**Jesus, Our Great High Priest**

**The Passage**

Read together Hebrews 5:1-10

**Discussion Questions**

1. As you considered the priests in the old covenant, what was something new you learned about them from Sunday’s message?

2. What is one aspect of Jesus’ ministry you came to understand or appreciate in a deeper way this week?

3. What questions do you still have regarding the priesthood or even Jesus’ ministry as our high priest?

4. To the theme of having confidence and assurance with God mentioned at the end of Sunday’s message, where do you need to be reminded of the confidence we can have in our relationship with God? What would it look like this week for you to live in light of that confidence?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. The priests of the old covenant (v. 1)

A. Appointed by God (v. 1 and 4)

1. Rather than take every firstborn male from all the tribes, God takes all the males of the tribe of Levi (Numbers 3:12-13) and sets them apart for his work

2. So within Israel, which itself was set apart from the nations, God sets apart the Levites for a special purpose

B. To represent the people in matters related to God (v. 1)

1. The Priests were mediators between God and the people. The people very much felt the need for a mediator as they had experienced God in all his holiness, wildness, and power

a. They represent the people before God (The high priest entered the tabernacle with the onyx stones on his shoulders and the 12 stones on his breastplate representing the 12 tribes of Israel)

B. They represent God to the people as they mediate his blessing and forgiveness (see Numbers 6:22-26)

C. To offer gifts and sacrifices for sins (v. 1)

On the Day of Atonement the high priest would enter into the holy of holies always with the blood of sacrifice both for his own sin and the sins of the people (Lev 6)

D. There were great weaknesses and limitations to the old covenant

1) An earthly tabernacle

2) Animal sacrifices never really forgave sins permanently

3) Priest died and needed to be replaced, and they were sinful men themselves

II. Jesus fulfills the role of high priest

A. Appointed by God (v 5)

While he is not a Levite, he is a priest in the order of Melchizadek (see Gen 14:18-20 and Hebrews 5:6)

B. Serves as a mediator representing the people to God and God to the people

1. See 1 Timothy 2:5-6

2. He makes God known to us. He is God with skin on

3. He lives and dies as our representative

C. Offers a sacrifice for sin

1. Hebrews 9:11-15: He enters the heavenly holy of holies through his own sacrifice in death and resurrection

D. Jesus is the priest of a new covenant that is superior

a. A better heavenly Sanctuary (Hb 9:24)

b. A better Sacrifice: once for all (Hb 10:11-14)

c. A better High Priest: perfect and eternal (Hb 7:23-27)

III. Conclusion: So we can have confidence before God (Hb 4:14-16)

A. In the midst of our sin, we can have confidence that we have forgiveness with God (Hb 10:14)

B. In the midst of trials and temptation, we can have confidence to go to Jesus for help, knowing that he empathizes with our trials and can offer true help in our need (Hb 4:15, 2:17-18)