

GOD IN SEARCH OF
LEVITICUS

LEVITICUS, WEEK 7
“STRANGE FIRE”

SPEAKER: ALEX LESSLER
DATE: MAR. 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 9:24-11:1, JOHN 5:46, HEB. 1:3, GENESIS 3:3-6,
LEVITICUS 6:12-13, EXODUS 19:22, PROVERBS 14:12,
JOHN 10:10 + 14:6, HEBREWS 4:15-16, 1 PETER 2:9

Continuing through Leviticus, Pastor Alex Lessler teaches us about the consuming power of God. Sometimes we can view God as full of wrath and destruction, which can lead us to a fear any relationship with him. It can also tempt us to judge him, suspecting that he is not good after all. Instead, we learn that through obedience to God's Word (where he says to believe in his Son, Jesus) we can experience freedom in God's Presence. We can know the power of God's Spirit, who gives us joy, peace, and life to the fullest.

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. Last week we encouraged you to tell a friend or family member about your desire to become aware of God's Presence. Did you share this expectancy with someone? How did that conversation go? Did you experience a moment where "God showed up"?
2. What is the strangest thing that's happened to you in the past week? If not this past week, please share story of some strange experience.
3. What areas of your life have you intentionally made simple? Where in your life is there chaos that can be simplified?
4. If anyone has the feature on their phone that tracks your average screen time per day, would you be willing to share how much of your time each day is consumed by spending time on your phone?
5. What is your go-to method for starting a camp fire?

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. The story of Leviticus 9 and 10 has endured for so many generations. What do you notice in these chapters that might explain that?
2. Why do you think the fire must always burn? When God came down on the altar in Leviticus 6:12-13 as says it can't go out, why do you think that is? What does this symbolize about who God is?
3. Exodus 19:22 talks about the Lord breaking out. Do you get a sense that the Lord is wrathful, or do you interpret it as the Lord showing ownership and protection? And why do you feel that way?
4. How do the people respond when the presence of the Lord consumed the Aaron's sons in Leviticus 10:2? Does their response lead us to believe God is acting unjustly, or as expected? Did they interpret the action as an appropriate response of God? If so, why?

CONTINUED:

5. How are the stories in Leviticus 9 and 10 about Jesus? How does the people's obedience connection them to the life and joy of God? John 5:46 and 10:10 tell us what Jesus has to say about it. What do you think?

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

1. The Hebrews used rhyming as a way to show something was very important. We also use rhyming and motifs to show the significance of things, specifically in music. Can you think of a non-Christian song that reflects the Gospel?
2. In this message we see that there is a right and a wrong way to approach God. What examples from our society can you think of that shape these expectations? What sort of norms do we have that give structure to a relationship with "god?" Why do you think it's so easy for people to bend or want to bend the rules when it comes to faith?
3. What parallels do you see between the Hebrews' pride and our pride today? Do you think we have the same issues as they, or are ours different? How do you think God would respond our pride today?
4. What are holy moments or holy spaces in our world? Can you think of examples where someone did something so set-part (or holy) from the norm that reminds us of the goodness and grace of God?
5. Life and Death are both metaphors and realities. Even today we use language like this ("This job is killing me." "I'm dying here.", etc.). What these expressions point to is the reality that there is something out there that is life-giving, but what I'm experiencing of it is not. What practices do you have in your life that are no longer life-giving?

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. What rhythms (daily and/or weekly routines) do you have? When examining these practices, what picture does it paint of your life and does this match the story you want your life to tell? Does it match the story that God is telling about who you are and the life he has for you?
2. In what ways are you actively seeking to find Jesus in people and in the world? What are prominent indicators that you look for when you notice the character of Jesus in people?
3. God wants you to experience life to its fullest. The only way to do that is in Him. Do you have moments where you feel completely full of joy and peace? Retrospectively, can you locate God in those moments, even if you may not have noticed his Presence as they were happening?
4. Do you trust that God will act justly and appropriately in your life? Does your trust of God have any connection to your rhythm of life and obedience to the Word?

CONTINUED:

5. What expectations do you have of what an encounter with God looks like? Does transformation of your life and obedience to God fit into your expectations?

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. Trust God with your life. What are the most important aspects of your life? How can you submit those to God and trust Him with the foundation of your life this week?
2. Identify practices in your life that distract you from the presence of God. Every time you find yourself in that moment, redirect your attention to God, seeking to be obedient. Talk to God about your day and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you.
3. Reach out to a pastor on staff and ask for them to pray with you about receiving Jesus, the only way to God, his joy, his and peace. Maybe you have done this already, but want to have someone pray with you about receiving the Holy Spirit. If you do this on your own, pray to be overwhelmed by the spirit and to receive joy and peace and life.