

# BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



## FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

*Remember Who Jesus Is*  
Hebrews 7:11-17, 26—8:13

**Copy pages 2 and 3 for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.**

### **Leaders' Responsibilities:**

**Important:** Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a series of sessions needs to have access to the "Introduction" article found at the beginning of each series (Bible Teaching #11). The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

## **Prior to this Coming Session:**

### **Gathering Time Leader:**

Make sure the facilities are open. Study the material you will be presenting. Give assignments to those who will assist. Gather the leaders together for prayer before the session begins

### **Bible Study Leader:**

If possible have Bibles for each one who comes. Study the preparation material ahead of time.

Copy the outline which is given at the end of the worship time on a white board or large piece of paper. You may also make a copy of the outline for each participant.

Use the two maps printed on the final two pages at the end of the session to show the two possible locations of the High Priest Melchizedek. This may help your church to better relate the ancient story to the location in, or next to, present day Israel, Gaza, the West Bank—and the present time conflict of that area of the world.

### **Worship Time Leader:**

Enlist any musicians who will assist. Have copies of the music available.

## **Music Sources:**

**Let Us Break Bread Together**, *The Worship Hymnal* #399; CCLI #5206605 or 31013663

**This Is Our Freedom**, *The Worship Hymnal* #408; CCLI # 5023778

**Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place**, *The Worship Hymnal* #158; CCLI #7909

**Lamb of Glory**, *The Worship Hymnal* #260; CCLI #15128

**Alleluia**, *The Worship Hymnal* #276; CCLI #16811

**Worthy of Worship**, *The Worship Hymnal* #3; CCLI #82869

# 1

Copy this section for the Gathering Time leader.

## **Gathering Time:** (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

### ***Remember Who Jesus Is***

#### **Focal Text**

Hebrews 7:11-17, 26—8:13

#### **Background**

Hebrews 7—8

#### **Main Idea**

We must remember that Jesus, as the perfect high priest, is the mediator of a new and better covenant with God than that of legalism and ritualism.

#### **Question to Explore**

Is one religion "just as good as another"?

#### **Teaching Aim**

To help the church trace the discussion about Jesus as high priest and summarize its intended meaning for their lives.

#### **Gathering together:**

Greet each one as they arrive. Introduce any new comers.

Sing one or more of the following:

**Let Us Break Bread Together**, *The Worship Hymnal* #399; CCLI #5206605 or 31013663

**This Is Our Freedom**, *The Worship Hymnal* #408; CCLI # 5023778

**Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place**, *The Worship Hymnal* #158; CCLI #7909

#### **First thoughts:**

#### **Remember Me**

Have you ever left something of yourself behind when going on an extended journey? You know, leave something by which to be remembered, perhaps a photo. Sometimes when elders are contemplating their death they call family members and begin giving their

material goods away. In effect, they are saying when you view or use this “remember me”.

Jesus left the church a memorial service which the church can use so He might be remembered. The Apostle Paul recorded these words in 1 Corinthians 11:23-25. It gives us an outline for worship. ***For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”***

Not yet a believer in Jesus, Paul was not present at the Passover meal celebrated by Jesus and His apostles. He learned this from “The Lord Jesus.” What had been a commandment to the Jews became a celebration for the church. It was to become a way of remembering what He did for each believer who makes up the church. The celebration is called “Communion”, “The Lord’s Table”, and “The Lord’s Supper”. In the early church it was called “Eucharist”, or the giving of thanks. It is known generally by the Latin Church as “mass.”

The emphasis is not upon the frequency of the celebration. It is upon remembering Him, who He was, and what He did. It is a snapshot, a visual aid to view Calvary and His atoning death upon the cross. ***For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes*** (verse 26).

The emphasis is on self-reflection, upon one’s personal relationship with Christ. Each should ***examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup*** (verse 28). Each person partaking must understand the meaning of what Christ did. Each one is to judge whether worthy to partake. Not to do so brings judgment upon oneself (verse 29).

Celebrating this is one of the most beautiful and uniting worship times the church has. Each one is reminded anew of the terrible cost Christ paid for sin to be forgiven.

(It would be appropriate to celebrate the Lord’s Supper at this time. See the “How To Manual” for guidance.)

## **Closing the Gathering Time:**

Pray for the writers and editors of this material. Pray for hearts to be open to the Scriptures and the wooing of the Holy Spirit.

