

Pause Group - Hebrews 7:1-10

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. What stood out to you in the readings from the *Hebrews for Everyone* book this week? (pages 68-73)

The writer of Hebrews has quoted Psalm 110:4 three times already (5:6, 5:10, and 6:20). Like many early Christians, the writer has realized that Jesus has been appointed by God to a position at his right hand, waiting for his kingdom to be complete (Psalm 110:1). According to the Psalm, the Messiah, the one to whom all things are put into subjection, is appointed by God as priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek. We have also explored Psalm 110 in Chapter 1.

Read Psalm 110 out loud.

2. What do we learn about Melchizedek from Hebrews 7:1-10?
3. Levi, one of the twelve sons of Jacob and a great-grandson of Abraham, founded the priestly tribe of Israel. How does 7:4-10 make the case that Melchizedek's priesthood is superior to Levi's?
4. How are Melchizedek and Jesus similar as seen in verses 4-10?
5. At the time Hebrews was written, it would have been unusual for a person to be a king and a priest since there was a clear division between those two roles in the history of Israel. Discovering more about Melchizedek, and so discovering what Psalm 110 meant when talking of the Messiah as a priest as well as a king, is a way to increase and deepen our sense of trust and assurance as we lean the full weight of our future hope on Jesus and him alone.
 - a. In what different ways or areas of your life do you gain assurance knowing that Jesus is king but also our high priest?

Closing prayer – As you may have noticed, some weeks have prayer suggestions and others don't. This week, you are invited to try something different. Someone set a timer for 3 minutes. Once the timer is started, please sit in silence for 3 minutes. During that 3 minutes, try to clear your mind of distractions. If you have never tried this before, 3 minutes can seem like a long time. At the end of 3 minutes, go around the group and have each person say the name of a person they would like to pray for. If you want, you can name multiple people. Do not say why you would like to pray for them, but just name them.

When everyone has had a chance to name someone out loud, you can end by saying Lord, we lift these people up to you. You know what each and every person named needs, surround them with your love and care. Amen