A PRIEST | GOD’S GOOD PURPOSE

WEEK 9: GENESIS 14:17-24

ANCHOR PASSAGE.

Consider using these passages as the underpinning for your group’s conversation. Encourage your group to read and pray through these Scripture passages prior to your group meeting and in the days following.

**Genesis 14:18-20**

**18**And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) **19**And he blessed him and said,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,  
    Possessor of heaven and earth;  
**20**and blessed be God Most High,  
    who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”

**Hebrews 7:1-3**

**1**For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, **2**and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. **3**He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

**Helpful Passages:**

* Hebrews 7-8
* Psalm 110:4
* Isaiah 9:6-7

THEMES.

The following themes trace the high-level movement of this week’s Scripture passage. They may help you begin to frame the direction of your group’s conversation.

1. God is faithful to keep the promise of blessing to Abram made in Genesis 12:1-3 by preserving his life in battle and allowing a foretaste of the promise to *“Bless those who bless you*.”[[1]](#footnote-1) (Gen. 14:20)
2. Melchizedek is contrasted with the King of Sodom, who does not recognize God and receives no blessing himself.[[2]](#footnote-2) (Gen. 14:22-24)
3. Melchizedek is a foreshadow of the great high priest to come-Jesus, who reigns eternally as King of peace and righteousness and is himself our Great High Priest. (Is. 9:6-7; Heb. 7-8)

QUESTIONS.

Feel free use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of the week’s Scriptures.

1. Melchizedek is both a priest (mediator between God and man) and a king. How is Jesus the perfect fulfillment of both a high priest and a king?

Melchizedek’s name translates to “King of righteousness” and his title, King of Salem, translates to “King of peace.” Jesus is described a King of Kings, ruling over all creation (Ephesians 1:21, Colossians 1:15-18), and he is specially named for his peace and righteousness in Isaiah 9:6-7. Melchizedek is described as a high priest and Jesus, as described in Hebrews, functions as our perfect high priest as he mediates man to God giving us perfect access to the presence of the Lord (Hebrews 7-8).

1. How does God keeping his promise to Abram here in this text and throughout Genesis encourage you today?
2. Abram gives 10% of his spoils to Melchizedek (Gen. 14:20). Why is this significant? Read Hebrews 7:4-10. How does Abram’s example as told in Genesis 14 and Hebrews 7 challenge you to steward your own treasure?

Abram’s giving to Melchizedek demonstrates his reverence for God through the man Melchizedek. It’s also an acknowledgement that everything Abram received in battle was provided by God and a pledge of continued trust in God’s benevolent hand.

1. Abraham shows integrity and faith by refusing to accept goods from the King of Sodom (Gen. 14:22-24). Why did he choose to refuse them? How does his example challenge you?

“This was both a declaration of his allegiance to the Lord, and a testimony to the Lord’s ability to provide the needs of his servant.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

1. How does Jesus’ role as our great High Priest comfort you today? Why might that truth motivate your personal mission?

PRAY.

* Give thanks together that Jesus our High Priest and King has reconciled us to God.
* Share areas you are struggling to trust the Lord (it could be in his promises or in provision). Take time to pray for those needs.
* Pray for those who do not know Jesus as their King or High Priest.

1. Andrew E. Steinmann, *Genesis*, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries. (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2019), 162. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid., 164. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Joyce G. Baldwin, *The Message of Genesis 12-50*, The Bible Speaks Today. (Downer’s Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1986), 48. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)