

*This midweek study will explore Jesus' role as our Great High Priest and what that means for us. Use the following outline, activity, playlist, and video ideas to lead a midweek event for your students.*

### Essential Doctrine: Christ as Priest

As our Great High Priest, Jesus accomplishes the work of reconciling us to God. He is the One whose perfect righteousness is presented to the Father for our justification. He is the One who intercedes for us before the Father (Heb. 7:25; 9:24) and prays for us to remain faithful (Luke 22:31-32; John 17).

### 1 Jesus' righteousness is presented to the Father for our justification (1 John 2:1).

In His role as High Priest, Jesus presents the sacrifice to God the Father on our behalf much like the priests of the Old Testament. While sacrifices in the Old Testament were animals, the sacrifice Jesus presents is Himself and His righteousness.

- ▶ *How is Jesus functioning as a greater high priest in this situation better than the priests in the Old Testament?*

#### Read 1 John 2:1.

- ▶ *What does it mean to have an advocate? Why does Jesus need to be our advocate?*

God's desire is that we abstain from sinning; however, if we do sin, Scripture tells us that Jesus is our advocate to the Father. Jesus advocates His righteousness as our own.

- ▶ *How does it affect you to know Jesus is your advocate before the Father?*

### 2 Jesus intercedes for us before the Father (Heb. 7:25; 9:24).

Option: Ask students to describe a situation in which they defended people who weren't able to defend themselves. Another type of question could be, "Have you've been in a situation where you saw something no one else did, and because of your words, you were able to bring truth to a situation? Has someone ever interceded on your behalf?"

What is the purpose of interceding? Essentially, *intercession* is *defending the defenseless and pleading the case of those who can't defend themselves on their own*. We certainly need Jesus to intercede for us. Without the intercession of Christ, we are completely without defense against the charge of treason against God the Father due to our sin.

#### Read Hebrews 7:25 and 9:24.

- ▶ *Based on Jesus' intercession, what do these verses tell us about His ability to save sinners?*

- ▶ *What is the ultimate purpose of Jesus' intercession according to the verses we read?*

Intercession isn't merely a conversation between two parties. *Intercession is a defense against a charge that could have lasting consequences.*

- ▶ *What would be the lasting consequence of our sin if Jesus didn't intercede for sinners before the Father?*

### 3 Jesus prays for us to remain faithful (Luke 22:31-32; John 17).

#### Read Luke 22:31-32 and John 17.

When we think of prayer, we usually think of us praying to Jesus for others. However, Jesus prays to God the Father for us. Jesus prays for our endurance to live the Christian life and to remain faithful to Him.

- ▶ *Have you thought about Christ praying for you specifically? How does this affect you?*

When we pray for others, we pray for their blessing and success in their walk with Christ. It is interesting that when Jesus prays for us He prays for the same thing, but with the perfect words and perfect motives.

- ▶ *How does it affect you to know that Jesus prays for you perfectly?*
- ▶ *How does the fact that Jesus prays specifically for you change how you pray for others?*

### WRAP IT UP

- ▶ *How has your thinking about Jesus changed by studying about Him being a high priest?*
- ▶ *What ways can you trust Him better knowing He is your ultimate high priest?*

Challenge students to know Jesus Himself presents His righteousness before the Father on our behalf, intercedes for us, and prays for us to remain faithful.