?

Answers will vary.

❖ **Closing Prayer (5 min)**