

# GROWTH GROUPS

January 8, 2012

Hebrews 7:1-10

## **Conversation Starter –**

If a priest is someone who helps us connect to God, many people may have some aspect of a priestly role in our lives. As you think about finding someone to help you connect with God in any particular moment, what characteristics or experiences do you look for?

## **Understanding –**

Hebrews 7:1-10 helps us understand the Melchizedek as the forerunner of Jesus Christ, our great and eternal high priest. Genesis 14 and Psalm 110 are foundational texts for this passage and should be studied in conjunction with it.

1. Verses 1-3 refer to many similarities shared by both Melchizedek and Jesus. What are these similarities?
2. Verses 4-10 help us understand that Melchizedek supersedes the priestly authority held by the Levites. Because Melchizedek blesses Abraham who is the great-grandfather to Levi, the writer makes the point that the priest Melchizedek is greater than all the priest who descended from Levi. Why do you think this is an important point to make as the writer tries to tie Melchizedek to Jesus in the following verses?
3. The whole point of this passage is to communicate that the Old Covenant based on the law of God (10 commandments and others) is insufficient to bring us to God. This Old Covenant is personified in the Levitical priesthood. Spend some time talking about why simply trying to obey the law and be a “good” person does not adequately restore our relationship with God.

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