



The Rules for Sacrifice

Bible Passage: Leviticus

Key Passage: ³⁷Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ **Matthew 22:37-39**

Big Picture Question: What is God like? God is holy, good, and loving.

Bottom Line: Because God is holy, good and loving, I can be confident that Jesus forgives my sin and gives me the power to live a Godly life..

Christ Connection: *The sacrifices God required of His people were a hint of what God was going to do to forgive sinners. We no longer need to offer sacrifices because we trust in Jesus. Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice that takes away our sin once and for all.*

LARGE GROUP: Communicating God’s truth in engaging ways.

Say This: As we get into it, let’s take a moment to remember our big picture question and answer. Let’s say it together: **Who is God? God is holy, good and loving.** God is great both because of who He is and because of what He has done. He loves us and wants what is best for us. Worshiping Him is actually for our own good! When we put Him first, other parts of life tend to fall into place. The Bible teaches that if we seek God and His kingdom, the smaller details of our lives will work out. So it’s important to celebrate God’s greatness.

Last week, we learned that **God told His people how to build the tabernacle where He would dwell with them.** God even gave them the skills needed to build the tabernacle. This week, our story is called “Rules for Sacrifice.”

Watch Video:

We know from past stories that God does not ignore sin. When His people disobeyed Him, He disciplined them. As you can imagine, God wants people to always obey, but He knows that we have sin in our hearts. We are broken and cannot always obey. **God is holy and requires a sacrifice for sin.** That’s why God provided rules for sacrifice.

God wanted the people to have a way to make things right again after they sin. In a way, it’s like when a police officer gives a ticket to a person who is speeding or runs a red light. That person gets the ticket and then must pay a fine or take a class to take care of the ticket.

But even though God had given the people rules for sacrifice, and priests to help them make the sacrifices, there was still a problem. Even the priests were sinners. That meant that no matter what sacrifice was offered, another sacrifice would eventually be needed. On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would take two goats, one to sacrifice and one to send into the wilderness, but even this special day each year was not enough to cover sin



forever. That's why God sent Jesus.

Christ connection

The sacrifices God required of His people were a hint of what God was going to do to forgive sinners. We no longer need to offer sacrifices because we trust in Jesus. Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice that takes away our sin once and for all.

Because Jesus lived a life completely without sin and offered up His own life as the spotless lamb of God, He is both our perfect high priest and our perfect sacrifice. He stands before God on our behalf and took away our sin by His righteous blood. Because of Jesus, we can be free from sin and live a life of proper worship. **Who is God? God is holy, good and loving.**

Let's pray together and head out to small group.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 40 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Bible Story Review/Skills

What You Need: Story Point Poster, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute Bibles.
- Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Leviticus 1–5.
- Encourage them to look through the headings and identify how many different types of offerings are listed. (*burnt offering, grain offering, fellowship offering, sin offering, guilt offering*)

What You Say "In addition to specific offerings, God gave specific times for feasts and other sacred days in the books of Exodus and Leviticus. Many of those days required the people to rest. God wanted them to recognize that He would provide for them as long as they worshiped Him. He required the Israelites to rest and remember all that He had already done for them.

2. Discussion Questions:

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Why did God require animals to be sacrificed? *Help kids recognize that sacrifice goes all the way back to the first sin of Adam and Eve. When God made clothes to cover them (and their sin), He used animal skins. Animals were sacrificed to cover sin. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 9:22.)*
2. Sacrifices helped the people remember their sin and that God is holy. Why was that not enough? *Help kids recognize the sacrifices didn't completely take away the sin*



problem. People had to offer them again and again. It was never enough. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 10:4.)

3. Why do we not need to offer animal sacrifices today? *Help kids recognize that Jesus was the perfect sacrifice, once and for all. He took our punishment on the cross, and we have forgiveness through His blood.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 10:10.)

What You Say "God knew all the sins we would ever commit, and sent Jesus to take care of all of them. Romans 5:8 says, "God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

3. Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster

What You Say ·Great job, everyone! Has anyone memorized our memory? This is our last week to work on it together. [*Invite volunteers to recite the key passage.*] Memorizing verses from the Bible helps us remember what is true. We know that God is our strength and salvation. He deserves our worship. **Who is God? God is holy, good and loving.**

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Prayer journals, Journal page (1 for each kid), markers/crayons, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute journal pages and pencils.
- Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:
 - What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
 - What does the story teach me about myself?
 - Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
 - Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
 - How does this story help me to live on mission better?
- As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas and write in your small group journal.

What You Say: Pray, thanking Jesus for giving His life as the ultimate and perfect sacrifice for us, once and for all.

As adults arrive to pick up, tell kids to recite the memory verse to them.