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won't need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

# 2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

**Note to the Bible Study Leader:** Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

## Teacher Preparation

### *Remember Who Jesus Is*

#### **Focal Text**

Hebrews 7:11-17, 26—8:13

#### **Background**

Hebrews 7—8

#### **Main Idea**

We must remember that Jesus, as the perfect high priest, is the mediator of a new and better covenant with God than that of legalism and ritualism.

#### **Question to Explore**

Is one religion "just as good as another"?

#### **Teaching Aim**

To help the church trace the discussion about Jesus as high priest and summarize its intended meaning for their lives.

### **Introduction to your personal study:**

Robert J. Dean wrote in his work: **Hebrews: Call to Christian Commitment:**

“Hebrews 7:1-10:18 is a classical biblical passage on the cross’ meaning and mystery. Christ is presented as believers’ great High Priest and the all-sufficient sacrifice for people’s sins. The doctrine of Christ’s priestly work is the distinctive contribution of Hebrews to Christian Doctrine” (Nashville: Convention Press, pg. 67).

As you study these passages you will not find any exhortation. They were written to motivate to not fall away. The study is deep, and “*hard to make it clear*” (5:11). It will take thought and study to dig out the gems of wisdom.

Religion for the Hebrews was a way to have access and fellowship with God. There were two concepts that are important to understand. First, a Hebrew had the law which was designed to produce obedience. If a man was forever obedient then he was right with God. The second concept is the understanding that perfect obedience was impossible for man. He would sin. That is why a new covenant was needed. By it a permanent solution for sin is found in the blood of Jesus.

Hebrews 7:24-25, ***but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.***

The Levitical sacrificial system was not sufficient to restore complete fellowship with God. A new priesthood was necessary to replace it. This was the priesthood after the order of Melchizedek. Whereas the Aaronic priests had regulations that had to do with the priest's physical body, Christ's priesthood depended upon His character.

"Priests under the old covenant order were selected by a legal system. Their authority for priestly service was based on being properly born and elected. Jesus' priesthood was according to a newly ordered covenant system, one established by the authority of God's creative word, even His oath. It was a 'new declaration of his will'. 'God's oath gives to His Word an absolute character and eternal validity' which could not be abrogated. Christ's priesthood was similar to that of Melchizedek, one directly ordained by God in isolation from any ordered system, even one set up by Himself" (Stewart, D.J. **Bible Book Study Commentary: Hebrews, James.** Nashville: The Sunday School Board, 1990, page 53).

## Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the "**Introduction**" article found at the beginning of this series (Bible Teaching #11) of Bible Study and Worship sessions. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you, as well.

In Hebrews 5:11 the author writes "***We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand.***" Therefore, he continues the theme of showing the readers that what they have is much better than the prophets, the angels, or even Moses. The writer continues to describe to them who Jesus is.

1. He is a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.
2. He is from the tribe of Judah and not the tribe of Aaron.
3. He is not a high priest appointed by man but by God.
4. He does not need to offer daily a sacrifice for our sins. His death one time sufficed for all sin for all time.
5. He ministers in the heavenly tabernacle.

The writer's argument is that to know Jesus personally is far better than the shadow of Him in the Old Testament? He is writing to convince his readers not to look back but to look forward.

Melchizedek and Christ had three things in common.

1. Both combined the office of priest and king.
2. Both were different from and superior to the Levitical priesthood.
3. Both represented an eternal priesthood.

## **Focusing on the Meaning:**

### **I. Jesus is a priest after the order of Melchizedek. Hebrews 7:11-17.**

***11.If perfections could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood---and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood---why what there still need for another priest to come, one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron? 12 For when the priesthood is changed, the law must be changed also. 13 He of whom these things are said belonged to a different tribe, and no one from that tribe has ever served at the altar. 14 For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. 15 And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, 16 one who has become a priest not on the basis of regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. 17 For it is declared: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."***

What does it mean when Jesus says ***"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect"*** (Matthew 5:48). It means to be complete; it means to be all that God intends for one to be. Under the old Law it was impossible for man to be complete in that sense. Sacrifices could only temporarily take care of sin. It would take Jesus' substitutionary death to complete God's plan for man. A building is not complete until the last stone is laid. A person is not "complete" or "perfect" until he accepts Jesus' sacrifice for his sins. Jesus is the part, the stone, the brick, the last piece that completes the puzzle.

