

Walk In Holiness (Leviticus 1-27)

1. Hook for Conversation

Question to Start Discussion:

Have you ever prepared your home for a special guest? What steps did you take to make it ready, and how did you feel about welcoming them? How might this connect to the way God instructed Israel to prepare for His holy presence in the Tabernacle?

Purpose: This question invites participants to reflect on personal experiences of hospitality, drawing a parallel to God's call for holiness in Leviticus. It sets the stage for discussing how God's holiness demands preparation and reverence.

Leader Hints (Adult Groups):

Encourage participants to share specific stories about hosting guests to make the connection tangible. Gently guide the conversation toward the idea that God's presence requires even greater preparation due to His perfect holiness.

Teacher Hints (Middle/High School):

For younger students, simplify the analogy: ask, "What would you do to get your room ready if someone important, like a favorite celebrity or coach, was coming over?" Use their answers to pivot to God's holiness and the need for spiritual preparation.

2. Outline and Summary of Leviticus

Main Passage: Leviticus 1-27

Outline:

1. **Sacrifices for Atonement** (chs. 1-7): Instructions for various offerings (burnt, grain, peace, sin, guilt) to address sin and express devotion.
2. **Priestly Mediation** (chs. 8-10): The consecration of priests to represent the people before God.
3. **Ritual Cleanness** (chs. 11-15): Laws distinguishing clean from unclean to set Israel apart and reflect God's holiness.
4. **Day of Atonement and Covenant Life** (chs. 16-25): The central atonement sacrifice and laws for holy living in the land.

5. **Covenant Blessings and Curses** (chs. 26-27): Promises of blessing for obedience and warnings of judgment for disobedience, with hope of redemption.

Summary:

Leviticus is God's "owner's manual" for Israel's worship in the Tabernacle, where His holy presence dwelt. It outlines sacrifices, priestly roles, and laws of cleanness to prepare a sinful people to dwell with a holy God. While its rituals may seem outdated, Leviticus points to Jesus Christ—the ultimate sacrifice, priest, and source of true holiness. Through faith in Him, believers are atoned for, brought near to God, and made clean, fulfilling the shadows of the Old Testament law.

Leader Hints (Adult Groups):

Briefly explain that Leviticus can feel daunting but is rich with Christ-centered meaning. Use the analogy of an owner's manual to make the book relatable, emphasizing that every instruction ultimately points to Jesus.

Teacher Hints (Middle/High School):

Simplify the summary: "Leviticus is like a rulebook for how Israel could live with a holy God. It shows us how much we need Jesus to make us clean and bring us to God." Use visuals (e.g., a picture of a Tabernacle model) to engage younger students.

3. Discussion Questions

1. **Understanding the Sacrifice (Leviticus 1:1-5, 16)**

- How do the sacrifices in Leviticus (e.g., burnt offering, Day of Atonement) help us understand the seriousness of sin and the need for atonement? How does Jesus' death on the cross fulfill and surpass these sacrifices (Hebrews 9:11-14)?
- *Application:* What does it mean for you personally to trust in Jesus as the "once for all" sacrifice for your sins? How can this truth shape your daily life?
- **Leader Hint:** Encourage adults to reflect on the emotional weight of sin's cost and Christ's provision. For teens, use a modern analogy (e.g., "Imagine a debt you can't pay—Jesus pays it all!") to make the concept accessible.

2. **The Role of the Priest (Leviticus 8:5-9)**

- Why was a priest necessary to mediate between God and Israel? How does Jesus, as our Great High Priest (Hebrews 7:23-27), provide better access to God than the Levitical priests?

- *Application:* In what ways can you rely on Jesus to bring you into God's presence, especially when you feel unworthy or distant from Him?
 - **Leader Hint:** For adults, discuss the comfort of Christ's ongoing intercession. For teens, explain the priest's role with a relatable example (e.g., "A priest was like a bridge between God and people—Jesus is the perfect bridge!").
3. **Living in Holiness (Leviticus 10:10-11, 11-15)**
- Why did God give Israel laws about cleanness and uncleanness? How do these laws point to our deeper need for inner holiness, as Jesus teaches in Mark 7:15-23?
 - *Application:* What are some practical ways you can pursue holiness in your thoughts, actions, and relationships, knowing that Christ has made you clean?
 - **Leader Hint:** Guide adults to discuss specific areas (e.g., media choices, speech) where holiness can be pursued. For teens, use examples like social media or peer pressure to make the application relevant.
4. **Faith in Christ as the Fulfillment (Leviticus 1-27, Hebrews 9-10)**
- How does Leviticus show that human efforts (sacrifices, rituals) were never enough to fully atone for sin or make us holy? How does trusting in Jesus alone bring us forgiveness and access to God?
 - *Application:* Are there areas in your life where you're tempted to rely on your own efforts instead of Christ's finished work? How can you rest in His grace this week?
 - **Leader Hint:** For adults, encourage vulnerability about struggles with self-reliance. For teens, use a simple illustration (e.g., "Trying to earn God's love is like trying to climb a mountain you can't reach—Jesus carries you to the top!").

Additional Notes for Leaders and Teachers

For Adult Neighborhood Group Leaders:

- **Encourage Dialogue:** Leviticus can feel intimidating, so affirm participants' questions or struggles with the text. Emphasize that the goal is to see Jesus, not to master every detail.
- **Encourage Application:** Use the discussion questions to move from theology to practical living. For example, when discussing holiness, ask

group members to share one specific way they can pursue holiness in the coming week.

For Middle and High School Sunday School Teachers:

- **Keep It Engaging:** Use interactive elements like drawing a Tabernacle on a whiteboard or showing a short video clip about the Day of Atonement to illustrate the concepts.
- **Relate to Their World:** Connect Leviticus' themes to issues teens face, like feeling "unclean" due to peer rejection or sin. Show how Jesus' love and forgiveness make them acceptable to God.
- **Simplify the Gospel:** Reinforce that Leviticus shows our need for Jesus, who does what no sacrifice or priest could fully do. Use phrases like "Jesus makes us clean forever" to keep it memorable.

Closing Prayer Suggestion:

"Lord, thank You for Leviticus, which shows us Your holiness and our need for a Savior. Thank You for Jesus, our perfect sacrifice, priest, and source of holiness. Help us trust in Him alone and live holy lives that honor You. Amen."