



SDG Discussion Guide

Leviticus 18-20

February 18, 2018

For starters:

Were you raised with more “Dos” or with more “Don’ts” in your education in morality? Elaborate.

In a household of yours, who has set the rules? Who has enforced them? What did you notice? What are you like in terms setting or enforcing rules?

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. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.)

As you can, read aloud chapter 19 in your group. Before doing so, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read 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 interaction.

1. Chapter 19 contains a list of various laws which expand on the Ten Commandments. What do you think is their purpose? In what sense are laws needed to maintain a relationship with God?
2. Choose five of these laws of chapter 19 and explain how each would help the Israelites to maintain their relationship with God.
3. Which law detailed here was quoted by Jesus, Paul and James? In this context, who is one’s “brother” and “neighbor” (vv 14-18)? Which laws show compassion and economic justice for the poor? The handicapped? The alien?
4. Of all these laws, which seem to you to have their application limited to the ancient Israelites? Which laws seem to apply universally, to all people, for all time? How do you make that distinction?
5. In your own life, how has God delivered you from some sin mentioned in chapter 19?
6. How does this deliverance help you to live better with and for God? Your family? Your neighbors? The disadvantaged?
7. Together with your group, pick one of the laws to focus on to put into an action. What will that action be? Where? When? Regarding whom?
8. What is your chief incentive to be “holy”? How might this passage have given rise to the notion of “holier-than-thou”? How can you avoid that association and still be the holy person God wants you to be?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to help you to pray. Ask God to speak to you and to show you anything you need to see in or around these laws. Pause and sit in silence a while, listening.... Ask God to help you to respond. Ask God to both encourage and challenge you regarding any particular area you may need to show love, or to receive it.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).