



SDG Discussion Guide

Leviticus 1-7

January 21, 2018

For starters:

What is the biggest thing you ever had to give up for someone else? Why did you do it? What did you learn in the process?

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.)

As you can, read aloud the selected text 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 and even 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 interaction.

1. Beginning with Cain and Abel (see Gen 4 and here in Lev), why do you think God chose "animal sacrifice" to restore broken relationships? Couldn't God forgive sins without sacrifice? Why or why not?
2. Regarding the "burnt offering," what do you think these numerous regulations imply: Why a male, and without defect? Why the laying on of hands? Why sprinkle blood? Why complete burning? Why three categories?
3. How does an "aroma pleasing to the Lord" (vv 9, 13,17) foreshadow Christ and Christian charity (see Eph 5:2; Phil 4:18)?
4. In thinking about "sacrifice," how would you now define it? Anything altered about your definition or understanding since the previous, initial sermon on Leviticus?
5. For whom have you made sacrifices? What sacrifices have you, or can you this year, make for God (see Rom 12:1-2; Heb 13:15)?
6. In your experiences, how has God reconciled you to himself? What sacrifice has accomplished that?
7. What are ways we expect or hope we can have a relationship without any or much cost?
8. There is no fellowship without sacrifice. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not? Can you think of stories or examples or illustrations from your own life that back up your belief?

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 "sacrifice"-- to awaken or reawaken you to his words on the matter - both his encouragements and his challenges. Go forth this week empowered and guided by the spirit of the one who paid it *all...* for you.

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