

# MELCHIZEDEK

Making The Bible Come Alive

## THE KING-PRIEST

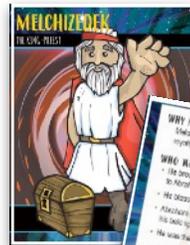
### WHO WAS THIS PERSON?

- Melchizedek was a God-fearing man.
- Melchizedek was a very important character but is only mentioned in the bible a couple of times.
- He was the King and High Priest of Salem (Future Jerusalem).
- Melchizedek blessed Abram.
- He was an Old Testament symbol of the coming King and Priest Jesus.
- Melchizedek was in one of the small God-honouring groups that was not a part of the Israelites in the Old Testament.

### WHAT IS THIS PERSON KNOWN FOR?

- He feared God and served Him, and even his name showed that. Melchizedek means “king of righteousness” and King of Salem means “king of peace”.
- Melchizedek was only mentioned in the Bible in Genesis 14:17-21. Then his character disappears but his name and story are mentioned in Psalm 110:4 and Hebrews 5,6 and 7 because of what he did with Abram in Genesis.
- His genealogy is unknown. It is unknown when he was born or when he died, and because of this he remains a priest forever.
- Abram gave him a tenth of everything he had. This was the very first mention of tithing in the bible, which we still follow to this day. Tithing is when we give a tenth of what we have to God. We do this when we give our tithes and offerings at church.
- Melchizedek’s heart was tuned to God. He reflected God in his actions and encouraged others to follow the Lord.
- When Melchizedek met Abram and they realized they both served the one true God, the people realized that to serve God you need to believe in Him and trust Him. It is not based on genetics and family line. Melchizedek helped make this known to Abram.

### WHY DO YOU THINK THIS PERSON HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN GOD'S STORY?





- **To remind us that our successes come from the Lord.** Abram had many successes in his life. Right before he met Melchizedek he had just rescued his nephew Lot from Kedorlaomer. He was very happy that he was able to rescue Lot and beat his enemies. Melchizedek came to remind him that God delivered his enemies into his hands. God chose to let Abram succeed and so he did. It's important to remember we succeed because God allows us to, and we need to thank Him every day for our victories. (Genesis 14:18-20)
- **To remind us to serve God wholeheartedly.** Melchizedek loved God; he used his life to serve God and he encouraged others to serve God too. He gave every part of his life to God, and we need to as well. We need to trust God and give Him everything. Let God use you to do great things for Him. Serve the Lord with all you have got. It's important that as we live for the Lord that we give God everything, all the time. (Proverbs 3:5)
- **To remind us to give back to God and give Him one tenth of what we make.** Just as God blesses us we need to bless Him back. By giving God a tenth of what we earn we are thanking Him and investing in His kingdom. Everything that we have is a blessing from God. By giving back to God, you are giving Him what belongs to Him. (Deuteronomy 14:22; 16:17)
- **To remind us that God will bring us to the right places at the right time.** Sometimes in life we feel that we are stuck in one spot. You may feel you are somewhere where you don't want to be, and that you would rather be someplace else. Through the story of Melchizedek we can see that God puts people where He wants them and when. He wanted Melchizedek to meet Abram on his way back from defeating his enemies to remind him that it was God who gave him the victory. Always remember, God has you where He wants you and where you need to be.
- **To remind us to encourage others to serve the Lord.** God put us on earth to serve Him and to bring others to Him. Melchizedek did just that. When he met Abram he encouraged him to serve God and to thank Him for the great things He had done in Abram's life. We need to be like Melchizedek and tell our friends about Jesus. We should share with others how wonderful God is and what He does for us each and every day. We can encourage them to build a relationship with God by bringing them to church with us

so they can learn more about God's love for them. (Matthew 28:19-20)

- **To remind us that serving God has nothing to do with our genealogy but everything to do with our faith.** In the time of the Old Testament, there were only very small amounts of people other than the Israelites that believed in God. It was believed that in order to serve the Lord you needed to be in a certain family line. When Abram met Melchizedek and they both served the One True God, it was realized that anyone who truly believes in God can serve Him. You don't have to be related to someone that serves the Lord to follow Him, you just need to truly believe in Him with all your heart. It is not your parent's faith that will give you a relationship with Jesus. You need to believe in Him yourself.

### LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

**Pose the following two questions to your children, one at a time. Allow for interaction and discussion, letting them share their thoughts while you guide the conversation.**

- What life lessons can I learn from this Bible character about how I should and should not live?
- Based on what I have learned from this Bible character, how can I live in a way that is pleasing to God.

### MORE IN GOD'S WORD

In Hebrews 7:1-10 we can get a better understanding of who Melchizedek is and more about the blessings exchanged between Abram and Melchizedek. Read Hebrews 7:1-10 with the children and let them understand who he was based on what his name means. Help them understand how he is a king forever based on his unknown genealogy. Spend some time focusing on Hebrews 7:4-10 and why it was so significant that Abram gave him a tenth of everything he had. Allow them to understand that the descendants from Levi included the priest who usually collected the tithes (the ten percent) from people. The Levites' descendants were descendants of Abram. Explain to them how the lesser person was blessed by the greater person in the way that the future priest gave a tenth to someone else. Ask the children how Melchizedek is like Jesus? Reference back to these Scripture passages and help the children gain an understanding of the ways in which Jesus and Melchizedek were alike.

