



Hebrews 4:14 -5:10 : *Jesus our High Priest*

You could recap on Pastor Gideon's striking comment that 'what kills Christianity is not persecution but a compromised gospel'.

This passage in Hebrews is all about Jesus as our High Priest. This theme has come up already in 1:3, 2:17 and 3:1, but now the writer expounds the theme in more detail.

For starters, it's good to think: what does a priest do? (someone who acts as an intermediary between God and humans. They enable you to live at peace with God.)

1. Jesus the Exalted high priest (v14)

" who has ascended to heaven." How does the literal translation in the footnote "Greek: has gone through the heavens" help us understand how Jesus is greater than the merely human high priests in Jerusalem?

What does it mean to "hold firmly to the faith we profess"?

2. **Jesus the Sympathetic high priest** (v15)

someone might say, hold on, if Jesus never sinned, how can he really understand the temptations we go through? How would you answer them?

What temptations do we read of Jesus facing in the Gospels?

3. **Jesus the Enabling high priest** (v16)

Perhaps read out the verse Jeremy suggested memorising, in this form, with ARF standing not for Acute Renal Failure but Approach-Receive-Find.:

“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

(we are omitting the addition of “God’s” in NIV2011, since that is not in the original. It is a legitimate thing for a translator to add in assumed information if that would be clear in the original language but needs to be added in the target language for it to make sense, but it is clear from the context that the Throne of Grace is a way of referring to God himself, just as in 1:3 where “the Majesty in heaven” is a Hebraic way of referring to God himself.)

When might this verse be helpful to call to mind? Perhaps try emphasising different words in the verse and explain when that aspect of this verse would particularly help you pastorally.

4. **Proving that Jesus is the High Priest** (5:1-10)

Some of the Jewish opponents of the Hebrew believers could have said, ‘How can Jesus possibly be a high priest if he’s from the tribe of Judah and not of Levi?’

How does the writer deal with that objection?

What does the quote from Psalm 2 in v 5 prove about Jesus?

Have a look at Psalm 110:1-4:

How is Jesus’ greatness as a king portrayed here?

How do we see him being a greater priest than the Aaronic priests?

What is Jesus doing right now? (Rom 8:34 Jesus "is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.")

Thoughts for Junior Church

Memory verses are good for all ages- but especially for children, who generally like to memorise.

Any props which display the words and gradually remove them are good. Eg. pop the balloons! / turn over the paper sheets

A picture of a high priest can be helpful, since Exodus details the different part of their clothing. But I don't suggest going into these details, except that the priest had to go through the curtain of the tabernacle/temple into the Most Holy Place.

<https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/moses-tabernacle/>

Maybe Discuss what temptations Jesus might have faced:

-tempted to get angry and hit his younger brothers and sisters

-tempted to disobey his parents

-temptation not to do a good job as a carpenter and to rip off his customers

Speak about why God's throne is one of grace, and how Jesus' death guarantees it is not a throne of judgement for believers.

Talk about what occasions they particularly feel 'in need' -- and encourage them to ask for God's grace at that point.