***Now to you who believe, this stone is precious., "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,"*** (1 Peter 2:7).

The Old Testament sacrificial system established under the Law was a picture of Christ's atoning sacrifice. It had to be repeated over and over. Look at what Paul said was the purpose for the Law. ***Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.*** (Romans 3:20).

There would have been no need for Jesus if one could attain perfection through the Levitical priesthood and the sacrificial system. Therefore, the law that called for a Levite priest and an Aaronic high priest had to be changed. Under the new covenant or law a

priest could come from another tribe even though Moses said nothing about a priest coming from the tribe of Judah.

A priest after the order of Melchizedek appeared not based on ancestry, but based on the power of an indestructible life.

Melchizedek was a king and a priest who first appears in the Bible in Genesis 14:18-20. In that passage Abraham was returning from a victorious battle against the king of Sodom and his allies. Melchizedek met him with food and blessed him. Greater people bless lesser people. In turn, as “priest of the Most High God, Abraham gave him a tenth of the spoils of war. It seems from the Scriptures that this was expected of Abraham. Through Abraham, in a sense, Levi and Aaron paid tithes to Melchizedek.

The translations of Melchizedek’s name mentioned twice in Hebrews 7:2, is “king of righteousness” and “King of Salem”. Salem means peace. He is a prototype of Christ in the Old Testament. Christ comes as a king of righteousness and peace.

Levitical priests were proud their genealogy remained pure. But, there is no genealogy mentioned for Melchizedek. There is no reference in Scripture to the date of his birth or the date of Melchizedek’s death. A type of immortality is a description given to Melchizedek. It is in the silence on this matter that the interpretation of Christ’s eternal priesthood is given. As a person “without father or mother or genealogy” (7:3) he precedes the Levitical law and the sacrificial system. It is this man, king and priest, who becomes the forerunner of Jesus’ priesthood.

Keep in mind that there were men prior to Moses who believed in the Most High God. Out of all those who believed in Him God chose one man Abram to be the father of His people and through that man came Christ, not from the tribe of Levi, but from the tribe of Judah.

Psalms 110 is background material for chapter 7. Christ’s immortality is superior to a priest who is mortal.

Only the one who gave the code of law could change it. To be able to change the priesthood the law under which priests ministered was changed. Aaron was already shown to be inferior to Melchizedek.

The dynamics of this new priesthood is drawn from life and not from the law. Christ had vitality through His endless life. He will be a priest forever. The Aaronic priesthood was dead.

Christ’s priesthood is superior. Once again the writer explains how ridiculous it would be to go back to the Levitical system. The thrust of Hebrews is to propel the believer forward to maturity. Being able to share one’s faith is one goal.

## HEBREWS 7:26-8:13.

### II. Jesus is a priest who meets our need. Hebrews 7:26-28.

***26 Such a high priest truly meets our need---one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. 27 Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself. 28 For the law appoints as high priests men in all their weaknesses; but the oath, which came after the law, appointed the Son, who has been made perfect forever.***

Jesus meets our need for a high priest because:

1. He is holy.
2. He is blameless.
3. He is pure.
4. He offered Himself as a once-for-all sacrifice.
5. He is perfect.
- 6.

The Aaronic high priest had to offer:

1. Sacrifices every day.
2. Sacrifices for his own sin.
3. Sacrifices for the sins of the people.
- 4.

Jesus sacrificed himself once for the sins of the people. Priests from the tribe of Aaron came and went. Aaronic high priests still had their weaknesses. They could not attain perfection. Therefore, a better priesthood was needed.

That better priest was Jesus who has been made perfect forever. He was consecrated by His Father.

The Old Covenant with its Aaronic priesthood could not do what Christ and the New Covenant could do. Christ alone was capable of taking man's sin away forever through His sacrifice upon Calvary. He is ***the guarantor of a better covenant***" (Hebrews 7:22).

***"The former regulation is set aside because it was weak and useless"*** (Hebrews 7:18). It could not make men perfect or complete or capable of approaching God themselves.

