



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

There are four components to a healthy group: Word, prayer, relationships, and reaching out.

In this guide, we will study Hebrews 14, 1 Peter 2, and Romans 15 using inductive Bible study, which has three components: observation, interpretation, and application.

As the leader of your group, feel free to use whatever parts of this guide most help you do this!

CONNECT BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING

- What's the first thing you'll start doing when the weather gets consistently warmer?
 - What comes to mind when you hear the word "priest"?
 - Discipleship check-in:
 - Have you prayed and read your Bible consistently the past week?
 - Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?
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INTRODUCTION

Christ's offices—prophet, priest, and king—are kind of like his job descriptions. These are jobs Jesus carries out in God's plan of salvation. But that's not all. His job descriptions inform our job descriptions as Christians. Each office of Christ relates to a role his people are called to carry out. Today we'll look at Christ's office as priest and what it means to be God's priestly people.

The role of a priest was more familiar to the original audience of the New Testament than it is to us. But when we grasp what Jesus has done for us as our Priest, we'll begin to grasp what it looks like for us to be his priestly people.

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Our High Priest

READ: Hebrews 4:14-16

DISCUSS:

- The distinct job of a high priest in Israel was to go into the most holy place in the Tabernacle or Temple once a year. There the high priest would offer an animal's blood to atone for Israel's sin. His job was designed to keep Israel dwelling with God in a state of reconciliation. But Jesus is the "great high priest." In other words, he's greater than Israel's high priests from the past. Looking at Hebrews 4:14-16 (and you can glance through 5:1-10), in what ways is Jesus greater than the other high priests?
- **Answer:** Put very simply, as our great high priest Jesus brings us to God. He's the reason we can "draw near to [God's] throne" (4:16). In a mysterious yet glorious way, because Christ is at the right hand of God, we are there too, "seated with him in heavenly places" (Ephesians 2:6). Because of our great high priest, we are now in fellowship with God, but in an even greater way than Israel was in the days of the Tabernacle and Temple.

Priestly People

READ: 1 Peter 2:9 & Romans 15:15-16

DISCUSS:

- Peter talks of a "royal priesthood" who "proclaim the excellencies of God." Paul describes his "priestly service" as bringing new Christians to God like an offering. Bringing, declaring, confessing—these are the actions of priests. How do these descriptions help you understand what it means for you to be a priest for God?

APPLICATION WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

DISCUSS:

- How does the fact that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God in heaven, and Christians are mystically with him, impact you emotionally?
- In what areas do you lack confidence in the priestly service of bringing others to Christ?
- Who's on your faith for five list? What's one next step you could take this week to help bring one of those people into contact with Jesus?

PRAYER

Spend time giving thanks to Jesus for his high priestly act of bringing us to God.

Spend time asking for boldness to hold fast our confession and bring others to Christ.

Pray over those on your faith for five card by name.