

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.

Worship & Story 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."

What You Do: Introduce the 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."

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Check diapers and serve snack.

Activities

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead each activity two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in the activities. That's okay.

1. God is Holy, Good and Loving

What you Need: "God is" Activity page, heart stickers, smile face stickers, white dot stickers

What You Do:

- Pass out the "God is" Activity page for each kid.

- Give them a set of heart stickers, smile face stickers, and white dot stickers.
- Have kids put white dot stickers on the "G".
- Have kids put the smile face stickers on the "O"
- Have kids put the heart stickers on the "D"
- Remind them that the white dot stickers help us know God is Holy. The smile face stickers help us remember God is good. The Heart stickers help us remember that God is loving.

What You Say: "God is holy, good and loving. He loves us so much. God gave people rules for worshipping Him. He loves us so much, God sent Jesus to rescue us and make us holy.

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 and we follow and worship Him alone.

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1's and 2's