

Bible Story 345

Our Great High Priest

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

OPENING ACTIVITIES

- **Color**
 - Have the children color the picture with the memory verse on it

WORSHIP

PRAYER

STORY

Hebrews 4:14-5:10

- **Tell the story using the flannel-graph or illustrations**
 - Begin by explaining the job of the high priest in the Old Testament
 - Refer to Hebrews 5:1-4 and Leviticus 16
 - Show the children how Jesus is our great high priest
 - When you discuss Heb. 4:15, refer to Jesus' temptation in Matthew 4:1-11
 - When you discuss Heb. 4:16, talk about the curtain that separated the Most Holy Place and refer to Mark 15:37-38 in which the curtain was torn from top to bottom at Jesus' crucifixion
 - When you discuss Heb. 5:7-9, refer to Luke 22:39-45 where Jesus is praying in the garden and choosing to submit to the Father
 - If you want to talk about Melchizedek, refer to Genesis 14, Psalm 2:7 & Psalm 110:4
 - Conclude the story by reinforcing that Jesus understands every difficulty, temptation, and struggle the children face, and Jesus has made the way for them to come to God in prayer each time

MEMORY VERSE

Hebrews 4:16

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

- **Practice the verse by acting**
 - Choose 2 helpers to hold beach towels up next to each other to form a “curtain”
 - Have the class seated on the side so they can see in front of and behind the “curtain”
 - Place a large decorated chair behind the “curtain”
 - Choose a volunteer to sit on the throne as God
 - Choose another volunteer to be a child
 - The class says the first phrase of the verse
 - The child kneels in prayer in front of the curtain and makes a request
 - The child walks boldly between the towels through the “curtain”
 - The class says the rest of the verse
 - The child pretending to be God opens His arms wide as if to receive the child and gives her a gift bag containing an answer to her prayer (could be a direct solution or something to help her endure)
 - Repeat, allowing several children to have a turn

ACTIVITIES

• Object Lesson

- Jesus can understand what we are going through because He has been through it too
- Give some examples to help the children understand empathy
 - Name something that most children have suffered (a skinned knee, someone breaking their block creation, getting sick...) and talk to the children about how they feel when they hear someone else is suffering the same thing. Do they have ideas of what to say or how to help?
 - Name something that most children have probably not suffered (losing a job, having surgery, house fire...) and ask them if there is a difference in how they can relate to the person who has experienced that hardship. If someone in the class has experienced this hardship have him explain what it was like and how he would respond to another person in the same situation
 - Discuss that we know better how to help people with problems we have been through ourselves. Jesus has been through something comparable to any hardship or temptation we may face; He can always understand and He knows how to best help you through it

• Role-Play

- Even Jesus had to choose to obey. He agonized as He prayed in the garden (Luke 22:39-45), but He was willing to submit to the will of His Father
 - Role-play various scenarios where children are faced with the decision to obey or disobey an authority figure
 - Compare this to Jesus who submitted to the Father and thus can understand and help us to obey even when we don't want to

• Craft

- Jesus can understand every difficulty anyone is facing. Encourage other people who are enduring trials to turn to Him for His mercy and grace
- Make cards for people who are in the midst of a difficult situation
 - Have the children write or dictate a message that will encourage the hurting people to know that Jesus understands their situation and is able to help them

MATERIALS

- Coloring paper with memory verse on it (Print the coloring page from <http://www.calvaryknoxville.org/NTTableOfContents.pdf> and cut and paste the memory verse onto the bottom)
- Flannel board and flannel pieces or pictures to illustrate the events referenced in the story
- Objects or pictures that would represent an answer to the child's prayer in the verse activity
- Construction paper
- Crayons
- Large chair decorated as a throne
- Props for role-playing
- 2 Beach towels
- Markers
- Gift bag