

## Small Group Discussion Guide — March 22, 2026

- Series: The Table
  - Sermon: Substitute
  - Scripture: Leviticus 16:1-10, 20-22
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### **CONNECT**

Have you ever been a scapegoat or known someone who has been one? Please share.

### **FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK**

Last week David discussed the Festival of Tabernacles and the rhythm of Sabbath, temporary shelters, Sabbath. How did this rhythm translate into your life? How should we view the world we live in as well as eternity given what we learned in last week's sermon?

### **ENGAGE**

Leviticus 16:1-10, 20-22 describes “the other goat,” the scapegoat. What happens to it? What does it represent to the Israelites? How should we view it when we use a New Testament post-resurrection lens?

Read Romans 6:23. What are the wages of sin? How was sin symbolically addressed in the Old Testament? How did God ultimately solve this issue? How does His ultimate solution differ from the Old Testament method of dealing with the forgiveness of sins?

What do you think would come to mind in the believers in Corinth when they heard the words contained in 2 Corinthians 5:21? How would they view it in light of the Old Testament teaching about sin and the process for the forgiveness of sins? How should we view this verse today?

Read John 1:29. What does John call Jesus? What would this title symbolize or mean to the hearers of John's words? (Think of how lambs were used by priests in the Old Testament). Do you think they understood it? Why or why not? If they did understand it, what might they have understood it to mean? What implication does Jesus being the Lamb of God have for us in terms of how we view God and how we should live our lives?

## **APPLY**

Why do people put a leash on the goat in their lives that is sent into the wilderness instead of letting it fully go? (Think of the metaphor here, what the goat represents).

Contemplate the following statement: Controlling forgiveness versus sitting in the truth of Christ's sacrifice for all sin, once and for all. Paraphrase it. What does this statement mean? How should we view God, sin, forgiveness, and our lives after having heard this week's sermon and the themes embedded within it? What decisions in your life might you make as a result of these perspectives?

## **PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, it was on the cross that you proclaimed, "Tetelestai," the Greek word for, "It is finished." Your death, the shedding of your blood, paid the full debt of our sin once and for all; it is paid in full. With your death and with these words the curse of sin and the power of death was broken - full forgiveness and restoration with you is possible if we but put our faith in you. Please strengthen our faith so that we always believe both your words and your work regardless of our challenges, our problems, our circumstances, and our doubts. Thank you so very much for your great grace and love for us.

## **GOING DEEPER**

What should we do when we feel guilty about sin? Don't think of just confession, but other things as well. Make a list of what can be done when we feel this guilt and then share your ideas. Use Scripture from this week's sermon and other Bible verses as well to support your list. What implications does your list have for you in terms of how you view God and your life?

## **ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE**

John 1:29, 2 Corinthians 5:21, John 1:18, John 19:30

## **QUOTES**

The reason the world is so terribly neurotic is that it no longer has a sin-bearer.  
- Clarence Jordan

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" It wasn't a rhetorical question. And the answer IS: For you, for me, for us ..." Jesus was forsaken by God so that we would never have to be. The judgment that should have fallen on us fell instead on Jesus. - Tim Keller