

LESSON 7



GOD'S WORKERS

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn how people prepared to become priests in Moses' time, and how to apply their preparation to our lives.
2. To understand that we are also called to be priests, and that we should act in a responsible manner worthy of this calling.

MEMORY VERSE

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

(1 Peter 2:9)

PRAYER

1. Thank You, Lord, for permitting us to gather here once again to learn more about Your wonderful word.
2. We ask You to open our minds and our hearts so that we may understand and accept the duty that we have as Your priests today.
3. We also ask You to guide us and move us so that we can learn to honor You in our daily lives.



Overview

1. The Preparation Taken to Become a Priest (Lev 8)

- a. Cleansing (Lev 8:6)
- b. Clothing (Lev 8:7-9)
- c. Anointment (Lev 8:12)

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One True Church

3. Life Application—Ron's Service to God

4. Activity—Priestly Garments



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Most Holy Place

According to Mosaic law, the high priest was to enter the Most Holy Place—the innermost sanctum of the tabernacle—once a year, to make an offering for himself and for the sins of the people. This was the most sacred place of the tabernacle, which only the high priest was permitted to enter. Even the high priest, however, was not exempt from punishment if he had not prepared himself appropriately for entry into the Most Holy Place (Ex 19:22).

The Living Way

Upon Jesus' death, the veil separating the Most Holy Place from the rest of the tabernacle was torn in two, signifying to the world that it was no longer necessary; Jesus' blood has now been shed, and has cleansed us from our sins. Because of His intercession, we are now able to approach and worship God directly (Heb 10:19-20). There is no more high priest, because we are now all called to be high priests of God (1 Pet 2:9). Understanding the duties of the high priest in Mosaic times is simply a step to understanding the nature of our own relationship with God.



Reaching Out to Your Students

At this age, students likely have dreams of what they want to be when they grow up. Their ideas can range from a businessman to a fireman, or even an artist or a doctor. This is a natural wish stemming from the respect that they have for characters or people that they have grown up with. Each job has visual markers, which the students likely associate the jobs with. They understand that different outfits mean different jobs and different responsibilities. A fireman wears a suit that helps to protect him from fire, and a doctor carries a stethoscope to check a person's heart. In the same manner, the outfit of an Old Testament priest and all the accompaniments that come along with it have very specific purposes. Learning about these will help them understand that we, as the New Testament priests, also have specific roles and responsibilities.

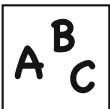


Opener

5 Minutes

Discussion Questions

1. What kinds of roles do you play right now in church?
2. What do you want to be when you grow up? Describe what you would wear if you did become one. What kind of equipment would you use? Would you wear any special kind of clothing? What makes the equipment or clothing special?
3. Describe, to the best of your knowledge or imagination, what a priest in the Old Testament might look like (more artistic teachers may want to draw it out on the board as the students describe).



Vocabulary

tunic: an inner garment, worn beneath the robe

turban: a piece of cloth that is wrapped around the head

ephod: a special garment made for a priest to wear (Ex 28:5-14)

breastplate of judgment: a breastplate attached to the ephod; twelve precious stones are set on it in four rows, each bearing the name of one of the sons of Israel (Ex 28:15-21)

Urim and Thummim: two stone-like articles used to determine the will of God (1 Sam 28:6; Neh 7:65); they are stored in the breastplate



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Give the students the Bible Discovery worksheet and have them follow along. They will be filling in the answers at various points of the lesson. Keep a copy of the Teacher version for reference.

In the last two lessons, we learned about the various feasts that God established for the Israelites. These feasts were established so that the Israelites could celebrate, enjoy, and thank God for all of the blessings He bestowed upon them. When He was teaching them about these feasts, He also taught them many other things. One of these was how His priests, specifically, Aaron and his sons, would serve Him in the tabernacle. Now, just like all of the jobs we just spoke about, the priests of the Bible also had very specific

equipment and clothing associated with their status. They had to undergo certain preparations to become a priest, similar to undergoing training or taking a test for the kind of job you want. Today, we're going to learn about these preparations and why they are important to us.

First, let's open our Bibles to Leviticus 8:1-12. Here, the Bible records in detail how the priests had to prepare themselves before serving God.

1. First, Aaron and his sons were washed in water (v. 6)
The priests were instructed to wash themselves for exactly the same reason we take a shower every day: so they could cleanse themselves. In this case, however, the physical act of washing themselves was both a physical

and spiritual cleansing. Physically, the water washed away the dirt. Spiritually, it washed away their impurities so that they could serve God with clean bodies and spirits.

