

GOD IN SEARCH OF
LEVITICUS

LEVITICUS, WEEK 12
**“WHEN HEAVEN + EARTH
ARE PERFECT”**
SPEAKER:
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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 21 & 22; REVELATION 21:1-5; JOHN 13:14-15;
1 PETER 2:9; MARK 10:35-45; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21

Leviticus 21 contains some seemingly odd prohibitions for the Israelite priests. Why was God so concerned about the everyday lives and behavior of these people? Pastor Lane examines this passage and other supporting Scriptures to show that God wasn't saying that only perfect people can serve him. Instead, He was using the priests as an example of His ultimate goal: a new heavens and a new earth where all people are made perfect and new.

The priests were to be people set apart, a calling that has been extended to each and every one of us as Jesus followers. Though we may not be perfect on this side of heaven, we are all called to a new way of living, a way of humility, service, and love.

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. When you hear the word “priest”, what images, words, or phrases, etc., come to mind?
2. What's something about heaven that you are really looking forward to this week?
3. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon?
Why was it significant to you?
4. Last time we met, we talked about [whatever you talked about].
Has anyone had a chance to put that lesson into practice?
Has it had an impact on your life in any way?

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. Read through Leviticus 21. What stands out to you in this text?
Can you describe or summarize God's expectations of the priests in your own words?
2. What do you learn about God's plan for humanity and the world in Revelation 21:1-5? What things will eventually cease to exist in the new heavens and new earth? How might this be related to Leviticus 21 and the reasonings for the prohibitions God gives in those passages?
3. Read 1 Peter 2:9. What does this verse teach you about the role that God has called all Christians to? How is what we are called to similar or different to what God called the priests in Leviticus to?
4. What do John 13:14-15 and Mark 10:35-45 teach you about the posture that followers of Jesus should have? How might that relate to the role of the Old Testament priests?

CONTINUED:

5. How is the role of those who follow Jesus described in 2 Corinthians 5:17-21? How does this relate to the verses above? How would you sum up the message of these passages in your own words?

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 Lane pointed out some of the danger of self-righteousness. Based on your understanding of this sermon/these passages, what is the difference between self-righteousness and holiness? What are some modern examples of each?
2. Pastor Lane pointed out that the tabernacle was supposed to be a picture of heaven here on earth. The passage from Revelation 21 gives us more details on what heaven will be like. Based on your reading of Leviticus 21, how do you think God's prohibitions helped to paint this picture for the Israelite people? Are there people, places, structures that paint a similar picture for us today?
3. The priests in Leviticus were set apart from the rest of the people as a physical reminder of a spiritual reality. Do you think Christians are supposed to be set apart in a similar way today? Why or why not? What similarities and differences might there be between the way the priests were set apart and how Christians are to act today?
4. What are some words, phrases, images, or examples of how the majority of people view leadership today? How is this image similar or different to the type of people Jesus calls his followers to be?
5. What do you think it looks like for the people of God to be a priesthood in today's world? Based on these passages/this sermon, how do you think they should act, think, and speak? Who do you know that is a good example of this?

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 (either in your past or your present) has self-righteousness possibly crept in? How can you tell the difference when you're being self-righteous instead of seeking to be holy?
2. What has this message, these passage, or this sermon series taught you about God or the Bible that you didn't know before? How has what you've learned shaped your thinking or actions?
3. What might it look like in your own life to be set apart for God? Are there any areas of you life where you are currently blending where you think God might be calling you to act in a different way?
4. Do you tend to view leadership and power in a way that is more similar to the world or more similar to how the Bible describes these things? How have these passages/this sermon challenged or encouraged you?
5. What do you think or how do you feel about the fact that God has called you (as a Christian) to act as a priest? How might thinking about yourself in this way impact your day to day life?

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. This week, spend some time examining your life to see if there are any places where you focus on self-righteousness instead of holiness. It might be helpful to pray this prayer each day as you do this, "Search my heart, O God" and then spend some time listening to see if God has anything to bring to your attention.
2. How would you rate yourself in your role of being a priest? What's one thing you could do this week to become more like Jesus in this role?
3. Are there any places in your life where you have just followed the patterns of the world instead of seeking to be set apart for God? If God brings something to mind, what's one thing you can do this week to change that? It may be helpful to ask someone to pray for you as you seek to hand this area of your life over to God.