Jesus is Better

Hebrews 5:1-10 | “The Perfect, Eternal High Priest”

Small Group Discussion Questions

Warming Up: What does it say?

1. Read Hebrews 5:1-4. What qualifications for a high priest does the writer list? Which one stands out to you most, and why?
2. The high priest carried the names of Israel’s tribes on his shoulders and over his heart (Exodus 28). What does that picture communicate about his role?

Digging In: What does it mean?

3. A high priest had to be “from man,” not an angel. Why does it matter that Jesus is fully human and not just a heavenly messenger?
4. Verse 2 says the high priest “deals gently” with the ignorant and wayward because he understands weakness. How does Jesus’ gentleness compare, given that he understands weakness without sin?
5. Why do you think the writer reaches back to Melchizedek instead of Aaron to explain Jesus’ priesthood? What does a priesthood that is “eternal” offer that Aaron’s line couldn’t?
6. Verse 8 says Jesus “learned obedience through what he suffered.” What do you think that means, since he was never disobedient?

Going Deeper: What does it mean for me?

7. Some men tried to take the office of high priest for power or money. Where do you see people today trying to “take” a role or position of authority that isn’t theirs, whether in culture, church, or your own heart?
8. Jesus prayed for “those who will believe” (John 17:20), which includes us. How does knowing Jesus has already prayed for you change how you approach God when you feel distant or ashamed?
9. “The only way out is through.” Jesus didn’t avoid suffering but obeyed through it. Is there a hard situation you’re tempted to escape rather than walk through faithfully? What would obedience look like there?

Note for Leaders

Questions 7 and 9 tend to land differently by life stage. Younger groups may connect them to career, identity, and relationships. Older groups may connect them to health, loss, or long seasons of waiting. Feel free to invite those specifics without changing the questions.