Just like the Old Testament priests, we also wash ourselves before we serve God. That isn't to say that we have to take showers every time we come to church! What kind of "washing" do we go through before we become members of the church? [Allow students to answer if they can.] That's right, it's baptism. Water baptism washes away our sins, and cleanses us so that we can present ourselves to God as His priests with a clear conscience (Ti 3:5; 1 Pet 3:21; Jn 3:3).

FOR TEACHERS

Refer to the Bible Discovery worksheet and have students fill in Part 1.

2. Second, Aaron and his sons clothed themselves with priestly garments (v. 7-9)

A. The tunic, robe, and sash

After the priests cleansed themselves, they put on the tunic first. The tunic wasn't just any old piece of clothing, though. The Lord instructed the Israelites to make a specific tunic, especially for this purpose. Let's read Exodus 28:39. Special craftsmen were selected in order to make the priestly garments. The tunic was to be woven with fine linen thread. You may not know this, but the finer the thread, the more difficult it is to make cloth with. However, using finer threads results in a much higher quality of cloth. At the time, with no machinery to help them, making such a cloth would have been difficult and time consuming.

The robe was then put on over the tunic. Let's read what the robe looked like in Exodus 28:31-35. From this description, we can imagine that the robe was seamless, just like chain mail, and blue. The pomegranates on the hem were decorative, and the bells would make a small sound whenever the priest moved within the tabernacle. The sound of the bells served as an assurance to those outside that the priest was interceding for them.

Like the tunic, the sash was also made of very fine cloth, and was worn like a belt is worn today—the priests fastened the sash around their waists so that the robes they wore would stay properly around them.

The tunic was not something you could see very well, but the weavers were still required to put a great deal of work into making it. The inner garment represents our inner beauty—although we can't see our inner beauty, we still need to work hard on having pleasing qualities. What kind of qualities do you think would make a person pleasing to God? [Let students discuss.] Let's turn to Galatians 5:22-23. The fruit of the spirit consists of many different

qualities that we need to work hard on and develop within ourselves. As long as we try our hardest to follow these characteristics, our inner garment will then become the finest garment and will show our status to others as priests of God.

The robe represents our deeds, and the golden bells that sound when we walk represent our praises and thanksgiving to God, as well as our reverence when we walk in His temple. This means that the people around us can see and hear our works. When they see and hear our righteous deeds, they can see that we are worshipping God, and in doing so, we glorify God to everyone around us. When we put on good actions on the outside, we shine as the light of the world.

Third, there is the sash. Paul encourages members to gird their waists with truth (Eph 6:14). Putting on the sash means equipping yourself with the word of God before serving. We must study the Bible and learn God's word in order to serve Him properly and to glorify Him.

B. The golden plate/turban, ephod, and breastplate

One of the special garments was a golden plate, tied around the forehead on top of a turban. The turban was also made of fine cloth, like the tunic and sash, and the golden plate had an engraving on it that read: "HOLINESS TO THE LORD." Let's read Exodus 28:36-40. The turban was "for glory and beauty" according to verse 40, and the golden plate was a very important indicator of the priest's duties. When people gave gifts to God, they could only be accepted through the priest, because of their sins. It was only through the priest that the people could make offerings or any sort of communication with God.

The ephod was a special vest made with fine woven linen and gold, blue, purple, and scarlet threads. On the shoulders of the ephod were two very important items. Let's read Exodus 28:9-12. Wearing the two stones on his shoulders meant that the priest was representing the tribes before God. As a final touch, there were also two chains of pure gold that were like braided cords, one fastened to each stone setting.

Finally, there was the breastplate. It was made of the same materials as the ephod—fine woven linen, with gold, blue, purple, and scarlet threads. Attached to the square cloth were four rows of three gems, each engraved with one of the twelve tribes of Israel. In addition, gold chains were added so that the breastplate would stay attached to the ephod. The names of the tribes on his shoulders and on his chest showed that the priest was an intercessor for the people. Only the priest could pray for the Israelites, and only the priest could make offerings for their sins. He represented the people before God.

These three things were very important pieces of equipment and completely unique to the priests. Only the high priest could wear these. In the same way, as priests, we must also adorn ourselves in similar, spiritual attire.

