

GOD IN SEARCH OF
LEVITICUS

LEVITICUS, WEEK 10
**“FROM RELIGION
TO RELATIONSHIP”**
SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS
DATE: APRIL 4, 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 16; JOHN 1:29; HEBREWS 10:5-18; LUKE 15

Leviticus 16 might seem like an odd passage to use for an Easter message. However, this chapter is a wonderful example of how God used religion to bring the Israelite people a kind of freedom that other religions did not.

And that was only the beginning. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God has ended religion as we know it. In fact, he has reversed the course of religion by entering into relationship with humanity through his son, Jesus. This invites us to live in freedom and forgiveness, which is only possible through his love and grace.

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's one example of a sacrifice you've had to make?
Why did you make that sacrifice? Was it worth it?
2. Have you ever been made (or felt like you were made) into a scapegoat? What happened?
3. What is your favorite Easter tradition?
4. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon?
Why was it significant to you?

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. According to Leviticus 16, what did Aaron the priest have to do before he could make the sacrifices of atonement? What reasons does the text give for why these things must be done?
2. What was Aaron to do with the two goats that were a part of the Day of Atonement? What two different functions did these goats have?
3. According to the end of Leviticus 16, what was the end result of these sacrifices and the scapegoat for the people of Israel? How do you think the people of Israel felt each year after this ritual was completed?
4. How does John the Baptist describe Jesus in John 1:29?
How do you think this description is related to Leviticus 16?
5. What do you learn from Hebrews 10:5-8 about Jesus' work as our High Priest and what that means for us in relation to Leviticus 16?
6. What lessons do you learn about forgiveness and the restoration of relationship from Luke 15?

CONTINUED:

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

1. Pastor Brad noted in his message that people in every corner of the world turned to religion to help them understand and try to control the uncontrollable parts of their lives. What kinds of uncontrollable forces are we subject to in our own day/time?
2. What are things that people do today to try to control the uncontrollable parts of their lives? What kinds of things have replaced religion in the way ancient people understood and used it?
3. What kinds of things do people do today to try to atone for or fix things that they're ashamed of, feel guilty for, or have anxiety about? Do people in the church do these same kinds of things? If so, what does that look like?
4. After reading these passages and listening to Pastor Brad's sermon, how would you explain in your own words the significance of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection?
5. Based on these passages and this message, what might it look like to live in the freedom that Jesus' final sacrifice brings? How would a person living this way look differently from people not living in that freedom? Do you know someone who is living this way (or do you know of someone from history or the wider world)? Describe them and what makes them stand out.
6. Where have you seen the kind of forgiveness described in Luke 15 displayed? Why do you think we don't see this kind of forgiveness in our world more often?

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 kinds of things that are out of your control have you wrestled with your life (or are you wrestling with now)? How have you dealt with these things? How does this message/these passages challenge or encourage you?
2. How do you try to fix the things in your own life that cause you guilt, shame, or anxiety? How is this similar or different from what religious people through history have done? How is this similar or different to how you think God would have you deal with these things?
3. What parts of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection do you find most amazing? What do you find most challenging or confusing? Has this sermon/these passages helped your understanding in any way? If so, how?
4. Have you experienced the freedom and forgiveness described in this message/these passages in your own life? If so, how has that changed and grown over time for you? If not, are there any obvious barriers keeping you from embracing freedom and forgiveness?

CONTINUED:

5. Thinking about the story of the Prodigal Son from Luke 15, which character do you most relate to in this season of your life and why: the prodigal son, the older brother, or the father?

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. Are you currently struggling with something that is outside of your control? Have you tried to control this thing in unhealthy ways? What's one thing you can do this week to trust God's goodness more? Is there someone who can pray for you? Make sure to reach out to them for support this week.
2. What's one thing you can do this week to embrace the freedom and forgiveness that Jesus' resurrection brings?
3. Do you have trouble embracing the freedom and forgiveness of God? Each day this week, ask God that he would make his love and grace for you evident in your life so you can grow in this area.