### III. Jesus is the high priest of a new covenant. Hebrews 8:1-2.

***1 Now the main point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, 2 and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being.***

The main point is the atoning work of Jesus and how as High Priest He accomplishes it. Jesus offers up a sacrifice that is the best that can be offered, Himself. As He offers the sacrifice He does so as High Priest. In that role He is a better High Priest than any of the Aaronic priesthood which no longer exists.

Jesus is our High Priest who makes His sacrifice then sits at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven. There He serves (ministers) in the true tabernacle set up by the Lord and makes intercession for the saints.

Jesus does not kneel before the throne. As an equal He sits at the right hand of God. Therefore, an emphasis of Hebrews is on sinners drawing near to God. As a believer develops a strong prayerful relationship with God he will be more evangelistic in his walk.

#### **IV. Jesus is the high priest who offers the ultimate sacrifice under a new covenant. Hebrews 8:3-6.**

***3 Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. 4 If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. 5 They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain." 6 But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.***

The major ministry of the priests was to "offer the gifts prescribed by the law". Jesus' ministry was superior because His gift was superior. It accomplished more.

Jesus is a high priest who: (1) offers a superior sacrifice once for all. It was Himself. (2) has a ministry that is superior to earthly high priests. He is eternal. And, lastly (3) serves under a new covenant that is superior to the old.

#### **V. God Makes a New Covenant. Hebrews 8:7-12**

***7 For if there had been nothing wrong with that first covenant, no place would have been sought for another. 8 But God found fault with the people and said: "The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. 9 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them out of Egypt, because they did not remain faithful to my covenant, and I turned away from them, declares the Lord. 10 This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 11 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them***

***to the greatest. 12 For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."***

A new covenant was made:

1. Because there was something wrong with the old covenant.
2. Because the people of Israel had turned away and had not been faithful to the old covenant.
3. That will be written on the minds and hearts of the people.
4. To bring universal knowledge of the Lord.
5. To bring forgiveness to everyone.

**VI. The New Covenant makes the Old Covenant obsolete. Hebrews 8:13.**

***13 By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear.***

The "new" covenant makes the "old" covenant obsolete and outdated. The old will disappear. This a powerful warning to those who would neglect their commitment to Christ for the Law.

### **Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:**

Before teaching this lesson attempt to put your goal, what you want the group to know to understand, to believe, and/or to do, into one sentence. Write it out below. Accept the fact that you cannot accomplish everything you want in 30 minutes!!! Choose a specific goal for your brief time of teaching.

### **For Personal Reflection:**

**What have I learned from this study?**

**What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?**

**What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?**

## **Bible Study Plan** (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

### ***Remember Who Jesus Is***

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

**Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.**

#### **Focal Text**

Hebrews 7:11-17, 26—8:13

#### **Background**

Hebrews 7—8

#### **Main Idea**

We must remember that Jesus, as the perfect high priest, is the mediator of a new and better covenant with God than that of legalism and ritualism.

#### **Question to Explore**

Is one religion "just as good as another"?

#### **Teaching Aim**

To help the church trace the discussion about Jesus as high priest and summarize its intended meaning for their lives.

#### **Connect with Life:**

Discuss: Is one religion as good as another?

Remind the group that there are many religions in the world but only one Jesus.

#### **Guide the Study:**

**I. Jesus is a priest after the order of Melchizedek. HEBREWS 7:11-17.**

Ask someone in the group to read Hebrews 7:11-17.

Start by asking: what was lacking in the sacrificial system under the Jewish Law? (A person faithfully following the system could never attain perfection.)

Be sure that the group understands that perfection does not mean no sin. It means to become all that God intended for one to be.

Add: Then why was the sacrificial system given? (It was given to give people a measuring rod. It revealed sin and the need for a more and better way.)

Ask: Who administered the Old Testament sacrifices? (The sons of Aaron and the sons of Levi. They were proud of their genealogy.)

Continue by asking: Who will take their place in the New Testament? (Jesus)

Remind the group: The whole system had to be replaced. Jesus was from the tribe of Judah and of the priestly order of Melchizedek.

Explain: King and High Priest Melchizedek is only very briefly mentioned in the Old Testament. So, we know very little about him. However, let's look at the scriptures, an encounter and a hymn, where he is mentioned.

Have the group read Genesis 14:18-20 and Psalm 110. Ask one of the group to verbally give the account from Genesis for the class.

