

The Promised Priest

FCC Life Group Discussion Notes

Based on the "The Promised One" Series of Matthew Rogers

12-07-2025

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for keeping every promise You ever made—especially the promise of sending Jesus, our perfect Priest. Open our hearts to see Him more clearly, love Him more deeply, and trust Him more fully. Help us experience the wonder of Christmas through the truth that You became like us to be with us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one Christmas gift you remember waiting for as a kid that felt like it took FOREVER to arrive? How does that feeling of anticipation compare to the centuries God's people waited for the Promised Messiah?

Key Scripture

Hebrews 4:14-16 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.

Sermon Summary

Jesus is the Promised Messiah who perfectly fulfills the three anointed roles of the Old Testament: Priest, Prophet, and King. This week we focused on Jesus as our Great High Priest—the only one who can truly bridge the gap between sinful people have with a holy God. Because He became fully human (yet remained without sin), He sympathizes with our struggles and invites us to come boldly to God for mercy and help.

Discussion Point 1: A Greater Priest Than Any Before Him

Scripture: Hebrews 4:14 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to our confession.

Point Summary: Old Testament high priests were flawed, had to offer sacrifices for their own sins first, and their work was never finished (they never “sat down”). Jesus, however, offered one perfect sacrifice—Himself—then sat down at the right hand of God because the work was completely finished. He is the final, perfect, eternal High Priest.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think it matters that Jesus “sat down” while every other priest kept standing? How does knowing the work is truly finished affect the way you face guilt or shame?
2. What does it do in your heart to realize Jesus didn’t just send a representative—He came Himself as our Priest?

Discussion Point 2: A Sympathizing Priest Who Truly “Gets” Us

Scripture: Hebrews 4:15 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.

Point Summary: Jesus doesn’t just know about our pain and temptation—He felt it. He experienced betrayal, grief, loneliness, anxiety, injustice, and every kind of human weakness, yet never once gave in to sin. That means there is nothing we go through that He doesn’t understand from the inside.

Discussion Questions:

1. Which area of Jesus’ humanity (grief, betrayal, temptation, feeling forgotten, etc.) most encourages you right now in something you’re facing?
2. How does it change the way you pray when you remember Jesus isn’t a distant God but a Priest who says, “I get you—I’ve been there”?

Discussion Point 3: Bold Access to the Throne of Grace

Scripture: Hebrews 4:16 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.

Point Summary: Because Jesus is our sympathetic, sinless High Priest who lives forever to intercede for us, we don’t have to shrink back or beg for scraps—God invites us to come confidently, anytime, for exactly the mercy and help we need.

Discussion Questions:

1. On a scale of 1–10, how bold do you usually feel when you approach God in prayer? What keeps you from greater boldness?
2. What's one specific "time of need" in your life right now where you can practice coming boldly to the throne of grace this week?

Wrap-Up

Jesus is the Promised Priest we waited centuries for—the Great High Priest who passed through the heavens, the sinless Son of God who sympathizes with every weakness, and the One who tore the curtain so we can run straight to God with confidence. This is the heart of Christmas: God became like us so He could be with us—forever.

Challenge

This week, every time you catch yourself hesitating to pray (because you feel guilty, unworthy, or too busy), pause and speak **Hebrews 4:16** out loud as a declaration. Then bring that specific need boldly to Jesus, trusting your sympathetic High Priest. Also, keep praying over your First Fruits commitment—let's trust God together as we step into all He has for FCC in the year ahead!

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, our Great High Priest, thank You for becoming human, for feeling everything we feel, and for finishing the work that gives us bold access to the Father. Help us live this week in the freedom and confidence You purchased for us. May the reality that You are with us change everything. Amen.