

***Jesus is our High Priest - Hebrews 4:14-16***  
**Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

**Notes from the Sermon**

The concept of having an earthly High Priest is foreign to us as Christians. Even the Jewish faith has not had a High Priest since the destruction of the temple in 70 A.D. It's like much of the Old Testament in that by study of the concept during those times, we better see the richness of the New Testament when it references the Old Testament. That's certainly the case in today's passage.

If you study the Old Testament the covenant of Priesthood was formally established through the lineage of Aaron, the brother of Moses. The role was created by God to have a human mediator between God and his people. The priests represented God to the people and brought the needs of the people before God. The priests were to come from only the tribe of Levi. The priests were selected, not elected.

There were many priests in the system but there was only one High Priest. The High Priest looked over the other priests and some of his responsibilities were unique to his position of authority. As part of the job of High Priest, they were to make sacrifices to atone for the sins of the people. Once a year the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies to make sacrifices on behalf of the people. A bull was slaughtered to atone for the sins of the Priest and for the sins of his household. Blood from the bull was sprinkled in front of the mercy seat within the Holy of Holies. Next, a goat was sacrificed as a sin offering for the people, for the nation of Israel. The goat's blood was also sprinkled in front of the mercy seat.

This annual service was called Yom Kippur, which translates Day of Atonement. Why did God ordain this annual ceremony? Because it brings together opposing realities that exist. God is Holy, and mankind is sinful. God is merciful and God is perfectly just. The debt of sin cannot be forgiven without Atonement. Without these sacrifices the people did not have access to God.

The book of Hebrews introduces us to the reality that the role of High Priest has been transformed into an eternal position since Jesus has passed through the heavenlies and is now seated on a throne where he will forever serve as mediator between God and man. As followers of Jesus we are invited to draw near to God and have a Great High Priest who is able to sympathize with us in our weaknesses and struggles in this fallen world. While he has passed through the heavenlies, he does not leave us to helplessly contend in this world on our own. He has been appointed to and desires to intercede on our behalf.

## **Bible Reading for the Week**

### Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Numbers 13	Numbers 14	Numbers 15	Numbers 16	Numbers 17	Numbers 18	Numbers 19

Reading from this past week: Hebrews 4:14-16

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Deuteronomy 18:15-22, Luke 4:16-30

## **Family Worship**

Song - *Cornerstone*

<https://youtu.be/FI15U2ifYzo>

### Gospel Project

Unit: Encounters with Jesus

Story: God loves all people

Big Picture Question: How do we know God loves us?

Answer: We can know that God loves us because He gave us Jesus to forgive the sins of the world.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13

### New City Catechism

Question #18: Will God allow our disobedience and idolatry to go unpunished?

Answer: No, God is righteously angry with our sins and will punish them both in this life, and in the life to come.

Verse: Ephesians 5:5-6

### Scripture

Hebrews 4:14-16

- The priests role was to be the mediator between God and the people in the Old Testament. What does this mean? What are some of the things they did to fulfill their religious role?
- How does the High Priest's ministry on the Day of Atonement point forward to the work of Jesus for us?
- How is Jesus the ultimate fulfillment for the ministry of the High Priest?
- Why was it important for our High Priest to be like us in every way? Why was it important for Jesus to be a High Priest without sin?

### Prayer

\*Pray that we would experience the presence of Jesus as our Great High Priest.

\*Pray for the Genesis Kids and youth group leaders and workers.