

➤ **Reread Hebrews 4:14–16.**

- Therefore, since we, _____, have a great, _____,
 _____ (3:1a) _____ (2:17)
 and _____ high priest who has _____
 _____ (2:17) _____ (end of 2:9)
 and ascended into heaven, now _____, Jesus the Son of God,
 _____ (2:9b)
 whose _____, and who will rule with
 _____ (1:8a)
 _____, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.
 _____ (1:8b)

3. In our culture we often hear people say, "You don't know what it's like to be me." What enables Jesus to say, "Yes, I do," and sympathize with us? (4:15)

- ## Temptation

You may be tempted to think, “Well, Jesus was sinless so he doesn’t know what it’s like to be me.” But consider this: “We never know temptation at its fiercest because we fall long before that state is reached. But Jesus was tempted far beyond what we are; for in his case the tempter put everything he possessed into the assault.”¹

5. What does Jesus' experience with temptation enable us to do and to receive? (4:16)

6. The writer of Hebrews sees a connection between who Jesus is and what he has experienced, and our ability to come confidently to his throne of grace. Do you always feel confident when coming to Jesus? Why or why not?

➤ Read Hebrews 5:1–6.

7. Glance through Hebrews 4:14–5:3 and jot down how people are described.

Office of High Priest

The office of high priest was instituted by God in the Old Testament. He appointed Aaron, the brother of Moses, as the first high priest, and one of Aaron's sons was to assume the office after his death.

8. With this description of people in mind, compare the role of the Old Testament high priest with Jesus, our "great high priest" (4:14).

Old Testament high priest	Jesus, our great high priest
5:1–3	4:15
Lev. 5:5–6, 17–19	1 Pet. 1:18–19
Lev. 16:32–34	Rom 3:25a
Num. 18:5	Rom. 5:9

Jewish Office of High Priest

The Jewish office of high priest was never filled after the destruction of the Temple in AD 70, and the sacrificial system was never resumed.

9. As you contemplate why we have a high priest and how Jesus is greater than any earthly high priest, glance back at your answer to question 6. Though you may sometimes not feel very confident in Jesus' presence, what are you learning about him that can change that?

➤ Read Hebrews 5:7–10.

10. Hebrews describes Jesus as “offer[ing] up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death” (5:7). Take that in for a moment, the Son crying out to the Father who could rescue him from a horrific death on the cross.
- a. What was the initial answer to these prayers? (Acts 2:23; Phil. 2:8)

 - b. The writer of Hebrews assures us that Jesus was heard (5:7). How did the Father honor Jesus' “reverent submission” (5:7)? (Acts 2:24; Phil. 2:9; Heb. 2:9; 5:8–10ⁱ)
11. Read about the mysterious priest Melchizedek in Genesis 14:17–20. We will learn more about him later in Hebrews, but for now it is important to note that Jesus is said to be “a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek” (5:6). What did Jesus accomplish in this role that was so much better than anything Aaron could ever have accomplished? (5:9)
12. What obedience is necessary for “eternal salvation” (5:9)? (Jn. 6:29)

ⁱ Hebrews 5:9 says that Jesus was “once made perfect.” For clarity on what this means, see the “Made Perfect” box in Lesson 3

13. The goal of the writer of Hebrews is both to show the superiority of Jesus in every way and to encourage the readers to live their lives out of that reality. Week after week allow the truths you are studying to change how you see and interact with Jesus, yourself, your circumstances, and the world around you. What truths from this lesson do you want to meditate on, or what has already had an impact on you?

¹ William Barclay, *The Letter to the Hebrews* (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1976), 42.