

Jesus – our High Priest

Readers’ theater version

CHARACTERS: 26, doubling possible

RUN TIME: Approximately 9 minutes

BASED ON: Hebrews 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10

FK reading level: 4.5

A: We have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens

B: Jesus the Son of God

A: We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses

B: But we have one who has been tempted in every way

A: Just as we are

A & B: (*in unison*) Yet was without sin.

C: Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God

D: And to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins

C: He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray

D: Since he himself is subject to weakness.

C: This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins,

C & D: (*in unison*) As well as for the sins of the people.

E: No one takes this honor upon himself;

E & F: (*in unison*) He must be called by God

F: Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest.

E: But God said to him

VOICE OF GOD: "You are my Son; today I have become your Father.

You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

E: During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death

F: He was heard because of his reverent submission.

E: Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered

F: And, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

E: He was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

G: Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High.

H: Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever.

G: Perfection was not attained through the Levitical priesthood

H: There was a need for another priest to come—one in the order of Melchizedek

G: One who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the

G & H: (*in unison*) power of an indestructible life.

I: Because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.

J: Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him

I: He always lives to intercede for them.

J: Such a high priest meets our need

I: One who is holy, blameless, pure,

J: Set apart from sinners,

I & J: (*in unison*) Exalted above the heavens.

K: Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day

L: He sacrificed for our sins once for all when he offered himself.

K: He is the Son, who has been made perfect

L & K: (*in unison*) forever.

L: Jesus sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven

K: The ministry Jesus has received is as superior to all others

L: He is a superior mediator

K: His priesthood is founded on better promises.

N: Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices

M: So it was necessary for Jesus to have something to offer

N: Under the first covenant only the high priest entered the inner room

M: And that only once a year

N: And never without blood

M: Which he offered for himself and for the sins

M & N: (*in unison*) The people had committed in ignorance.

N: But those gifts and sacrifices were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper.

P: When Christ came as high priest he did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves

O: But he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood

O & P: (*in unison*) Obtaining eternal redemption.

P: Christ offered himself unblemished to God

O: His blood cleanses our consciences from acts that lead to death

O & P: (*in unison*) So that we may serve the living God!

R: Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Q: Christ is the mediator of a new covenant

R: He has died as a ransom to set us free from sin.

Q: Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one

R: He entered heaven itself, now to appear for us

Q & R: (*in unison*) In God's presence.

T: He did not enter heaven to offer himself again and again

S: The way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own.

T: Christ has appeared once for all to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

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S: Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people

T: It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

S: Therefore, Christ came into the world and said:

JESUS: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;
with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you were not pleased.

W: Then he said

JESUS: Here I am. I have come to do your will, O God.

V: Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties

W: Again and again he offers the same sacrifices

V & W: (*in unison*) Which can never take away sins.

W: But when Jesus, our priest, had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins

V: He sat down at the right hand of God.

W: By one sacrifice he has made perfect forever

V & W: (*in unison*) We who are being made holy.

V: Our sins and lawless acts God will remember no more.

W: We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus,

X: Since we have a great priest over the house of God

Y: Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith

X: Having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience

Y: Having our bodies washed with pure water.

X: Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess

Y & X: (*in unison*) For he who promised is faithful.

A, B, C, D, E, and F: (*in unison*) Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

G, H, I, J, K & L: (*in unison*) Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing

M, N, O, P, Q, & R: (*in unison*) For in just a very little while

S, T, V, W, X & Y: (*in unison*) He who is coming will come and will not delay.

PRODUCTION NOTES:

If you have internet access, the following free games are available for review of these chapters in Hebrews.

Hebrews 1 - 8 Star Saver Game (similar to Wheel of Fortune)

<http://www.quia.com/hm/439845.html>

Hebrews 5 - 8 Rags to Riches (Similar to Who wants to be a Millionaire)

<http://www.quia.com/rr/370190.html>

Hebrews 9 & 10 (matching)

<http://www.quia.com/jg/1441829.html>

Hebrews Jeopardy!

<http://www.quia.com/cb/441816.html>