



## A Priest Forever Hebrews 7:1-28

Community Reflection is part three of Vineyard Boise’s “Weekly Discipleship Track.” Community Reflection is intended to point you towards the unique interaction that happens in the face to face setting of small group life. You’ve processed the truth on your own in the weekly devotions and have heard the truth presented in Sunday’s teaching. Now you have the opportunity to interact with other believers about the implications and applications of that truth. “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another,” says the proverb. That’s exactly what takes place in the small group setting. Perspectives are clarified, truths explored, convictions sharpened (or softened, as the case may be), life is built. There are three segments in each Community Reflection: **Prepare**, **Process**, and **Participate**.



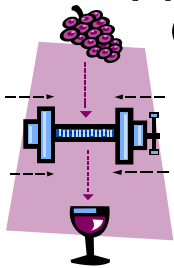
### PREPARE

(For participants prior to group meeting)

1. Work through “This Week’s Walk.” Do the devotions, noting any key insights you want to share with your group or questions you would like to ask.
2. The devotionals already covered the two Old Testament texts where Melchizedek is mentioned (Genesis 14 and Psalm 110). See the sidebar for a summary of info on Melchizedek outside of the Bible. Here’s a basic observation to consider about Melchizedek: In Hebrews 7:3, “without genealogy” helps to define the other descriptive terms (“without father, without mother, without beginning of days or end of life”). Genesis is a book filled with genealogies – everyone has a genealogy, and mention of the number of years they lived, etc. But here comes Melchizedek – poof, there he is. That, and the Psalm 110:4 reference to the Messiah being a “priest forever” in the order of Melchizedek, led the Hebrews author to compare him to Jesus (notice that Melchizedek “has been made like the Son of God,” not the other way around).

### PROCESS

(For leaders/co-leaders during group meeting)



1. Pray daily for your group meeting and every group member by name.
2. Ask your group how they did with their devotions this past week. What stood out as they worked through them? What questions or issues were raised?
3. Have your group read through the entire text of Hebrews 7.

#### Melchizedek in Jewish Literature

Beyond the Old Testament references, Melchizedek is mentioned in the following sources:

##### Dead Sea Scrolls

Here Melchizedek is paired with Michael the archangel and is seen performing end times judgment on the world.

##### Philo, *Allegorical Interpretation* 3.25-26

Mel is referred to as “worthy of God’s own priesthood.”

##### Josephus, *Jewish Antiquities*

Referred to as “the priest of God.”

##### Babylonian Talmud

Mel is linked to Elijah.

##### Gnostic Texts

One of these texts identifies him with Jesus; another says he was taken to heaven by Michael the archangel where he remains eternally

Weekly Discipleship Track



1. Life reflection – need for change, hunger for God
2. Presentation of truth – teaching and studying
3. Processing the truth – reflection and debrief in community
4. Life change – response to truth, new habits and actions

# Community Reflection

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Ask the group for any immediate impressions or questions that strike them. You can choose from the following discussion questions to help the group process this chapter and the truths about this “mystery man” Melchizedek:

1. Why is the subject of Melchizedek an important subject for *us*? Why do you think the Hebrews author picks such an obscure, mysterious character to teach us about Jesus?
2. Who is Melchizedek? What two important Old Testament offices are united in him? What is significant about this? What does this mean for us today?  
[Note: Under Moses, there was a sharp division between the king and the priest – these two offices were separated, and kings who tried to perform the role of a priest (for instance, Uzziah in 2 Chronicles 26:16-21) were severely judged. Read **Zechariah 6:12-13** for a prophesy of “the Branch” who would be both priest and king, with these two roles finding perfect harmony in him.]
3. What was the problem with the Levitical priesthood? Why couldn’t this priesthood “get the job done” (get us into a forgiven, maturing relationship with God)? How is Jesus “in the order of Melchizedek” different?
4. What is the bottom line application for us from Hebrews 7?



## **PARTICIPATE** (As a group during or after your meeting)

A good way to wrap up your group time together might be to read Genesis 14:17-20 once again, highlighting the mention of Melchizedek bringing Abraham bread and wine. The emphasis of Hebrews 7 is on how we have a high priest *forever* who brings us forgiveness and relationship with God. What better way to celebrate that than to bring out your own “bread and wine” and take communion together as a group? You could really make this a special occasion by dimming the lights, lighting some candles, having some intimate worship, etc. Make the time special, and take the time during communion to really bless each other.

As an extension of this outside of your group meeting, consider finding an outreach opportunity such as working in a food pantry as a group or helping to feed the homeless in the park.