Just as the Israelites communicated to God through the priest, people must turn to us in order to find God. Ephesians 6 says that we must wear the "breastplate of righteousness" and the "helmet of salvation." We received our salvation from God through Jesus' blood, and in the same way, we need to spread the gospel of salvation and intercede for others so that they can also be saved. However, we can only do this if we learn to live in righteousness and set an example for those around us.

C. Urim and Thummim

There is one final, important component of the garments that the priests wore. They aren't pieces of clothing, but two stones called the "Urim" and the "Thummim."

The Urim and Thummim were two very special stones. The breastplate was made so that they could be stored inside it, right over the high priest's heart. They were important because they were used to determine the will of God. For example, before the Israelites went out to war, they would inquire of God, and ask if it was His will that they fight (1 Sam 23:2-6). Then the priest would use the two stones to determine the will of God by drawing one out from the breastplate. If he drew out the Urim, it meant "yes," while drawing out the Thummim meant "no."

The Urim and Thummim literally represented the will of God. Just as they were stored over the heart of the high priest, we as God's new chosen priests also need to store His will in our hearts. We all have our own way of doing

things, and it's normal that we do. However, when we serve the Lord, we need to learn to submit ourselves to God's will.

FOR TEACHERS

Refer to the Bible Discovery worksheet and have students fill in Part 2.

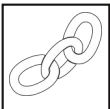
3. Aaron was anointed (v. 12)

The last thing the priests had to do was become anointed as God's worker. Oil was poured over the head in order to signify their new status as God's chosen workers. In the Old Testament, there were two types of people who were anointed: Kings and Priests (1 Chr 29:22). Aaron was the very first high priest who underwent this ritual, and much later, Saul was the very first to be anointed as king. It was a very important ritual, as only after being sanctified with oil were they permitted to serve God.

If being washed with water represents water baptism today, then what do you think being anointed with oil represents, today? [Allow students to answer, if they can.] That's right, being filled with the Holy Spirit is like being anointed with oil. Once we receive the Holy Spirit, we can then serve in His name as His chosen holy workers (Acts 10:38). The Holy Spirit will also empower us, help us to follow His teachings, and guide us in His truth. That is why only someone who has received the Holy Spirit is permitted to do His holy work.

FOR TEACHERS

Refer to the Bible Discovery worksheet and have students fill in Part 3.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

One True Church

As a member of True Jesus Church, we have a special role to play in the world. We are called to be a holy nation of royal priests (1 Pet 2:9), so we must prepare ourselves and equip ourselves with the appropriate garments. That way, people may be able to tell that we are different, and that we have the abundance of God.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. What are the three steps Aaron and his sons had to undergo before serving as priests?** First, they washed themselves with water. Second, they adorned themselves in the priestly garments. Third, they were anointed.
- 2. What is the New Testament, or modern, equivalent of the first step?** Water baptism.
- 3. Name the various priestly garments.** Tunic, robe, sash, turban, golden plate, ephod, breastplate, Urim, and Thummim.
- 4. What does the inner garment represent?** The tunic, or inner garment, represents our inner beauty.
- 5. How many stones were on the breastplate, and what did they represent?** Twelve stones were embedded on the front of the breastplate, representing the twelve tribes of Israel.
- 6. What were the two special stones? What was their purpose?** The Urim and Thummim. Their purpose was to determine the will of God.
- 7. What is the New Testament, or modern, equivalent of the third step? What is its purpose?** The anointing of the Holy Spirit. Its purpose is to help us abide by the teachings of God, and to empower us when we serve Him.



Life Application

10 Minutes

Ron's Service to God

Objective: To help students understand the necessity of preparation when serving God.

[Hand out the Life Application worksheet and read the testimony to or with the students. Then, go over the discussion questions with the students as a class. Suggested answers have been provided.]

Discussion Questions

- Why did brother Ron spend so much time preparing the first time he had to lead hymns? Have you ever had the feeling that no matter how much you prepared, it still wasn't enough?
Because he was very nervous. Answers may vary.
- Why was Ron able to do so well even though it was his first time leading hymns in front of so many people?
Because he had prepared very hard and prayed, so God was with him.
- Why did Ron begin to mess up and feel embarrassed whenever he led hymnal worship?
He lost his heart of reverence, and didn't bother preparing either his attire or his heart before serving the Lord.
- What can we learn from Ron's experience?
We shouldn't take God's work lightly, but should always do our best by preparing ourselves and praying for God's guidance each time, even in something small or something we are well practiced in.
- What holy work have you been assigned to do? How do you prepare for it?
Answers may vary.



Activity

Priestly Garments

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To allow students to visualize the priestly garments through illustrations.

