

Icebreaker

Who's the most interesting person in your known family history? Why do you find this person so interesting or intriguing?

1. What have you learned through your personal study this week?

2. Why was Jesus' priesthood superior?

We have seen the priesthood superior in many ways in previous chapters. Chapter 8 tells us that Christ's priesthood was superior because it was the real thing. We find the Levitical priesthood was simply a copy or shadow of what was to come. Christ was the fulfillment.

3. Did God ever back out on the first covenant? Why did it fail?

God never backed out, but man failed to hold up his side of the covenant. The first covenant was accompanied by the Law. Since man could not keep the Law, the covenant was broken. But Christ lived a sinless life and perfected the Law. The second covenant is no longer based on mans ability to perform, but it offers grace through Christ.

4. What does it mean for Jesus to be a "mediator" in this second covenant?


Notice the similarities in the modern day definition of mediator and the purpose of the High Priest.

5. Read Hebrews 8:8-12 and discuss this quote from Jeremiah. What new promises do you see offered in the new covenant?

God's laws will now be on the hearts of the people and they will "know God" in a different way than before. For the first time in history sin will be forgotten, not just atoned for. Take time to discuss any of these points.

6. Why is forgiveness sometimes so hard to accept?

After 8 weeks, your group should have begun to grow closer. Encourage your group to talk about specific situations. These situations can include, areas where participants need to forgive themselves, forgive others or accept the forgiveness given by another.



Mediator (English Definition)

One that works to effect reconciliation, settlement, or compromise between parties at variance

Response

Hopefully question 6 brought a few specific situations where forgiveness needed to be accepted or extended. Specifically take time to pray over these individual situations. The goal is to encourage one another as a group to extend and accept forgiveness. We lose the joy in being forgiven when we do not allow ourselves to accept the forgiveness and live life forgiven.



