

## Pause Group - Hebrews 5:4-14

Begin your time together by sharing highs and lows from the past week. Pray together with gratitude for the joys of the week in the lives of your group members and the world. Pray for those dealing with struggles. Pray for the world's struggles.

**Study Questions:** Address the questions your group desires.

1. There is evidence that Jews may have criticized the early Christian movement, and Jesus himself, for apparently snatching at a position which belonged, uniquely and forever, to the temple in Jerusalem. How does Hebrews 5:4-6 address this concern?

We will hear more about Melchizedek in Hebrews 6-7. For the moment we can say that he meets Abraham briefly in Genesis 14:18-20. He was a priest of the Most High God, but obviously not of Aaron's priesthood, since Aaron (along with Moses) lived hundreds of years later.

2. What scenes from Jesus' life are called to mind by 5:7-8?
3. Verses 11-14 of chapter 5 are a remarkable rebuke that bursts upon us, and must have burst upon the original audience, like a sudden cold shower. The writer clearly wants to wake up the readers with a double challenge. Of what is the writer accusing the believers?
4. What is the nature of "maturity" that the writer has in mind?
5. When is it hard for us to distinguish between behavior that is right and behavior that isn't?
6. How can we grow in our ability to distinguish between the two?

**Closing Prayer** – Allow time for each member of the group (if they would like to) say the name of someone they would like to pray for. There is no need for explanation of who the person is or what they need prayer for. The Holy Spirit knows that already. Once everyone has had a chance to say the names of people they want to pray for, have someone in the group finish with a short prayer or end with "Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."