Oct 16, 19 A Better High Priest

Connect (15-20 mins)

1. Discuss how your group will serve during our Serve Well Week (10/26-11/2). You can find projects with City Church and City Center here or email bking@thewellcommunity.org if you'd like to find ways to serve with our local partners.

Grow (5-10 mins)

2. Reread Matthew 11:28-30. How did you experience rest in the Lord last week?

Share (45-60 mins)

- 3. Hebrews 4:15 tells us that Jesus understands our weakness because He was tempted as we are, yet without sin. How does that help you draw near to God when you've sinned, and rest in what Jesus has already done for you? In what ways do you struggle approaching His throne with confidence?
- 4. Read 1 Timothy 2:5–6. Jesus is fully God, yet He also became fully human to save us. Why was His becoming human necessary for God's plan of redemption? How does that deepen your understanding of His role as our mediator and High Priest?
- 5. As humans, we all experience doubt—about our faith, our devotion to Christ, our salvation in Him. In what ways have you wrestled with doubt as it pertains to your Christian walk? How does the reminder of His eternal priesthood in Hebrews 5:9-10 address these doubts?
- 6. In chapter 5, the author of Hebrews rebukes his readers for being "dull of hearing" (5:11) and not understanding the "elementary principles of the oracles of God" (5:12). This left them vulnerable to be conformed to the patterns of this world (Romans 12:2). If you're honest, where are you spiritually vulnerable right now or where do you tend to be spiritually vulnerable?
- 7. Looking at your current knowledge and practice of Scripture, how would you honestly describe your "spiritual age" (infant, child, adolescent, young adult, adult, middle aged, senior) and why? For next steps on growing in this area, see the practice section below.

Practice: Living on Purpose - Kingdom Participation

Jesus, even at a young age, sat and listened to teachers and "increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:41-52). If Jesus, being fully man and fully God, modeled that for us, then how much more do we need to grow in our understanding of God's Word and mature in our faith?

- Understanding God's Word was crucial when Satan tempted Jesus (Matthew 4).
- Understanding God's Word was crucial to Jesus teaching others in God's ways Matthew 5-7 (Sermon on the Mount)

Jesus knew the Word and lived out the Father's purpose to bring salvation. Now, we're called to join in the mission of reconciliation and make disciples—but to do that, we must be rooted in His Word and grow.

Make A Plan

"Eating on Sunday once a week, that someone else prepared for you" is not enough. Consider each of these areas and how you can engage more intentionally:

READ — STUDY — MEMORIZE — MEDITATE — DISCUSS

Invite others to come alongside you (*Remember, It's God's Spirit, Word and His people*), and help you process. Come up with a plan, routine, or a goal. Start with something simple, you won't learn everything in a day, but it adds up over time.

In what ways do you hope to grow in Scripture–to be more deeply rooted and not blown away by the storms of life and noise of the world? How might you grow in living on purpose–serving others and building God's Kingdom? Remember, this is an *invitation* to deeper intimacy with the Father.

"How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by [streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers."

Psalm 1:1-3

For next week: Read Hebrews 6:1-20: Write in a journal or the margins of your bible

- What did this passage teach you about God?
- What questions do you have?
- What is one thing you can apply to your life from this passage?