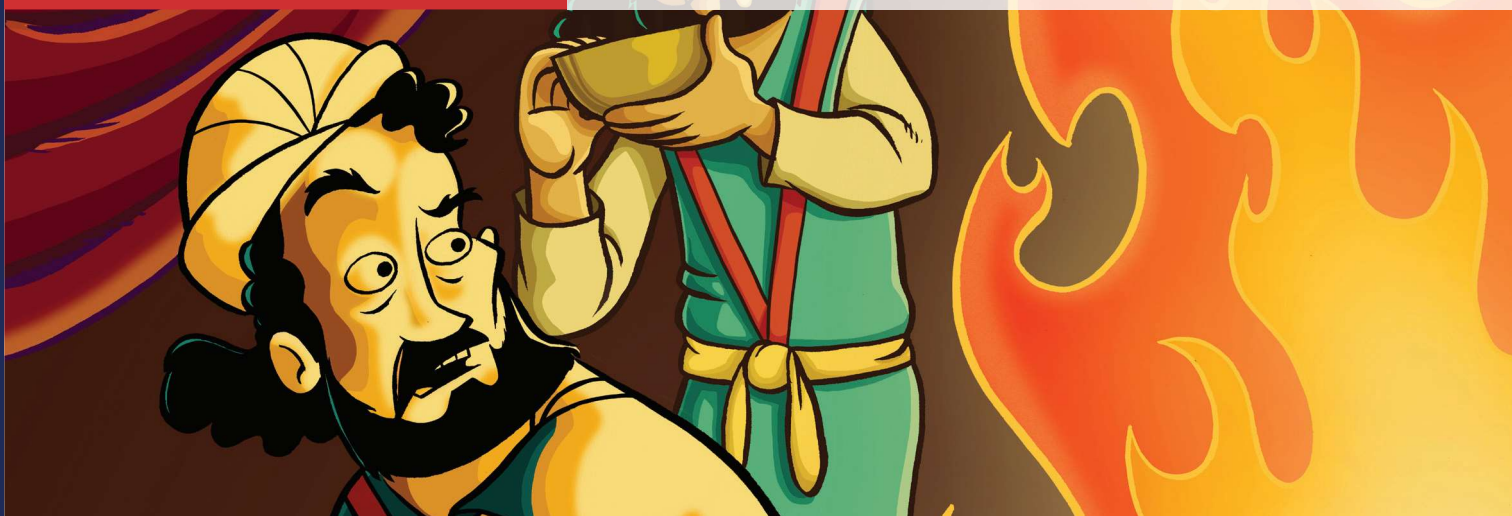


# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## WEEK 29

### God establishes the priesthood

Leviticus 8:1–10:7



## DAY 1

God set apart Aaron and his sons to serve as priests •  
Leviticus 8:1–36

### READ

Leviticus 8:1–36

### EXPLAIN

**The truth of Leviticus 8:1–36**

God chose Aaron and his sons to be **priests** for Him, people set apart to serve Him by sacrifices, to live holy lives in His presence, and to speak His words to the people. But Aaron and his sons were sinful just like everyone else. So Moses washed them with water, illustrating purity from sin (8:6) and showing that purity is essential in order to be useful to God (1 Tim 3:2–6; 2 Tim 2:21). Then he put special clothes on them, showing everyone that they were holy to the Lord (8:7–9). Moses anointed Aaron with oil, a sign of the Holy Spirit empowering someone to special service for God (8:12; 1 Sam 10:1–6; 16:13). Moses then offered offerings for them (8:14–32). During these sacrifices, Moses sprinkled them with blood (8:23–24, 30). This process shows that there must be mediators between God and man, and these mediators must be holy. So now we have a perfectly holy mediator who never needed to be cleansed, Jesus Christ (1 Tim 2:5).

### ASK

1. What job did God give to Aaron and his sons?  
*God called them to be priests.*
2. What did the twelve stones in the high priest's ephod represent?  
*They represented the 12 tribes of Israel. When the high priest went into the Holy of Holies, it was as if all of Israel entered God's presence.*
3. Who did Aaron offer sacrifices for, and why?  
*He offered sacrifices for himself because he could not lead the people in worship until his own sins were forgiven. Then he offered sacrifices for the people because he was their mediator with God.*

### DISCUSS

1. Explain why today we don't need human priests to represent us before God.
2. Discuss the similarities and differences between the priesthood of Aaron and the priesthood of Jesus.

## DAY 2

Aaron did his job as the new high priest • Leviticus 9:1–24

### READ

Leviticus 9:1–24

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Leviticus 9:1–24

Now that Aaron had been made high priest, God told him to offer sacrifices (9:1–7). First, he had to offer sacrifices for himself, since even as high priest he was still sinful (9:8–14). This is a reminder that God uses imperfect people, who can only serve Him on the basis of Christ's ultimate sacrifice (Rom 12:1). Next, Aaron obeyed by offering sacrifices for all the people, in the same order as Moses had: sin offering, burnt and grain offerings together, then the fellowship offering (9:15–22). The goal of these sacrifices was the appearance of the glory of God (9:6), and God's glory did appear, with fire from God burning up the offerings (9:23–24). When the people saw this, they shouted for joy (9:24). This illustrates the purpose of worship, which is to behold and delight in the glory of God (Titus 2:13). It also shows that blessing comes after sacrifice. All this is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who most powerfully displays God's glory and who sacrificed Himself to give believers every spiritual blessing (2 Cor 4:6; Eph 1:3).

