

Sermon Based Small Group Discussion Guide

Week of February 15, 2026

Icebreaker Questions

- Have you ever had to follow very strict instructions to complete something important?
- What's a time when preparation made all the difference?
- What's the most restricted area you have been granted access to?

Sermon Summary

(If you missed this week's sermon, it's always available by noon on Monday on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/@horizoncommunitychurch>)

Leviticus 16 stands at the theological center of the book, answering the pressing question: how can a sinful people live near a holy God? On the Day of Atonement, the High Priest entered the Most Holy Place with blood sacrifices to deal decisively with Israel's sin, showing that sin creates real distance between God and humanity and cannot be ignored. Through the sacrifice of one goat and the sending away of the scapegoat, God demonstrated that forgiveness requires substitution and that sin must both be paid for and removed. This all pointed forward to Jesus Christ, the true Lamb of God, who once and for all paid the penalty for sin and carried our guilt away. Because of Christ's sacrifice, access to God is restored—what sin separated, Jesus has reconciled.

Opening Prayer

Briefly pray and invite the Lord into your conversations to bring wisdom and insight to His Word. Pray around the theme for the sermon/discussion.

Primary Passages of Scripture

Read Leviticus 16:15-16, Leviticus 16:21-22, Psalm 66:18, John 9:31, Colossians 2:13-14, Hebrews 10:10

Discussion Questions

- What does the restriction on entering the Most Holy Place teach us about God's holiness?
- How does modern culture tend to misunderstand the holiness of God?
- How does Psalm 66:18 challenge the way we think about unconfessed sin?
- What does substitutionary sacrifice teach us about justice and grace?
- What stands out to you about the two goats and their different purposes?
- Why is it significant that one goat died and the other carried sins away?
- How does Hebrews 10:10 emphasize the finality of Christ's sacrifice?
- What would it look like for you personally to "stop standing at a distance" from God?

Prayer

- Ask: "How can we pray for you this week?"
- Assign each request to a group member to ensure everyone is prayed for during the prayer time.
- Assign someone to open in prayer and someone to close in prayer.

Closing