

WORSHIP

Suggested Worship Songs:

Joy to the World, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, This World Is Not My Home, I Offer My Life

WELCOME

Priest Picture. What enters your mind when you think about priest?

WORD

Exodus 28:1

"Then bring near to yourself Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the sons of Israel [Levites], to minister as priest to Me—Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

You will not understand the Tabernacle in the Old Testament unless you connect it to Jesus in the New Testament. Even the arrangement of the furniture in the Tabernacle and the assembly of the 12 tribes of Israel whenever they marched with the portable Tabernacle, are shaped like a cross from an aerial view. Everything about the Tabernacle points to Jesus.

A Holy Nation of Priests

God initiated to pursue intimacy with people through the Tabernacle with the appointed priests representing the people to God, and God to the people (Hebrews 5:1, 4). One cannot make himself a priest, he must be appointed by God.

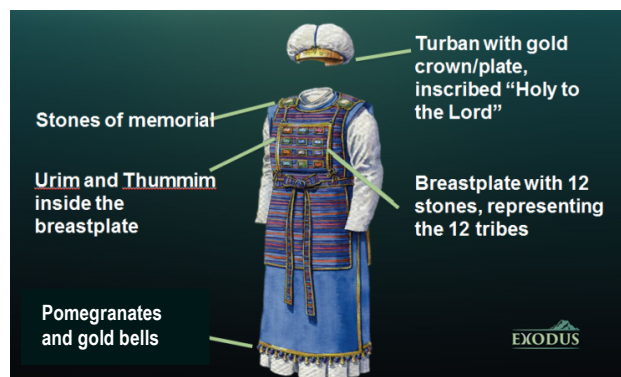
Priests are servants of God who must approach the Holy God, His way, otherwise they will suffer the consequences of an improper and irreverent way toward God like what happened to Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu (Exodus 10:1-3).

God wanted Israel to become a nation of priests (Exodus 19:6), but Israel failed miserably. They did not live up to God's holy standard.

The Garments of the High Priest

God is into details. He meticulously gave instructions for the design of the garments of both the high priest and the ordinary priests. The high priest wore the ceremonial robe only inside the Tabernacle, not for public display. The holy garment is for glory and beauty to consecrate the high priest before the Lord.

The holy garment is external but it gives a message and teaches us how to approach the Holy God (Exodus 28:2-3). Every single detail of the garment also points to Jesus, our High Priest.



The Turban is the holy crown (Exodus 29:6) with inscription, "Holy to the Lord". The Stones of Memorial are two precious stones on the shoulder of the ephod; the names of the 12 tribes of Israel are engraved on the stones according to their birth order, six on each (Exodus 28:11-12). The breast piece on the ephod has 12 stones representing the 12 tribes of Israel. The high priest carries the whole nation of Israel close to his heart (Exodus 28:29). Inside the breastplate is the Urim and Thummim which is used to help know God's will (v.30; Numbers 27:21; 1 Samuel 28:6). A priest sincerely desires to know God's will and to obey Him.

But the holy garment is meaningless unless you connect it to Jesus. In the New Testament, God has appointed Jesus to be our High Priest from the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5:5-6). Melchizedek was an appointed priest in the Old Testament who was also a king (Genesis 14:18). From his line, Jesus is to come as God's appointed High Priest and King of kings. Jesus completed the sacrifice for our sin by His blood once and for all.

God used distinguishing garments for the priests to set them apart from the rest. Each piece is

WORD (cont'd)

significantly related to the work of the high priest as God's appointed servant. This is also a foreshadowing of what Jesus our High Priest will complete in perfection and holiness. Jesus is our burden bearer who bore all our sins (Isaiah 53:12). He carries the whole mankind close to His heart; He sympathizes with us (Hebrews 4:15). He came to save the lost. He is fitting to be the high priest, perfect, sinless, undefiled; He sacrificed for the sins of mankind once and for all (Hebrews 7:25-27). He is the one Mediator between God and men (1 Timothy 2:5).

You are a Royal Priest

The holy garment will not change the priest but it will remind him that he is made special by God.

Today, God calls us, His people a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own possession (1 Peter 2:9). You are a royal priest of the King of kings. We did not become holy and precious for who we are but for who owns us. We

Discussion Questions:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Message Sent.** Who was God talking to in Exodus 28:1 and what was His message?
- 2. I Am a Royal Priest.** What makes you a royal priest? How do you behave as a royal priest?
- 3. Jesus is my High Priest.** If Jesus is your High Priest, what are you doing to point people to Him? How will you continue doing it this month? Read 1 Peter 2:9-12.

are God's possession, set apart through the blood of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

As royal priests, we have to know that we are chosen by God. We must carry the burden and the pains of others; love them and pray for them; help them discern the will of God; point people to Jesus and proclaim God's greatness how He saved us from sin and transformed our life (1 Peter 2:9).

Intimacy with God through Jesus transforms our life into a royal priesthood. As royal priest are you representing the Lord with distinctive life set apart for God? Have you consecrated your life for God?

If you however are not even sure that you belong to a royal priesthood, perhaps you have not known Jesus as your High Priest. God has given us the way already, seize the privilege to seek Him and pursue intimacy with Him. Will you seek Him today?

WORKS

Priestly Appointment

Study and discuss with your break out group the table below. What are you learning new today?

Levitical High Priest	Jesus the High Priest	New Testament Priest
Descendants of Aaron	Son of God, Chosen King and Priest	Chosen by God
Sinful	Sinless	Forgiven
Need to offer sacrifice for himself	No need to offer sacrifice for himself	Jesus our sacrifice
Sacrificed animals repeatedly	Offered Himself once for all time	Offer our life
Many Priests limited by lifetime	Only one High Priest Lives forever to save and intercede for us	Royal priest

Weekly Prayer Points

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- New Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends