GOT THEOLOGY? | JESUS IS BETTER SERIES

Study 2: Jesus, Our Perfect High Priest

Growing in Spiritual Maturity and Confidence in Christ
Hebrews 4:14-7:28 | Approximately 35-39 minutes

Study goal: Understand why Jesus is our perfect and eternal High Priest, how He gives us confidence to approach God, and why spiritual maturity and perseverance matter.

Before you begin: Have an ESV or NASB Bible ready. Read each passage before answering the questions. You may complete the study alone or discuss it with a group.

Introduction: Who Stands Between Us and God?

Have you ever felt unworthy to approach God? Under the Old Covenant, priests represented the people before God and offered sacrifices. Those priests were imperfect and needed forgiveness themselves. Jesus is different: He is the sinless Son of God, our eternal High Priest, and the One through whom we approach the Father.

1. Approaching God with Confidence - 7 minutes

READ: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-10 (ESV or NASB)

Jesus understands human weakness and temptation, yet He remained without sin. Because He is truly human, He can sympathize with our struggles; because He is the sinless Son of God, He is uniquely qualified to serve as our High Priest.

Confident prayer is not confidence in ourselves. It is confidence in our Savior. We can bring our fears, failures, and needs to God because of Christ, not because we have earned His favor.

Reflect and respond

1. What does Jesus' sympathy for our weakness teach you about His priesthood?

2. What keeps you from approaching God confidently in prayer?

2. Growing Beyond the Basics - 7 minutes

READ: Hebrews 5:11-14; 6:1-3 (ESV or NASB)

The author challenges readers who have become sluggish in their understanding of God's Word. The comparison between milk and solid food is a call to continued growth, not a criticism of new believers.

Spiritual maturity is more than gathering biblical information. It involves practiced discernment, obedience, and allowing Scripture to shape our choices. Stunted spiritual growth leaves us vulnerable.

Reflect and respond

1. What is the difference between knowing Scripture and applying it?

2. Where do you need to grow beyond the basics?

3. A Warning to Persevere - 6 minutes

READ: Hebrews 6:4-12 (ESV or NASB)

Hebrews 6 contains a serious warning about falling away. Christians differ over whether the passage describes genuine believers who abandon faith or people who have experienced the Christian community without saving faith. The text calls readers to take rejection of Christ seriously.

The author also offers encouragement in verses 9-12, urging diligence, faith, and patience. The aim is not constant fear but steadfast trust. Faith is active, continuing trust in God.

Reflect and respond

1. Why should we take biblical warnings seriously?

2. What does perseverance look like in your daily life?

4. Melchizedek and Christ's Eternal Priesthood - 8 minutes

READ: Genesis 14:18-20; Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 7:1-28 (ESV or NASB)

Melchizedek appears in Genesis as king of Salem and priest of God Most High. Hebrews uses this encounter and Psalm 110 to explain a priesthood distinct from the Levitical line.

Levitical priests served for limited lifetimes. Jesus, from the tribe of Judah, holds an enduring priesthood because He lives forever. He does not need to offer sacrifices for His own sins; He offered Himself once for all.

Job 9:32-35 expresses the longing for someone to stand between humanity and God. Jesus fulfills our need for a perfect mediator. He is not merely a better earthly priest; He is our eternal High Priest.

Reflect and respond

1. How is Jesus' priesthood different from the Levitical priesthood?

2. How does knowing Jesus intercedes for you change your prayers?

5. Hope That Anchors Us - 4 minutes

READ: Hebrews 6:19-20; 7:23-28 (ESV or NASB)

An anchor brings stability in uncertainty. Our hope rests not in favorable circumstances or personal achievement, but in Jesus Christ, who continues to intercede for those who draw near to God through Him.

Becoming a confident Christian does not mean becoming a perfect Christian. It means depending more completely on our perfect Savior.

Reflect and respond

1. Where are you tempted to anchor your confidence besides Christ?

Putting Faith into Practice - 3 minutes

• Confident prayer: Bring a struggle before God this week instead of allowing shame to silence you.

• Intentional growth: Identify one biblical topic to study more deeply.

• Persevering faith: Remember Christ's intercession when difficulties arise.

Personal Commitment

This week I will:

Closing Reflection

Am I placing my confidence in my own spiritual performance, or in the perfect priesthood of Jesus Christ?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us Jesus Christ, our perfect and eternal High Priest. Thank You that through Him we can approach Your throne of grace with confidence. Help us grow in wisdom, discernment, and obedience. Strengthen our faith when life is difficult and remind us that our hope is anchored in Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Our confidence before God comes from Jesus Christ, our eternal High Priest, who understands our weakness, intercedes for us, and provides access to the Father.

Helping believers move beyond knowing about God to truly knowing Him.