Materials

- Large pieces of poster paper, or several small pieces of plain paper
- Pencils
- Markers or colored pencils
- Construction paper
- Scissors, optional
- Sample picture of priestly garments, optional

Instructions

1. The students will be making a poster of the various priestly garments. You may either have them work separately on their own pieces of paper, any size, or you may have them all working on one big poster if you have the wall space, perhaps by separating them into groups and assigning each of them different garments.
2. With their Bibles and their Bible Discovery worksheets for help (or sample drawings if you brought any), have the students draw each garment, in a size appropriate for the paper given to them. They may use construction paper or markers to make them more colorful.
3. Next to each garment, either on a separate piece of paper or on the same paper, have them write out the name of the garment. If you have a large wall to decorate, an option is writing the names, very large, on separate pieces of paper backed by construction paper, then using pieces of string or ribbon to indicate which garment is which.
4. Have the students add a brief sentence indicating the garment's purpose. You may want to help them construct sentences that won't be too long or difficult to write/read.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. wash, water
2. robe, sash, breastplate
3. oil
4. C
5. C
6. B
7. The tunic represents our inner beauty—although we can't see our inner beauty, we still need to work hard on having pleasing qualities. The robe represents our deeds, and the golden bells that sound when we walk represent our praises and thanksgiving to God, as well as our reverence when we walk in His temple.
8. These three things were very important pieces of equipment and completely unique to the priests. Only the high priest could wear these. In the same way, as priests, we must also adorn ourselves in similar, spiritual attire. Just as the Israelites communicated to God through the priest, people must turn to us in order to find God. Ephesians 6 says that we must wear the "breastplate of righteousness" and the "helmet of salvation."
9. We are the new priests of today; each of the steps in the Old Testament had meanings that we can also apply to our lives today.

God's Workers

Part 1

1. What was the purpose of being washed as part of their preparation to become a priest?

Physically, it washed away the dirt. Spiritually, it cleaned and purified the person so he could present himself before the Lord.

2. What does this ritual represent today? Water baptism.

3. Turn to Acts 2:38, and write the verse in the space below.

"Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

Part 2

Describe each of the garments as best you can, and then write down a brief summary of their spiritual meanings.

A. Tunic, robe, and sash

They were woven cloth made of fine linen threads. The tunic was an inner garment, worn beneath the robe and sash. The robe's hem had pomegranates, and bells hung from it. The sash was like a belt, worn around the waist to keep the tunic and robe in place.

What they represent:

The tunic represents our inner beauty. The robe represents our deeds, and the bells are our praises and thanksgiving to God. The sash represents girding ourselves with the belt of truth. By wearing these, we are showing others that we are children of God and therefore shine as the light of the world.

B. Golden plate, ephod, and breastplate

The golden plate was tied around the turban and had "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" inscribed on it. The ephod was a fine garment with many colorful threads, and a stone on each shoulder with the names of the children of Israel inscribed on them. The breastplate was a square cloth with twelve stones in it to represent the twelve tribes. It was attached to the ephod by golden loops.

What they represent:

The golden plate means that only through us can people attain salvation—we have to spread the gospel. The ephod and breastplate mean that we are intercessors for those around us, both fellow members and truthseekers alike. We need to intercede for others by praying for them and setting an example in righteousness.

C. Urim and Thummim

The Urim and Thummim were two special stones, stored in the breastplate pocket, directly over the heart. The Israelites used them to make inquiries of the Lord.

What they represent:

They represent God's will. We need to store His will in our hearts so that whenever we serve Him, we don't follow our own will, but listen to God and obey His will instead.

Part 3

Look up the following verses, and write down what the Holy Spirit does for us.

1. Eph 3:16 - *Strengthens us*
2. 1 Jn 2:27 - *Teaches us*
3. Rom 8:26 - *Prays for us*
4. Rom 15:16 - *Sanctifies us*
5. 1 Cor 12:4-11 - *Grants us spiritual gifts*
6. Gal 5:22-23 - *Helps us bear spiritual fruits*

GOD'S WORKERS

Part 1

1. What was the purpose of being washed as part of their preparation to become a priest?

2. What does this ritual represent today?

3. Turn to Acts 2:38, and write the verse in the space below.

Part 2

Describe each of the garments as best you can, and then write down a brief summary of their spiritual meanings.

A. *Tunic, robe, and sash*

What they represent:

B. *Golden plate, ephod, and breastplate*

What they represent:

C. *Urim and Thummim*

What they represent:



Part 3

Look up the following verses, and write down what the Holy Spirit does for us.

