

Series: “Law and Order”

Date: May 15, 2016

Lesson: Animal Sacrifices

Lead Teacher Welcome and Introduction (20 min)

Welcome: Lead Teachers, please welcome all the students and all the groups. Tell them how good it is to have them and how glad you are that they came. Remind them that this morning will be awesome, fun, and challenging. Sunday mornings are all about being RELATIONAL. We want to see their relationship with Christ and Christians grow from their Connect Group. The more they grow relationally with Christ and Christians in their Connect Group, the better their relationships will be in the world with Not-Yet Christians.

Story: How many of y'all love animals? Some people love to have animals as pets, some people love to hunt animals as game, and others love to eat animals as food. How many of y'all are pet people? How many of y'all are hunters or fishermen? How many of y'all love meat?

Lead Teacher, take the opportunity right now to share an animal story when it comes to pets, hunting/fishing, or food.

Explanation of Leviticus: Not only is this morning a new lesson on Animal Sacrifices, but we're also kicking off a new series “Law and Order” from the book of Leviticus. Let's be honest, animals sacrifices were a really weird command from God. In fact, Leviticus can be one of the hardest books of the Bible to read. We will do whatever we can to make sure you learn as much as possible from the book of Leviticus! Did you know most Christians have never read all of Leviticus, most pastors have never preached through Leviticus, but the New Testament quotes a lot of Leviticus? As Christians, the better our understanding of Leviticus means the better our understanding of the Bible, the Gospel, and how to live our lives in a Personal way for Jesus!

Video: We want you to watch this video that overviews Leviticus to have a better understanding of where we're going with this series. Check this out. You'll love it!

YouTube Link for Video “The Book of Leviticus Overview” by The Bible Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmvyrLXoQio>

Transition into Lesson: Open your Bibles to Leviticus 1, and get into conversations with one another from these discussion questions.

Connect Group Introductions and Discussion #1 (30 mins)

- **Welcome** and personally speak to every student.
- Give special **attention** to any first timers or guests.
- Ask about one special thing that happened in the **students'** week.
- Also tell them one special thing that happened from **your** week.
- **Go over the Newsletter** and **Daily Devos** on your table with your students.
- **Pray** to begin the morning together.

Connect Group Leader Note: The purpose of this section is to engage your students in a conversation from the Bible about the animal sacrifices, the sacrifice of Jesus, and how we live our lives as a sacrifice.

Please study this lesson, internalize it, pray through it, and own it so that you don't have to just read the answers or the teaching points from this curriculum. I realize you will need to read the questions of course, but the more the students hear the answers and the teaching points from your heart, the more they will want to memorize it as well and let it sink deeply into their hearts!

We are well aware you will not be able to get to or through every single question in the curriculum. Please do not even try! We put more questions than you need into the curriculum because we know that some questions will connect with some groups better than others. Please prayerfully study which questions to facilitate your Connect Group through.

- **What's your favorite pet you've ever had? What pet would you like to have?**

This question is designed to get students started thinking and talking about animals.

- **Have you ever been hunting before? What about fishing? Which is your favorite? What do you like about it?**

Another question to get them thinking about animals.

- **What's your favorite meat? What animal do you love eating most? Which one would you like to try?**

This question is continuing to lead them into the passage we're going to study on animal sacrifices.

- **Read Leviticus 1:1-2.**

Why would it have been hard for the people to obey God by bringing to Him animals from their personal flock? If they didn't have grocery or clothing

stores in the desert, then what important uses were they using their animals for?

It would have been a personal sacrifice to bring an animal from their own flock to sacrifice to God because the animals were their source of protein, clothing, etc.

God was showing the people how hard it was for Himself to provide the once and for all sacrifice for them. Why would providing Jesus be hard for God to provide as our sacrifice?

We have to remember the reason we are emotional people is because God is an emotional God. He created us in His image. Not only was it hard on Jesus to die for us, but it was hard on the Father to provide Him for us.

- **Read Leviticus 1:3.**

Why was it important to God that the people would bring a male animal without blemish? What types of blemishes might the people have to look for before offering the animal as a sacrifice?

It was important to God for them to offer their best (unblemished) animals as sacrifices for their sin. They couldn't just offer the lame, diseased, unwanted animals. But God wanted them to offer their best so that it would be a sacrifice to them and it would be their best to God.

