

GOD IN SEARCH OF
LEVITICUS

LEVITICUS, WEEK 9
“LIFE AND DEATH.”

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DATE: MAR. 28, 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 12-15; GENESIS 2:4-7, 15-17; GENESIS 3:1-7, 14, 16-17; ROMANS 7:15-18, 21, 24; LUKE 8:1; JOHN 10:10; 1 COR. 15:3-5; MATTHEW 5:21-22

This week's message teaches us about the practices surrounding bodily functions and what seem like some of the oddest passages in Leviticus. At first glance, these appear to be rules for good hygiene. Once we take a step back and look at the text as a whole, we learn more about the character of God and his primary concern. God is not a god of death and dying. In fact, he specifically identifies himself as the God of life. He can always be found where there is life, as He is continuously breathing life into dead things (Ezekiel 37). The way for us to be reconciled to Him and one another is the way of life, the way of Jesus Christ.

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 were encouraged to find new ways to treat our bodies as temples. Did you find a practice or activity that helped you do this? How did this allow you to experience the freedom God intended?
2. Have you ever broken a bone? Do you have any wild injury or hospital stories?
3. What did you do this past week that made you feel the most alive?
4. Have you ever thought about if you were Adam or Eve in the garden and what you would have done? Do you think you would have eaten the fruit or not?

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. To summarize the four chapters from this week: Ch. 12 is about Ritual Purification after child birth, Ch. 13 Skin disorders and diseases and infection and mildew (v. 47), Ch. 14 is a recap of 12-13, with some cleaning tips; and finally Ch. 15 discusses bodily discharges. How would you characterize the experiences people are having? How are each of the experiences described related to one another?
2. When God explains the rituals surrounding these natural functions, does God seem to be concerned with cleanliness alone? Does it point to something else about who God is?
4. Genesis 3 describes what happened once Adam and Eve eat from the tree God forbids. What was the result of them eating from the tree? What was the point of even having the tree as an option?
5. When examining the four Leviticus passages, Genesis 3, and Deuteronomy 30 when Moses is speaking to the people, what themes/dichotomies do you observe?

CONTINUED:

6. What promises does Jesus give us in 1 Corinthians 15:3-5 and John 10:10?

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

1. If we consider the theme of Life and Death and apply it to our culture today, can you think of an example of something disguised as life that truly brings death?
2. Share some good news: when and where have you seen people choose to build the Kingdom of God? Tell a story of someone doing work that reflects Jesus heart (whether or not they identify as His followers).
3. God breathes life into the lifeless and gives value to the value-less. Where do you see God doing this today? Great examples are where God works through people to continue the ministry Jesus started.
4. Sin is not mentioned in the Leviticus passages about uncleanness. The things mentioned are natural things that happen, not wrongdoings. Where have those two categories been mistakenly equated? What effect can linking them have on the way we treat one another?
5. The whole point of these passages is that God is all about life and overcoming death (in the Person of Jesus). This is a process. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit they began to die. Jesus' Resurrection began the process of reconciling all things to God. Do you think we have made space in our society or in the church for people to be in process?

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. Where in your life do you need to experience reconciliation? In what areas have you chosen to go your own way? Can you envision the life you'd live if you replaced your own way with following Jesus?
2. What does restoration of life mean to you, in your life?
3. This week we learned that God is only in contact with things where there is life, those that are dead or dying. That's why the bodily functions that indicated the loss of life, or even potential life, were barred from the Tabernacle. Where in your life is there potential for life that has yet to be realized?
4. When have you rejected the source of life and instead embraced and experienced death? What was that like?
5. As you consider your internal motivation, the impulses that keep you moving either towards Christ or away from him, what moves you toward life and the source of life, Jesus?

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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. God invites us to love him. He doesn't force us. In fact, true love always involves a choice. If you have never had the desire to love and follow Jesus, set aside some time this week to ask the Lord where you may have missed seeing how much He loves you. If you take the next step and decide to follow Jesus, tell a friend or contact a pastor so they can pray with you and support you.
2. Help realize the Kingdom this week. Pick one project, either small or big, that you might be able to finish. Or, start to something that is on-going, that breathes life into the world around you. If you want to do this but need ideas, contact the Adult Ministry Team to dream up options with a pastor or staff member.
3. Each morning when you wake up during the next seven days, say this prayer, "Today I will walk in grace because I have a God who sees me and a Savior who made a way for me to live life fully. Holy Spirit, be with me. May people experience your joy, your peace, and your love through me in a way that changes their lives and the world forever. Amen."