

UNIT 6, SESSION 3: RULES FOR SACRIFICE

DEAR PARENTS,

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 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.

You and your children may not be familiar with the Book of Leviticus. Use this week 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).

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

READ LEVITICUS

WHAT DOES THIS TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

WHAT DOES THIS TEACH US ABOUT MAN?

WHAT NEXT STEP OF OBEDIENCE WILL I TAKE THIS WEEK?

WHICH TWO PEOPLE WILL I SHARE THIS WITH?

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

MATTHEW 22:37-39

NEXT WEEK

JOSHUA AND CALEB (NUMBERS 13-14)