### ASK

1. Why did Aaron have to first offer a sacrifice for himself?  
*Even though Aaron was high priest, he was still sinful (9:8–14).*
2. When Aaron obeyed God, what happened to Aaron's offerings?  
*Fire from God burned them up.*
3. What is the purpose of worship?  
*To behold and delight in the glory of God (Titus 2:13).*

### DISCUSS

1. Read Romans 12:1 and make a list of ways you can worship God today through offering yourself completely to the Lord.
2. Thank God for all His good and perfect gifts (James 1:17).

## DAY 3

Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, did not treat God as holy • Leviticus 10:1–7

### READ

Leviticus 10:1–7

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Leviticus 10:1–7

Even though they had just seen God's glory consume the offerings, Aaron's two oldest sons, Nadab and Abihu, did not respect God. They burned incense to the Lord in a way He had not commanded (10:1). The incense they offered is called "unauthorized fire." Perhaps they got their coals from somewhere besides the bronze altar, or they burned the wrong kind of incense (Exod 30:34–38), or they came at the

wrong time, or they tried to enter the Holy of Holies (16:2). They probably committed many violations, and it seems that drunkenness was part of the problem (10:9). Ultimately, Nadab and Abihu dishonored God by not offering incense exactly as God had commanded. The worship of God must always be done according to God's requirements and in light of God's holiness. So the same fire that burned up Aaron's offerings killed Nadab and Abihu (10:2). Fire from the LORD is mentioned twelve times in the Old Testament, six times as a blessing and six times as punishment. God's holiness is a blessing to those who revere it, but it destroys those who do not.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**ASK** 

1. What did Nadab and Abihu do?  
*They burned incense to God in the wrong way. They did not respect God's holiness.*
2. How must we worship God?  
*The worship of God must always be done according to God's requirements and in light of God's holiness.*
3. When Nadab and Abihu disobeyed God, what happened to them?  
*Fire from God burned them up.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Talk about why it's important to obey every one of and every part of God's commands.
2. Discuss why Nadab and Abihu were punished so severely for treating God as unholy.

**DAY 4**

*All Christians are to worship God in holiness •*  
*Hebrews 12:18–13:17*

**READ** 

Hebrews 12:18–13:17

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Hebrews 12:18–13:17**

God blessed Israel at Sinai. He gave the tabernacle, the sacrifices, and the priests as a way for a sinful people to dwell with a holy God. In response to such a good gift, the people were to treat God as holy (12:18–21). But now, God has given an even greater gift—His Son, Jesus Christ. The tabernacle, sacrifices, and priesthood only pointed to Jesus as the one who truly cancels the debt of sin (12:24). The gift of Christ is to be accepted with thankfulness, reverence, and awe (12:28), because God is a consuming fire (12:29). The right response to God's goodness is to accept Christ, and worship Him through a life of holiness, love, purity, and integrity (13:1–6), sound doctrine (13:8–9), suffering (13:10–14), praise and kindness (13:15–16), and submission (13:17). No one should worship God carelessly (Eccl 5:1–2), especially leaders who are to be examples for others (13:7; Jas 3:1). Life in Christ is to be a holy life.

**ASK** 

1. What have we received from God that is so great?  
*God's Son, Jesus Christ.*
2. How should we respond?  
*With gratitude and reverence and awe.*
3. How does Hebrews 12:29 describe God?  
*As a devouring fire.*
4. What are some ways that we show reverence and awe toward God?  
*We love one another, show hospitality, remember those suffering for the gospel, respect marriage, avoid greed, honor those leading the church, do not believe false teaching, suffer for Christ's sake, praise and thank God, do good, and share.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Talk about how we treat God as holy.
2. Discuss how our actions toward one another reveal what we believe about God's holiness in our hearts.

## DAY 5

Jesus is the great and holy High Priest • Hebrews 7:23–8:1

### READ

Hebrews 7:23–8:1

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Hebrews 7:23–8:1

Just as Jesus fulfills the tabernacle (John 1:14) and the sacrificial system (1 Pet 3:16), so now He fulfills the priesthood. When the high priest went into the Holy of Holies, it was as if he brought all twelve tribes in with him. So now as Jesus stands in the very presence of God, He brings every believer into God's presence (7:25). The high priest interceded for the people, so now Jesus intercedes for those who come to Him (7:25). The high priest offered sacrifices, so now Jesus offers a sacrifice. But unlike the old priests, Jesus never dies, so He is able to offer eternal salvation in Himself (7:23–24). Unlike the old priests, Jesus is perfect and did not need cleansing (7:26). Unlike the old priests, who offered animal sacrifices every day, Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice once for all (7:27). Unlike the old priests, who were sinful men appointed by the Law, Jesus is the Son of God appointed by God's promise (7:28; cf. 7:21). Through Jesus, the great High Priest, we may all become holy to God (1 Pet 2:9).

### ASK

1. Who is the great High Priest?  
*Jesus is the great High Priest.*
2. How does Jesus do the job of the high priest?  
*He offers a sacrifice, He represents His people before God, He intercedes for His people, and He communicates God to His people.*
3. How is Jesus greater than the old priests?  
*He is eternal and sinless. He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice once for all. He is a priest who is also king.*
4. What does Jesus offer us as our High Priest?  
*Jesus offers us eternal salvation, holiness, and the opportunity to enter into the presence of our holy God.*

### DISCUSS

1. Discuss why we need a high priest (Rom 3:23).
2. Discuss how we can accept Jesus as our High Priest (Rom 3:22; 10:9).

## NEXT WEEK

### God ordains the Day of Atonement

Leviticus 16:1–34

