

THE PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST

Authors: R. Iona Lyster, Doris Stuber Moose, Maureen Pruitt

Illustrator: Frances H. Hertzler

Proofreader: Robyn Anoka

PowerPoint Presentation, Interface and Download: LaRue and Mark Bowser
Typesetting and Layout: Patricia Pope

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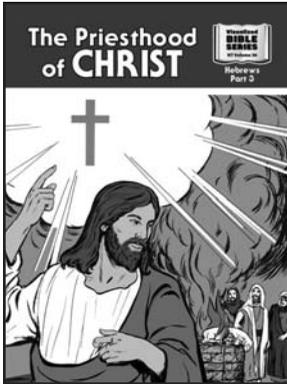
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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson 1

THE PRIESTHOOD OF AARON

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

A priest speaks to God for the people. He must be satisfactory to God if he is to go into the presence of God. Therefore, it is necessary that God choose His priests.

Hebrews 5:4 says: “No man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.”

In this lesson we shall see that every believer is a priest to God. To be a priest, a person must be chosen by God. He says of believers: “You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9). The Lord taught His disciples: “You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you . . . that you should go and bring forth fruit” (John 15:16). The Lord also told His disciples: “I

have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you” (John 15:19).

Our Great High Priest was hated by the world. Yet “He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.” (See Hebrews 5:8.) He knows and sympathizes with us as *we* learn obedience by the things which we suffer. Are you willing to be faithful to Him who has called you to be His priest?

The ephod illustrated on pages 4 and 12 should have additional color. According to God’s Word it was gold, blue, purple and scarlet.

Scripture to be studied: Exodus 19:5-8; 28:1–29:46; Leviticus 8:1-36; Hebrews 5:1-10; 7:11-28

The aim of the lesson: To lay a foundation for the study of the better priesthood of Christ and the priesthood of all believers.

What your students should know: Believers are priests to God.

What your students should feel: Responsible for living dedicated lives.

What your students should do: Dedicate themselves to serve God.

Lesson outline (for the teacher’s and students’ notebooks):

1. The priesthood: what it is (Hebrews 5:1-10; 7:11-28).
2. The reason for the priesthood (Romans 5:12-19).
3. God gives a priest to His people (Exodus 19:5-8).
4. God consecrates His priests (Exodus 28:1–29:46; Leviticus 8:1-36).

The verse to be memorized:

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. (Hebrews 4:14)

THE LESSON

John and his classmates were playing a fast game of kickball in the school yard. Their teacher explained, “I must go inside

for a few minutes. You may continue with the game. But please stay away from the flowers we planted.”

The children meant to obey. But soon the ball was kicked out of bounds close to the flower bed. Several boys scrambled for the ball. While fighting each other for it, four of them fell into the flowers, crushing all of them.

The children felt dreadful. They knew their teacher would be displeased. What could they do?

One of the girls had an idea. “John,” she said, “you are a leader. Our teacher will listen to you. Will you please go to her for us? Tell her what we did. Tell her we are sorry. Tell her we will do whatever she asks.”

After some urging from the others, John bravely went to the teacher. John was chosen to go to someone important to ask forgiveness for the wrong his classmates had done.

1. THE PRIESTHOOD: WHAT IT IS

Hebrews 5:1-10; 7:11-28

Priests in the Old Testament had duties similar to the one John had. A priest was chosen to do something for people who had sinned. But he was chosen by *God* to do this important work. And he went to someone more important than a teacher. He went to *God* for the people. A priest had to do his work carefully according to the rules of God.