

The Rules for Sacrifice

Bible Passage: Leviticus

Key Passage: ³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And 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.*

LEADERNOTES:

CONTEXT

The tabernacle was complete. God now had a place where His glory could dwell without causing the Israelites to fear death. God had given His people laws from the mountain, and He gave them more rules for living and worshiping Him in the tabernacle. These rules are recorded in the Book of Leviticus. The reasoning behind Leviticus can be found in Leviticus 19:2: "Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy."

In Leviticus 17:11, God set apart the blood of a creature as the means for making atonement. This answers the question, "Why did Jesus have to die?" God's requirement for the forgiveness of sins was the shedding of blood: "According to the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Heb. 9:22).

It is important to note a New Testament revelation about the sin offering. Hebrews 10:4 says, "It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." Then why did God require people to make sacrifices? The institution of a sacrifice was to point to something greater—the ultimate sacrifice God would make by sending His own Son, Jesus Christ, to pay for the sins of the world once and for all. (See Eph. 1:7; Rom 5:9)

The Book of Leviticus contains many rules for the Israelite people, but we do not obey all the rules in Leviticus today because we trust Jesus, who obeyed the law perfectly for us.

Few—if any!—of the kids you teach will be familiar with the Book of Leviticus. Use this session as an opportunity to emphasize God's holiness and His requirement of a blood sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. Lead them to treasure Jesus as the perfect and final sacrifice "who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

TEACHING FOCUS (Leviticus)

*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.

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- God can't deal with sinful people. He is 100% holy.
- Throughout the story of the Bible, God makes a way for sinful people - like you and me - to relate to Him.
- In Leviticus, He set up a system of sacrifices so that people could be made right with Him. This sacrificial system points us to Jesus, His ultimate sacrifice.
- The rules help people know what they should do when they sin. They were a hint as to what God would provide to forgive us when Jesus offered His life to forgive us once and for all.
- **BL:** 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.
- When I mess up, I can always confess my sin to God and He will always forgive me.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activities to 3-, 4-, 5- year olds as they arrive.

Follow Moses

What you Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Stand the kids in a line on the floor.
- Ask for a volunteer to be "Moses".
- "Moses" will lead the kids around the room. As you are moving direct "Moses" to move slowly, fast, jump up and down, fly like a bird, walk like a duck, or choose their own silly action for everyone to follow.
- You can take turns and let a few kids be "Moses."

What You Say:

"God chose Moses to be the leader of the Israelites. Being a leader means choosing between right and wrong. God is holy. He always does the right thing. Sometimes we make wrong choices even when we know the right thing to do, so God made a way for people to be holy through Jesus! Listen for how in our Bible Story today.

Worship Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)

What You Say: "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible today."

Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Place a bookmark at Leviticus in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

What You Say: “ Moses wrote down God’s words, which became part of our Bible. Today’s story comes from the Book of Leviticus. Let’s listen to God’s true Word from the Bible.

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Talk about the Bible Story:

“ God gave Moses many rules for God’s people to obey. God’s rules told the people of Israel how to worship God and how to live holy lives. First, God gave rules about offerings, or gifts people give to God. When people wanted to praise God, they gave burnt offerings. When they wanted to say they were sorry for a wrong choice, they gave a sin offering. One day a year, the priests gave a special offering to ask God to forgive the people for everything wrong they had done. One day, God would send Jesus to forgive people once and for all. Until then, God said, “Be holy because I am holy.”

Learn the Big Picture Question

What You Say: Our Big Picture question is What is God like? God is holy, good and loving. God made ways to forgive His people. The Book of Leviticus is about the sacrifices God told His people to offer for sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice for our sin. We can worship God because He is holy, good, and loving.

Practice the Memory Verse

Open your Bible to Matthew 22:37-39. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

What You Say: “ Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment.³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

Matthew 22:37-39

Transition to small group.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

1. Make Watercolor Hearts

What You Need: “God Loves You” Activity page(on cardstock with “God loves You” written in white crayon in the center of the heart), watercolor paints, paint brushes, cups, water, paper towels, plastic tablecloths (optional)

What You Do:

- Before the class write "God Love You" with white crayon in the center of every heart.
- Optional : Cover the table with the plastic tablecloth.
- Set out water color paints, cups of water, and paintbrushes.
- Invite kids to paint their hearts to reveal the message.
- Write their name on their paper and leave it sitting to dry.

What You Say " God loves us. He wants to be with us, but our sin keeps us from God. God made ways to forgive His people through offerings and sacrifices. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice. Jesus never sinned, but He took the punishment for our sin. Jesus forgives sin once and for all. Take your paper home as a way to remember how much God love you. You can even use it tell someone else about how much God loves them too"

2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

What you need: Memory Verse Poster

What You Do:

- Show the poster to the kids
- As you say the words point to them on the poster
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include "**Jesus replied, "Love the Lord Your God** (point to God) **with all your heart** (point to heart) **and with all your soul** (point to body) **and with all your mind** (point to head). **This is the first** (show the number 1) **and greatest commandment** (sign for book). **And the second is like it** (show number 2), **Love your neighbor as yourself** (hug a friend)." **Matthew 22: 37-39**

What You Say: Where is your heart? Our heart pumps blood and helps us stay alive. In the Bible, our heart also means the part of the person that makes choices, believes in God, and allows God to work through him. God wants us to love Him with all that we are.

Pray and Dismiss:

What You need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Pray- " Lord, thank you for loving us. Thank you for providing Jesus as the way back to You. We ask You to help us live like Him. Help us turn away from sin day by day so that we can live on mission for You. Amen.

What You Say: Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Send home the activity page and tell families, we are talking about how God is holy, good and loving.