



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 skills

What You Need: Bibles, Story Point Poster

What You Do:

- Distribute a Bible to each kid.
- Help kids use the table of contents in their Bibles to find Leviticus.
- Explain that Leviticus is the third book in the Bible, and part of the Law—the first five books of the Old Testament.

What You Say • **God is holy and requires a sacrifice for sin.** Before Jesus, people had to kill animals to deal with their sin. Now, if we trust in Jesus' perfect sacrifice, God forgives our sin and makes us new.

2. Discussion Questions:

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

What could God's people give to Him as offerings? (*animals or grain, Lev. 1–3*)

What were offerings used for? (*praising God or dealing with sin, Lev. 1–4*)

What purpose did the two goats serve on the Day of Atonement? (*One was killed for the people's sin, the other sent into the wilderness to represent the sin being carried away; Lev. 16*)

Why was the Day of Atonement so important? *Guide kids to discuss the Israelites' need to be made right with God. Talk about their sin and how it separated them from God. Remind them that the Day of Atonement was God's way of dealing with sin before Jesus came.*



Why don't we still have a Day of Atonement? *Talk about what Jesus accomplished on the cross. Remind them that His death was the one, perfect sacrifice to pay for sin forever. Remind the kids that we no longer need a scapegoat. When we trust in Jesus, He forgives us and removes our sin.*

How are the offerings Christians give similar to the offerings the Israelites gave? How are they different? *Guide kids to discuss that Christians can still give resources—money, food, clothing, time, talents, and so forth—as a way to serve the church and glorify God. Discuss the fact that we no longer need to give sin offerings, because Jesus died for our sins.*

3. Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, index cards, pens/pencils, bean bags

What You Do:

- Write each word or phrase of the memory verse on a separate index card.
- Arrange the cards in a grid on the floor.
- Invite the kids to take turns tossing a beanbag to land it on a card.
- If a kid is successful, she collects the card.
- Once kids collect all the cards, challenge them to put the memory verse in order.
- Then read the memory verse a few times.
- Invite volunteers to say the verse from memory.
- Praise each kid for his efforts and encourage all the kids to keep practicing the verse.

What You Say "Our memory verse tells us what Jesus said about the commandments God gave in the Old Testament. All of the commands show people what it looks like to love God and love others. This is a good verse to always remember."

Pray and Dismiss

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

What You Do:

- Distribute journal pages one to each kid.
- Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:
 - What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
 - What does this story teach me about myself?
 - Whom can I tell about this story?
- If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session.
- Pray for your group.

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