

Our Great Faith

Hebrews Chapter 5

Lesson 5

FIRST DAY: Introduction

Spiritual dullness is a lethargy that sets into the soul and numbs believers from enthusiasm, understanding, and fully embracing the glorious truths that surround us.

The author of Hebrews wanted to take his readers deep into the glory that surrounded the priesthood of Jesus, that they might have assurance of their forgiveness and confidence in their relationship with God. However, he was concerned that spiritual dullness might keep them from understanding, receiving, and embracing the great revelations God had for them.

God wants to reveal to you the majesty of His great accomplishments through Christ. He wants to unfold His good, gracious, and eternal plans to us! However, spiritual dullness will numb the effect of these great truths. As believers, we need to deal with the spiritual lethargy that so quickly and easily sets into our minds and hearts.

*Ask God to help you remove any traces of dullness,
that you might grasp the glory of what He has done, is doing, and plans to
do.*

SECOND DAY: Read Hebrews 5:1-4

1. In Hebrews 4:14-15 the author divulged the fact that Jesus is our great and ultimate High Priest. This revelation would have been difficult for some Jews who had been raised with the exclusivity of the Levitical priesthood. Hebrews 5 delves further into this glorious revelation. Fill in the chart below using Hebrews 5:1-4 to demonstrate how Jesus fulfilled the qualifications of the High Priest:

HEBREWS 5:1-4	QUALIFICATIONS OF THE HIGH PRIEST	JESUS' FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
His Role Verse 1	a. His selection b. His appointment c. His duties	Philippians 2:7 John 8:42 Hebrews 10:12
His Humanity Verse 2	a. His attitude b. His weakness	Matthew 9:36 Hebrews 2:18
His Requirements Verse 3	a. His offering	Galatians 1:4
His Calling Verse 4	a. His honor	John 8:54

	b. God's call	Acts 10:38a
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- a. Why do you think these qualifications are necessary for the *high priest*?

- b. Take a moment to write a description of your High Priest.

THIRD DAY: Read Hebrews 5:5–8

1. God established the office of priesthood before the tribes of Israel even existed. No human could simply assume the honor of this office apart from God's ordination. Use Hebrews 5:5a to briefly explain how Jesus fulfilled this requirement.
 - a. Hebrews 5:5b–6 (NLT) says of Jesus, *No, He was chosen by God, who said to Him, "You are My Son. Today I have become Your Father." And in another passage God said to Him, "You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek."* Remark on God's ordination of Jesus.
 - (1) Melchizedek was introduced in Genesis 14:18–20 and Psalm 110:4 as the *priest of God Most High*. By contrast, the Jewish priesthood prescribed by the Law, was passed down through the human descendants of Aaron. How does the calling of Jesus by *the order of Melchizedek* confirm the superiority of His priesthood?

2. Use Hebrews 5:7 to paint a picture of Jesus' experience *in the days of His flesh*.

a. This description could refer to Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane before He went to the Cross. Read about this in the following passages and share any additional reflections or observations:

(1) Matthew 26:36-45

(2) Luke 22:41-44

b. What does this underscore about the humanity of Jesus?

(1) Recall Hebrews 4:15 and share how this is a comfort to you.

3. Hebrews 5:7-8 (NLT) says, *While Jesus was here on earth, He offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the One who could rescue Him from death. And God heard His prayers because of His deep reverence for God. Even though Jesus was God's Son, He learned obedience from the things He suffered.* How does this speak to you concerning:

a. Jesus' prayers

b. Jesus' Sonship

c. Jesus' obedience

(1) Link this with Philippians 2:7-8 and share your thoughts.

d. Jesus' suffering

4. How does your study today highlight the greatness of Jesus?

FOURTH DAY: Read Hebrews 5:9-11

1. Hebrews 5:9a declares that Jesus was *perfected*, (*He finished or carried through to completion*). What does this convey to you about Jesus' ministry?

a. Link this with Luke 24:26 and 1 Peter 3:18, and share your thoughts on the purpose of Jesus' suffering.

(1) How does this minister to you about the purpose of suffering in your life? See also Romans 8:17b-18 and 1 Peter 5:10.

2. Use Hebrews 5:9 to answer the following questions concerning the results of Jesus' perfection:

a. What did Jesus become?

(1) How is He the *author*?

(a) Link this with Hebrews 12:2. What do you see?

b. For whom did He do this?

c. Why then is He superior to any other high priest?

3. By what higher *order* was Jesus *called*? Hebrews 5:10

4. The author had *much to say* about Melchizedek, but what was the problem? Hebrews 5:11

a. Notice that the Hebrew believers had *become* this way. What does this imply?

(1) Link this with Hebrews 2:1. What do you see?

b. How is this a warning to you?

5. List some ways you can avoid spiritual dullness.

FIFTH DAY: Read Hebrews 5:12-14

1. According to Hebrews 5:12a, what *ought* to have been the case with these believers?

a. Instead, what did they *need*? Hebrews 5:12b

(1) Why is it disconcerting that they needed to be taught this *again*?

2. The author used a contrast between partaking of spiritual *milk* and *solid food* to drive home his point concerning the Hebrew believers (Hebrews 5:12c). Use Hebrews 5:13-14 to fill in the chart:

HEBREWS 5:13-14	AUTHOR'S DESCRIPTION	YOUR INSIGHTS
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Those who partake of <i>milk</i>	Verse 13	
Those who partake of <i>solid food</i>	Verse 14	

a. In Greek, the phrase *he is a babe* implies that *he has become a babe*. How is this a warning?

b. The phrase *of full age* denotes maturity. Use the description in verse 14 to underscore how you can:

(1) Mature as a believer

(2) Encourage another believer to mature

c. Note that spiritual maturity *comes by reason of use*. Link this with 2 Timothy 3:15 and share your thoughts.

3. What safeguards can you put in place to guard against spiritual immaturity?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Using your study this week, share a brief thought or reflection on the following:
 - a. The High Priest

 - b. Jesus' qualifications

 - c. Jesus' accomplishments

 - d. Spiritual dullness

 - e. Spiritual immaturity

2. What aspect of Jesus' ministry as High Priest blesses you most?

3. How has this week's lesson increased your appreciation for the *Author of Our Great Faith*?

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