

WONDERS

Title: **THE WONDER CALLED PRIESTHOOD**

Date: May 5, 2024

Leader's Tips:

- S - Sensitivity with others. No one should feel left out.
- P - Participation is encouraged during discussion.
- A - Acknowledge guests. Make them feel welcome.
- C - Confidentiality is key. What is shared stays in the group.
- E - Encourage the group to pray for one another.

WORSHIP: (15 mins)

Venue Option 1: Home gatherings

Sing one or two songs or play a song from You Tube.

Venue Option 2: Public place (school, café, park, etc.) or Via Online, ask, "What is your "high" or "your "low" this past week?"

WELCOME:(15 mins): Remember I.W.C.

I - Introduce yourself.

W - Welcome guests/first-time visitors.

C - Cheer up (say a word of encouragement) someone within the group.

Memory Verse for the week: 1 Timothy 2:5 (NIV)

Ice-breaker Question: "Growing up, were there times when conflicts arose and you found yourself in a position where you helped mediate or resolve these disagreements between the opposing parties? Would you share a situation?"

WORD (30–45 mins)

Q: What is your understanding of the term "priesthood?"

Priesthood - refers to some sort of leadership as father or chief of a family or tribe.

What are the roles of the priests?

Lesson proper:

1. MEDIATOR— Read Hebrews 5:1

In the OT, God appointed the priests to be the *mediator* of his relationship to men. God appointed them to represent His people; offering sacrifices for their sins and bringing their needs. In the NT, Jesus is the mediator between God and men, the only one who is the perfect, one-time sacrifice who offered Himself as the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world. His very own life in exchange for ours (eternal life in Him) and for the many sons and daughters who gave their lives to Him.

Read 1 Timothy 2:5

Q: Can you share a specific example from your life when you've acted as a peacemaker? What was the situation, and how did you approach it?

2. SYMPATHIZER & INTERCESSOR

Q: What is your idea of an intercessor?

Intercessor—standing on someone's behalf before God

Q: Can you share a specific example from your life when you've acted as a sympathizer and supporting someone who is going through a challenging time?

As an intercessor, the priest sympathizes with God's people with regards to their needs, sins committed, family disputes and other situations they are in. In the NT, Jesus intercedes for His children forever on behalf of God's people. He continues to do so for those who are far away from Him as He is seated at the right hand of the Father interceding on our behalf against the accusations of Satan.

Read Romans 8:34, 1 John 2:1, Hebrews 7:25.

Q: How do you feel about the truth that Jesus Himself is praying for you?

3. OFFERS SACRIFICES & BURNT OFFERINGS

In the OT, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest will need God's forgiveness for His sins before he could enter the Most Holy Place. When he has completed purifying himself through the animal sacrifice, then he is ready to represent the people before God.

Read Hebrews 10:11-14 In the NT, Jesus' blood shed on Calvary is not a substitute, but a permanent sacrifice. The body and blood of Jesus, who was without sin, made an offering that satisfied God once and for all.

Q: In what practical ways can we express in our daily lives our gratitude to our Lord Jesus' for His sacrifice on the cross that led to our forgiveness?

Conclusion:

Jesus is our Mediator, Sympathizer, Intercessor and the only sacrifice for our redemption. Just like the priests that represent the people to God, why don't we reach out for those who don't know Jesus yet?

Q: What is your take-away from the discussion? Partner with someone in prayer.

WORK: The Challenge (15 mins.)

P- Pray for one another. Ask "what can I pray for you?" (7mins.)

R- Remind to invite a friend on the next gathering.

A- Apply the message during the week.

Y- Yearn to share your faith with some