Tell them: Because there is no reference in Scripture to the birth or death of Melchizedek he becomes a prototype of Christ. He was a king and priest who becomes the forerunner of Jesus' priesthood.

## **II. Jesus, a priest who meets our need. Hebrews 7:26-28.**

Ask: Who can tell me the five criteria that the writer says Jesus has—that meets the need for a high priest?

Help them with the list as needed: He is:

holy  
blameless  
pure  
a once for all sacrifice  
perfect

Then add: How are the Old Testament high priests' ministry different for Jesus'? (They had to repeat the sacrifices over and over. They had to sacrifice for their own sin. They had to sacrifice for the sins of the people.)

Lead the group to understand that the earthly priests were mortal (human like all other humans). They had weaknesses.

Have someone read Hebrews 7:18.

### **III. Jesus is the high priest of a New Covenant. Hebrews 8:1-2.**

Allow someone to read the passage.

Seek an answer: What is the writer's "main point"? (We have a high priest - a high priest who sits at the right hand of God and ministers in the heavenly tabernacle not made by man.)

Question? Does this mean He is equal to God? (Yes.)

Ask: How should this affect our prayer lives?

### **IV. Jesus is a high priest who offered the ultimate sacrifice under the New Covenant. Hebrews 8:3-6.**

Ask someone to read the passage aloud.

Ask: What was the major ministry of a high priest? (Offer gifts and sacrifices.)

Question: Was the gift Jesus brought greater than theirs? What was it? His life as a sacrifice for our sins.

Remind them: Christ's ministry was not of this earth. He was not of the tribe of Aaron or Levi. He did not serve in the earthly tabernacle made with hands. It was but a shadow of the real one in heaven.

### **V. God Makes a New Covenant. Hebrews 8:7-12.**

Ask someone to read the above passage aloud.

Ask: Was there anything wrong with the old covenant? (Yes)

Urge them to respond. What happens to the first covenant when the new covenant is introduced? (It is no longer valid or necessary.)

Discuss: the teaching of this lesson and how it applies to those seeking to return to Judaism.

### **Encourage Application:**

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

As you wrap up this lesson ask: Is there anything in your old life that would tempt you to neglect your commitment to Christ? Do you know someone who has fallen into temptation? Pray for that person.

**Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time.** Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

# YOUTH!!! TAKE TEN

## Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

### ***Remember Who Jesus Is*** **Hebrews 7:11-17, 26—8:13**

**A youth will lead the following activity and comments.** No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.

This is a difficult passage for anyone to understand. Do not become discouraged by the discussion of Melchizedek and Aaron. Look at the title of the lesson: **Remember Who Jesus Is**. What are the things youth need to remember from this lesson?

1. Jesus is a permanent intermediary between us and God, the Father. That is, He represents us, and, as His children, claims us before the Father as belonging to Him.
2. He did away with the legalism represented by the High Priest making offerings and asking for forgiveness for his own sin and the sins of the people.
3. He is holy, blameless, pure, a once for all sacrifice, and is perfect.

Discuss what being like Jesus would be for Christians today. Be sure that the group understands that it does not mean no sin. It means to become all that God intended for one to be.

**Worship Time** (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***Remember Who Jesus Is***  
**Hebrews 7:11-17, 26—8:13****Beginning the Service:**

Sing one or more of the following:

**Lamb of Glory**, *The Worship Hymnal* #260; CCLI #15128

**Alleluia**, *The Worship Hymnal* #276; CCLI #16811

**Worthy of Worship**, *The Worship Hymnal* #3; CCLI #82869

**Offering:****Praying for the World:**

Pray today for young people in many countries who are being attracted to join terrorist groups which may mean losing their lives in service of a cause which they do not really understand. The idealism of youth may lead them to make wrong decisions. Pray for the youth in the circle of influence of this home church to know Christ and to know the love and understanding of Christ's people.

**Sharing Guide:**

This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God's call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.

# Jesus is the Great I Am

## Introduction:

There are many passages in the New Testament where Jesus identifies Himself with the phrase **"I am."** During this worship time we will examine several and make them a part of our lives.

Let's begin first of all with Matthew 3:17. This is taken from the baptism experience of Christ. ***And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased."***

Jesus is God's Son. Even before Christ began His three and a half years of itinerant preaching and teaching, His Father was well pleased and identified Him as His Son. What son would not be pleased to hear such praise from his father?