God was pointing the people forward to Jesus being our final sacrifice. Not only is Jesus male, but Jesus is also unblemished regarding sin. Which sins is it almost unbelievable that Jesus never committed for 33 years to remain spiritually unblemished?

It is almost unbelievable that Jesus never had a bad attitude, He never got prideful, He never lusted, He never argued wrongly, He always showed love, and He perfectly followed His Father from their relationship.

- **Read Leviticus 1:4.**

Have one of your students get on "all fours" on the floor. Have another student lay their hand on that student's head to act this scene out. Why was it important for the sinner to lay their hand on the sacrifice? What did it symbolize?

The sinner laying their hand on the animal's head symbolized the passing of sin and guilt from the person to the animal.

God was pointing the people forward to Jesus being our final sacrifice. How did this symbolic action show them what Jesus was going to do?

This symbolic action showed the people that one day God's Son would take on all of our sin, bare our sin, and die in our place for our sin.

- **Read Leviticus 1:5-9.**

Leaders, talk with your students about how gruesome, gory, and gross this bloody sacrifice would be. The priest would cut the animal from its neck to stomach. Ask your students how the animal would react to this. What would the animal be going through. How would the animal respond?

During this sacrificial process, the animal would be gasping for breath, struggling for its life, crying out in pain, and bleeding out. The reason God chose animals for the main sacrifices was because He created animals bodies similar to ours with bones, blood, skin, nerves, etc, but yet they are not created in His image no have a soul like us.

Think through as a group the gory, gross, and gruesome details of the death of Jesus. What were they?

Jesus was scourged with the cat of nine tails, crowned with thorns, nailed to a cross, and left to hang until His death. Jesus gasped for breath, struggled for His life, cried out in pain, and bled out.

Point to discuss: Both the animal sacrifices and the death of Jesus shows us what we deserve for our sin.

(Verse 9) Why would this have been a pleasing aroma to the Lord?

Just as we enjoy pleasing aromas like steak, burgers, chicken, etc on a grill, the Bible says that God was pleased with the aroma of the animal sacrifices. God was not just pleased with the smell, but He is pleased with His people when He has forgiven their sin.

The Point: Because Jesus died for our sins, God is pleased with us!

- **Read 2 Corinthians 2:15-16.**

Because Jesus died for us, God is pleased with us. Because God has been eternally and finally pleased by Jesus' death, we now get to be the aroma of Jesus to the world! In what ways do Christians today need to be a better "aroma" of Jesus to a lost and dying world?

Closing Remarks and Announcements by Lead Teacher (10 min)

The reason God commanded the Old Testament sacrifices to take place was because He was putting their faith in and pointing them forward toward the death of His Son, Jesus. Jesus is the final sacrifice because His death fulfilled the forgiveness of our sin from God. Now we get to go to a lost and dying world to share about the death of Jesus so that God is pleased with them, as well.

Learn how to let God deal with your sin. We do not need to try to deal with our own sin. Many people try to deal with their own sin by trying to forget it, deny it, or even forgive themselves. Other people's sin makes them angry, they try to vent, or they keep doing it to try to lose the guilty feeling. Other people try to punish themselves to pay for their own sin.

The only way to deal with your sin is to believe that Jesus has already dealt with your sin. Believe in the sacrifice of Jesus and see everything else through it. One person said, "I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen; not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else." Believe in the death of Jesus in the same way. Believe that it happened, but also see the rest of life by it. The sacrifice of Jesus changes the way you see your own sin, the way you see the sin of others, and the way you see the sin of the world around you.

Ask the students to write down the next 5 words.

CONVICTION: Let God through the Holy Spirit **CONVICT** you of your sin.

CONFESSION: Let His conviction lead you to **CONFESS** your sin to Him.

FORGIVENESS: Let your confession to Him lead you to believe He has **FORGIVEN** you for your sin.

REPENTANCE: Let His forgiveness motivate you to now **REPENT** and turn away from that sinful lifestyle.

OBEDIENCE: Let your repentance lead you into a new lifestyle of **OBEDIENCE** in that area.

ANNOUNCEMENT REMINDERS

- This Wednesday, don't forget to bring a first timer this Wednesday for a chance to win "The Impossible Shot."
- **CAMP:** After today, the camp price goes up to \$325. Register with your \$100 deposit to reserve your spot and early bird pricing.
- You are not dismissed until your Connect Group Leader dismisses you.