

GOD IN SEARCH OF
LEVITICUS

LEVITICUS, WEEK 3
“A DIFFERENT KIND OF PEOPLE”

SPEAKER: ALEX LESSLER
DATE: FEB. 14, 2021

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:
LEVITICUS 1:1-4; LEVITICUS 3:1-5; DEUTERONOMY 12:4-7;
DEUTERONOMY 16:10-12; ROMANS 3:23; COLOSSIANS 1:21-22

This week Pastor Alex Lessler demonstrates to us valuable lessons we can learn from the freewill offering described in Leviticus chapter 3. Unlike the offerings described in the first two chapters of Leviticus, this offering was optional, not required. It was a way for the Israelites to draw near to God and it ended in a celebratory meal. This offering reminded the people to celebrate the things that God had done for them. Something He still calls us to do today.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What do you consider to be a delicacy?
2. What's the best party you've ever been to? Why was it so amazing?
3. When you hear the word "fellowship" what comes to mind?
4. What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week? What's one that you are dreading?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. What pieces of the animal were to be offered to the Lord in a fellowship offering, according to Leviticus 3:1-5? Why do you think these pieces might be significant?
2. Look back to Leviticus 1:1-4. What differences do you find between the burnt offering described there and the fellowship offering described in chapter 3?
3. What do you learn about the fellowship offering from Deuteronomy 12:4-7? What was to be done with the rest of the animal that was offered?
4. Who was to be included at the table when the freewill offering meal was eaten according to Deuteronomy 16:10-12? Which people naturally seem to fit at the table? Which seem like they might not belong at first glance?
5. What do you learn about humanity and our relationship with God in Romans 3:23 and Colossians 1:21-22?

CONTINUED:

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. In his sermon, Pastor Alex shared that the fat was considered the best part of the animals and the guts/entrails symbolized God's desire for the best of us. What are some of the "best" parts of people's lives that they might try to keep from God? What might it look like to offer these "best" parts to Him?
2. The burnt offering was a requirement for all the Israelites. The fellowship offering was optional, but symbolized a desire to be near to God. What kinds of things do you think God requires of Christians today? What are optional things that people do in our world to draw near to God? How have you seen people try to make optional things required and vice versa? What's the danger of doing this?
3. The fellowship offering was to end in a party, a meal. What ways do people celebrate today? How have you seen churches or other Christians celebrate what God has done in their lives?
5. What do you think it could look like in our world to include the same groups of people that are mentioned in Deuteronomy 16:10-12? What do you think a gathering of all the groups mentioned would look like? What could be challenging about such a gathering? What would be fun?
6. How do people in our world attempt to reconcile or work together without Jesus? What does that look like? What are the results of these attempts at reconciliation? Do you think reconciliation is possible without Jesus? Why or why not?

LOOK IN: *These are questions that help you consider how to apply the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. How in the past (or even currently) have you kept your best from God? What happened? Is there any place in your life that you need to surrender to him now?
2. How do you draw near to God? What practices help you do this? Do you consider these to be required or optional, and why?
3. How do you celebrate what God has done in your own life? When was the last time you had a party, special meal, or other kind of celebration? Is there anything you need to celebrate right now?
4. What would it look like in your own life to include the people groups mentioned in Deuteronomy 16:10-12? What makes you hesitant about doing this? What excites you about the possibility?
5. Are there places in your life where you have attempted to reconcile with someone on your own? How has this passage/sermon encouraged or challenged you

CONTINUED:

LIVE IT OUT: *These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. If there is a place where you are currently withholding your best from God, commit this week to surrendering it to him. Think through one practical thing you can do this week to start to surrender. Additionally, seek the help of a family member, friend, small group member, or pastor to help support you in prayer this week.
2. How can you draw near to God this week? What can you do to enter into his love, grace, and presence?
3. Is there something in your life that you need to celebrate? Plan a party! It can be a small in person gathering/meal or a virtual party. Do you best to try to invite someone from the groups mentioned in the Deuteronomy passage to celebrate with you!