1. Ephesians 3:16 _____
2. 1 John 2:27 _____
3. Romans 8:26 _____
4. Romans 15:16 _____
5. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 _____
6. Galatians 5:22-23 _____

Ron's Service to God



Brother Ron had to run to church on Sabbath morning because he was late again in leading the hymnal service. The usher asked him to pick the hymns quickly and go up to lead. Ron had no time to quiet down and prepare his heart. In fact, he was still trying to catch his breath when he went to the front of the chapel. But as he tried to lead, he found himself stuttering, forgetting words, and fumbling with his hymnbook pages. Up in front of everyone, he felt so embarrassed. He just wanted to sink into a hole. When at long last the session was over, he slunk back down the pews, utterly ashamed as people looked at him. Why had he messed up something so simple as leading a hymnal session?

When Ron went to the back, the usher took him aside. "You know," she said, "you forgot to start the session in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." Ron mumbled something in reply. "Are you alright?" she asked, concerned. "You normally lead hymnal session perfectly, but recently you've been coming in late, and you haven't looked as confident." That made Ron stop and think. Why had he been messing up recently? It was just a hymnal session, but he messed up such a simple task! With the usher's encouragement, he decided to pray about it.

Later in the prayer room, Ron knelt down and prayed, asking God to help him figure out what was wrong. As he prayed, he had a sudden memory. A year ago, Ron had been asked to lead the hymnal session before the congregation for the first time. He was terrified at the thought; leading the congregation was very different from leading hymns in J1 class! There were so many people watching—the thought scared him, so he spent extra time preparing before going up to lead.

The night before, he had made sure his dress shirt was ironed and had hung his pants so that they wouldn't wrinkle. He had even polished his dress shoes and borrowed a tie from his dad for the first time. As the last part of his preparation, he had picked all of his hymns the night before and practiced conducting them in front of the mirror. Even with all these preparations, though, Ron had still been very nervous, so he asked his parents to bring him to church thirty minutes before the service began. He then knelt down before the Lord, just as he was doing now, to humbly ask for His help. After that, he conducted the hymnal service calmly and smoothly, and Ron had been so thankful to the Lord for His help.



Ron opened his eyes and looked down at his attire. He was wearing jeans and sneakers, and he hadn't prepared any of his hymns at all the night before. He had not even tried to get up early that morning; he had played games late into the night, and in the morning, he had dragged his feet while getting ready, thinking that it would be fine to be there exactly on time.

Ron then realized how foolish he had been in taking the work lightly. He now saw that even a small task, such as leading hymnal worship, required proper preparation. He repented and asked the Lord to forgive him, and promised that he would do his best to prepare well each time he was supposed to lead hymns. From that point on, Ron prepared himself carefully, and each time the hymnal session went smoothly with nothing for Ron to be embarrassed about.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did brother Ron spend so much time preparing the first time he had to lead hymns? Have you ever had the feeling that no matter how much you prepared, it still wasn't enough?
2. Why was Ron able to do so well even though it was his first time leading hymns in front of so many people?
3. Why did Ron begin to mess up and feel embarrassed whenever he led hymnal worship?
4. What can we learn from Ron's experience?
5. What holy work have you been assigned to do? How do you prepare for it?

E2 Year 1 Book 4 Lesson 7—God's Workers

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(1 Peter 2:9)**

Fill In the Blank

1. The first step in preparation to serve as a priest was to _____ yourself with _____.
2. Afterwards, they put on the priestly garments such as the tunic, _____, turban, _____, ephod, and _____.
3. Lastly, they had to be anointed with _____.

Multiple Choice

4. ____ : How many precious stones were placed on the breastplate?
 - a. One, representing the One True God
 - b. Three, representing the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 - c. Twelve, representing the twelve tribes of Israel
5. ____ : What were the Urim and Thummim?
 - a. The name of two positions among the ranks of the priests
 - b. The name of the two silver trumpets, used to call for help from the Lord
 - c. The name of two stones, used to make inquiries of the Lord
6. ____ : What does the anointment of oil represent today?
 - a. The baptism of water
 - b. The baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - c. Receiving the laying of hands

Short Answer

7. Of the tunic and the robe, pick one and explain the spiritual meaning behind it.
8. Of the golden plate, ephod, and breastplate, pick one and explain the spiritual meaning behind it.
9. Why is it important to learn about and understand the process of becoming priests in the Old Testament?