



## Sermon Discussion Guide

**Title:** Frankincense: The Gift of a Priest

**Series:** *The Gift* (Part 2)

**Main Text:** Matthew 2:11; Heb 4:14-16, 8:1-2

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### Introduction

This guide can be used on your own or with a small group to reflect on the weekend message and apply it to your life. Choose the questions that work best for your group—there's no need to go through them all. To learn more, visit [silverdalecd.com/smallgroups](https://silverdalecd.com/smallgroups).

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### Icebreaker

1. When you were a kid, what was the most *unusual* or *unexpected* Christmas gift you received?
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**Leader's Note:** This sermon explores why the wise men brought frankincense—an unexpected but deeply symbolic gift that reveals Jesus as our perfect High Priest. Encourage your group to reflect on the difference between *trying to approach God in their own strength* and *approaching Him through Jesus*.

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## 1. Jesus Understands You

**Key Scripture:** Hebrews 4:15 — “*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses...*”

**Discuss:**

1. What is comforting to you about knowing Jesus experienced the full range of human emotions and struggles? Knowing that truth, how might you respond the next time you're faced with something difficult?
2. Where in your life do you feel misunderstood—and how does this truth about Jesus change your perspective?
3. How does Jesus' empathy toward you challenge the way you empathize with others?

**Leader's Note:**

A key goal of this section is to help people replace the idea of a distant, unimpressed God with a Savior who *draws near* and *relates deeply*.

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## 2. Jesus Made a Sacrifice for Your Sins

**Key Scripture: Hebrews 10:10-14** — “We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time. Every other priest stands day after day ministering and offering the same sacrifices time after time, which can never take away sins. But this man, Jesus Christ, after offering one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God ... For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are sanctified.”

**Discuss:**

1. Why is it difficult for many believers to accept that Jesus' sacrifice is *finished* and *enough*?
2. What does it look like when someone bases their standing with God on performance instead of grace?

3. How does Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice give you confidence in your relationship with God?

**Leader's Note:**

Consider reminding the group of the “swivel chair” illustration—many believers imagine God swinging toward them when they're doing well and away from them when they fail. Jesus' sacrifice breaks that cycle.

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### **3. Jesus Is Always Praying for You**

**Key Scripture: Hebrews 7:25** — “But because Jesus remains forever, He holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore, He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

**Discuss:**

1. What difference does it make to your faith knowing Jesus is praying for you right now?
2. What holds you back from drawing near to God? Where in your life do you need to “draw near” to God instead of staying distant?
3. Tony said we spend most of our day looking down (at our phones): How could you begin the habit of “looking up” to God more frequently throughout your day?

**Leader's Note:**

Encourage your group to reflect deeply: If Jesus is praying for them, what bold step of faith should they take this week?

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### **Closing Prayer**

Invite your group to pray for hearts that truly worship Jesus as King. Encourage them to confess areas where they've resisted or ignored His rule and to commit themselves fully to Him.

**Prayer Prompt:**

“Lord Jesus, thank You for being our perfect High Priest—One who understands us, sacrificed Yourself for us, and continually prays for us. Help us draw near with confidence. Strengthen us to trust Your grace, Your presence, and Your intercession. Use this week to draw us closer to Your heart. Amen.”