In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 36
Jesus: Great High Priest

Themes:

- The Old Testament appointment of temple and priests was temporary, pointing to something much better—Jesus.
- The fullness of God dwells in the Person of Jesus.
- Jesus alone brings His people into the presence of God.
- Jesus is our great High Priest, the one Mediator between God and sinful man.

Scripture:

John 2:13-21; Colossians 1:19; Hebrews 5:1-3; 6:19-20a; 7:23-26; 9:24

Memory Verse:

John 1:16 (and review verses 1-15)

Jesus Fulfilled These Old Testament Clues:

GOD'S TEMPLE, ONE HIGH PRIEST

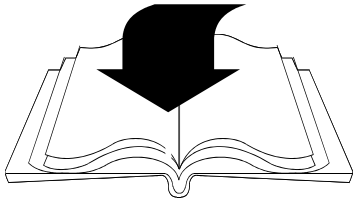
Home and Heart

Discuss the word "mediator." It may be helpful to show your child some type of electrical adapter (e.g., a three-prong to two-prong adapter) and demonstrate how it works. Point out that the adapter acts as a type of "mediator" between one thing and another. Without the adapter, there would be no way to "connect" the two objects. Why do people need a mediator to "connect" with a holy God? Read Habakkuk 1:13a and Isaiah 59:2. How is Jesus a perfect mediator? Read and discuss Hebrews 2:17-18. Why is it important that Jesus is faithful and merciful? Read Hebrews 4:14-16. Why is it important that Jesus can sympathize with us? Why is it important that He never sinned? Why can people who trust in Jesus be confident? Read Hebrews 7:23-26. Why is it good news that Jesus continues as High Priest forever? Read Hebrews 9:24. Is He only allowed to enter God's presence once a year? Why is He always in God's presence? Do you ask Jesus to intercede for you? Do you believe He is acting in heaven on your behalf? In what ways? Read Jesus' prayer for His disciples in John 17:6-26 and 1 John 1:9; 2:1.

Read the story of Jesus cleansing the temple in John 2:13-16, and His words in verses 19-21. The temple Jesus cleansed in these verses no longer exists because it was destroyed soon after Jesus died on the cross and returned to heaven. It has never been re-built. Why is it good news that we no longer need to go to one certain PLACE to worship in God's presence? How is having Jesus as our "temple" good news? If you want to pray to God in the middle of the night, do you need to go to some special place? Why not? Do you need to travel to a certain place to be forgiven for your sins? Why not? Read and discuss John 4:20-21, 23-24.



DISCOVER MORE



HEBREWS

Remember the last time you saw your shadow? Your shadow isn't "you," it's just a fuzzy and darkened image of you. Hebrews uses the word "shadow" to refer to the Old Testament tabernacle, priests, and sacrifices. This is because they were like faint and darkened images of something. Just as your shadow points to something much better—you—the Old Testament shadows pointed to something much, much better…Jesus! This week, read the following verses from Hebrews. Each describes how Jesus came as the one, final, perfect High Priest. As you read, you will see how much better He is than the Old Testament priests, who were temporary "shadows," pointing to the coming of Jesus. Use the boxes below to compare the Old Testament priests to Jesus.

THE OLD TESTAMENT PRIESTS WERE SHADOWS BECAUSE...

Hebrews 5:1-3

Hebrews 7:23

Hebrews 9:6-7

Hebrews 10:11

JESUS THE GREAT HIGH PRIEST IS BETTER BECAUSE...

Hebrews 4:14-16

Hebrews 7:24-27

Hebrews 9:24

Hebrews 10:12