



SDG Discussion Guide

Leviticus 11:44a,45; 19:1-2; 20:7,26

January 14, 2018

For starters:

Have you ever made a new year's resolution that went well? Elaborate on it or on any memorable new year's resolution experience.

Are there certain rules or laws (e.g. speed limit, curfew (when you were younger)) that you've thought of more as guidelines that don't necessarily always have to be followed?

Has anyone ever - perhaps a parent or a teacher - given up something significant for you? What did they give up for you and why?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday.)

Read slowly and aloud the selected text in your group, taking turns as you can. Before doing so, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Note well what points and questions are raised for you. As time permits, read the passage a second time-- slowly and aloud. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read and reread the text, what points and questions of the text arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. What else did you notice? Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for reflection and discussion.

1. How have you understood "holiness" in your life?
2. How have you understood "sacrifice" -- how would you define it? When have you "sacrificed" for another? Does genuine sacrifice have to hurt?
3. How do your sacrifices define your value system? Said another way, what does what you give up say about where you place worth?
4. 1 Peter 1:13-21 quotes Leviticus 19:2 and urges that Christians be holy in all we do. What do you think that looks like in our day and context?
5. God is distinctively holy. How does that affect his relationship with people? Can you think of other distinctives about God and people? How he is unlike his people?
6. If God is utterly holy and distinctive, how can we truly know him like we know, say, a close family member? How does Jesus solve that problem? What connections can you make between Jesus' life and Leviticus 11?
7. What are some expectations or hopes you have in learning through the sermon series on Leviticus?

Spend some time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you to pray. Ask God to continue to open your hearts and minds to what he wants to say to you during the sermon series on Leviticus. Ask him to speak to you about "holiness"-- to awaken or reawaken you to his words and encouragements on the matter. Go forth this week... empowered and guided by the Spirit who is Holy.