



## Preface

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In the previous weeks...

- Week 1-5: Jesus Christ is God's ultimate revelation to the world, the promised Son of God who is superior over all created things and all Old Testament figures. He is our High Priest who offered Himself, in His humanity, to atone for our sins and become the pioneer of our salvation. We are warned to pay attention to God's revelation, firmly place our hope in Jesus, live in obedience to His Word, and grow in spiritual maturity.
- Week 6: Jesus Christ is the superior High Priest in the order of Melchizedek, who reigns and ministers forever to secure our salvation so that we no longer have to work for it.

This week...

- Jesus' sacrifice is superior to all earthly animal sacrifices. His blood was shed once and for all to forgive and pay for our sins. His blood purifies and reconciles us with God, giving us direct access to God. His death establishes the new covenant and institutes a new way of worship without requiring animal sacrifices while waiting for His return.

## Observation

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1. Based on Heb. 8:7-12, what are the implications of the new covenant?
2. Where was the Ark of the Covenant stationed? What were the roles of high priests?

*Leaders' note: "Most Holy Place" or "inner room". One of the roles of high priests was to offer animal sacrifices for himself and the people of Israel, for the atonement of sins.*

3. Based on Heb. 9:12-14, 18, 22-23, what had been achieved by the shedding of Jesus' blood?

*Leaders' note: **v.12-14**, eternal redemption, purification of the flesh (v.13) and consciences (v.14), **v.18**, put the new covenant into effect **v.22-23**, forgiveness and purification of sins.*

4. What did Jesus accomplish at His first coming (Heb. 9:26) and what will He accomplish at His second coming (Heb. 9:28)?

## Interpretation

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1. What do the regulations for worship in the first/old covenant reveal about God's nature?

## 2. How is Jesus' sacrifice of the new covenant superior to the old covenant?

*Leaders' note: 1) **v.11-12** and **v.25-26** Jesus Christ entered the **heavenly tabernacle, the "Most Holy Place"** (the very presence of God Himself) **once and for all** by His own blood; not the earthly tabernacle.  
2) **v.14** Jesus became the living and eternal sacrifice whose blood cleanses our consciences.*

## 3. Why was the shedding of blood essential to both the old and new covenant?

*Leaders' note: Blood symbolizes life, and **the wages of sin is death** (Romans 6:23, Genesis 2:17), requiring payment. **In the old covenant**, animal sacrifices were necessary to atone for sins (Leviticus 17:14). It signifies the gravity of sins and God's justice. **In the new covenant**, Jesus' blood represents the ultimate sacrifice, **demonstrating God's mercy and justice**. His death also activated the new covenant.*

## 4. How did the new covenant change the way the original audience worshipped God?

*Leaders' note: The new covenant **replaced the need for animal sacrifices**, and emphasized forgiveness through Jesus' blood, giving **direct access to God**. In the Last Supper, where Jesus foreshadowed His crucifixion, He instituted a new form of worship through an **act of remembrance of Jesus' death** and a **proclamation of His death** until he comes back (Matthew 26:26-28, Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).*

# Application

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1. What are the hindrances that keep you from remembering/understanding Jesus' sacrifice?
2. What are old systems of belief that you had to discard when you came to faith in Jesus?
3. How does the new covenant give you hope, knowing that Jesus will bring judgment?
4. What acts of remembrance can you incorporate into your life that would help you contemplate Jesus' sacrifice and the kingdom more frequently?

## Optional Prayer Exercise: Communion

The word "worship" comes from an Old English word that means "to ascribe worth to someone". Historically, communion has been the pinnacle of worship gatherings as an act of remembrance. This week, consider observing Communion as a community, remembering and ascribing worth to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

1. Prepare the communion elements (bread and juice/wine) and pass them around.
2. Be sure to give a **word of caution** before observing Communion, to ensure that everyone who partakes is a follower of Christ.
2. Begin by preparing our hearts, praying in silence, and confessing to God ways that we have fallen short.
3. Have someone read 1 Corinthians 11:23-24. Pause and take the bread together as a group.
4. Have someone read 1 Corinthians 11:25. Pause and take the juice/wine together as a group.
5. Close the time in prayers, declaring praise and thanksgiving for Jesus' sacrifice that allows us into this communion with God.