## 1. Jesus is the Bread of Life. John 6:35.

Now we come to one of the "I am" statements made by Jesus Himself. First we see He said: ***"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."*** (John 6:35) Bread and water are the two staples that will sustain life. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray He said they were to ask His Father for daily bread.

Jesus refers back to the manna and water furnished in the Wilderness. Many Jews would have perished had not God miraculously provided water, manna, and quail. God's provision for His children is daily. This is both material and spiritual provision. Each of us needs a fresh loaf from Jesus to sustain us day by day. Each of us needs a wellspring of living water to quench our spiritual thirst.

## 2. Jesus is the Light of the World. John 8:12.

***When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."***

"I am" is a strong positive statement. It places Jesus in the now. In each moment Jesus says He lights the world that sin might be revealed. Sin hides in darkness. Light always overcomes darkness. Whenever you light a match, or light a lamp darkness is quickly dispelled.

A follower of Jesus does not walk where sin abides. With the light of Christ he can see the pitfalls of sin and change his path. The choice each of us has is whether to walk in the light or walk in the dark. Walking in the light is preferable.

Jesus was the Word incarnate. Psalm 119:105 reads ***Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.***

### **3. Jesus is the Gate. John 10:7.**

***Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.***

Now a gate swings both ways. One can enter and one can leave. It is also a barrier when shut.

In Jesus’ day a shepherd was low on the economic totem pole. Because they often touched dead animals they were barred from temple worship. It is interesting that to this class of people the angels first announced His birth and later He Himself identifies with them.

The shepherd was the provider and protector of the sheep. He led them to green pastures and stood guard between them and any predators. How appropriate and beautiful is this picture that Jesus paints for His disciples and for us. He is our provider and our protector. Read Psalm 23. (You may want to ask the group to say it together).

### **4. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. John 10:11**

***“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.***

John continues his narrative of the shepherd character seen in Jesus. He was a shepherd that thought more of the sheep than He did His own life. Sheep provided for the shepherds’ livelihood.

This is a picture of Christ’s crucifixion for the sins of man. As a shepherd thought more of the sheep than his own life so Christ thought more of you and me than He did His own life.

### **5. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. John 14:6.**

***I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.***

Jesus spoke these words the night before He was crucified. It is found written in John’s account of Jesus’ encouraging words about their future with Him. This one verse defines forever how man is able to restore fellowship with God the Father. It is through Christ and Christ alone. There is no other way.

## **Conclusion:**

If Christ's examples are bread, light, a gate, and a Good Shepherd what does that say about what characteristics His followers should have? Should not we share the bread of life? Should not we shine the light of life? Should not we be a barrier against the Devil? Should not we should be self-sacrificing in our love for others?

Since Jesus is the only road to get us to the Father we must be the best examples we can be so that others will want to join us on that road.

As you go forth today remember who Jesus is. Let that be strength for each of you as we carry the Gospel to those with whom we meet.

## **Call to Commitment:**

The best call to commitment is the call to believe in Jesus. Listen to John 3:16. ***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.***

## **Concluding the Service:**

Pray for a surrender of lives to Christ.

Copy the outline of the lesson on a white board or large piece of paper or make copies of this page for each participant.

**I. Jesus is a priest after the order of Melchizedek.** Hebrews 7:11-17.

**II. Jesus is a priest who meets our need.** Hebrews 7:26-28.

**III. Jesus is the high priest of a new covenant.** Hebrews 8:1-2.

**IV. Jesus is the high priest who offers the ultimate sacrifice under a new covenant.** Hebrews 8:3-6.

**V. God Makes a New Covenant.** Hebrews 8:7-12

**VI. The New Covenant makes the Old Covenant obsolete.** Hebrews 8:13.

**Bible Study Leader:** Use this map of present day Israel and the West Bank and the map on the following page to show where Salem may have been located if it was not Jerusalem. (About the center of the upper portion of the West Bank. East Jerusalem is the dotted area at the most narrow area of the West Bank.



Salem, (possible location of the High Priest, Melchizedek), is located near the center of the green West Bank administrative area on the map below. Gaza is the small strip shown at the bottom left-hand of the map. Again, Jerusalem, the other possible location, is located in the “neck” of the West Bank map.

