

hair curtains formed a tent over the outside. There were also 10 linen curtains for inside. (These were made of the blue, purple, and red yarn.)

Another curtain separated the holy of holies from the rest of the tabernacle. God's presence was in the holy of holies, above the ark of the covenant. **God told His people to build the tabernacle so He could dwell with them.**

### **Journal and prayer (5 minutes)**

Invite the kids to write words of worship to God on their journal page.

**SAY** • God is not distant. God loves to dwell with His people. As part of His plan of salvation, God sent Jesus to “tabernacle,” or dwell, with people on earth.

Guide kids to write a few sentences on their journal pages, describing how they feel knowing that Jesus brings people back to God. Through Jesus, believers are no longer separated from Him! Explain that God is always with us, dwelling with believers through the Holy Spirit.

As time allows, lead kids to complete “Tabernacle Test” on the activity page. (Answers: 1. tent; 2. blue; 3. skills; 4. ten; 5. feet; 6. hair; 7. frames; 8. veil; 9. ark; 10. cloud. The key word is *TABERNACLE*.)

- pencils
- Journal Page
- “Tabernacle Test” activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.

## God Gave Rules for Sacrifice

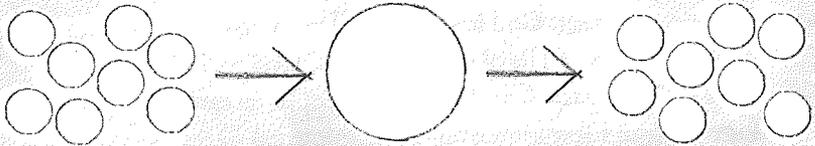
**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Leviticus 1–27

**MAIN POINT:** Because God is holy, God requires a sacrifice for sin.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Leviticus 11:45

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who can keep God's law? No one can keep God's law perfectly except Jesus.

**SMALL GROUP OPENING** (10–15 MINUTES) **LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY** (25–30 MINUTES) **SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES** (25–30 MINUTES)  
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### Leader BIBLE STUDY

The tabernacle was complete. God now had a place where His glory could dwell without causing the Israelites to fear death. God had given His people laws from the mountain, and He gave them more rules for living and worshiping Him when He dwelled in the tabernacle. These rules are recorded in the Book of Leviticus. The reasoning behind Leviticus can be found in Leviticus 19:2.

In Leviticus 17:11, God set apart the blood of a creature as the means for making atonement. This answers the question, “Why did Jesus have to die?” God’s requirement for the forgiveness of sins was the shedding of blood: “According to the law almost everything is purified with

blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (Heb. 9:22).

It is important to note a New Testament revelation about the sin offering. Hebrews 10:4 says, “It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” Then why did God require people to make sacrifices? The institution of a sacrifice was to point to something greater—the ultimate sacrifice God would make by sending His own Son, Jesus Christ, to pay for the sins of the world once and for all. (See Eph. 1:7; Rom 5:9.)

The Book of Leviticus contains many rules for the Israelite people, but we do not obey all the rules in Leviticus today because we trust Jesus, who obeyed the law perfectly for us.

Many of the kids you teach will not be familiar with the Book of Leviticus. Use this session as an opportunity to emphasize God’s holiness and His requirement of a blood sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. Lead them to treasure Jesus as the perfect and final sacrifice that took away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)



**MINISTRY GRID**  
training made simple

Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject](http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject).

# The BIBLE STORY

## God Gave Rules for Sacrifice

*Leviticus 1–27*

**When Moses was with God on Mount Sinai, God gave him many laws.** These laws showed the people what it looks like to live a holy life. God is holy and cannot be around sin, but the Israelites could not keep God's laws perfectly. So God met with Moses in the tabernacle. **He gave the people rules about how to live, how to worship God, and what to do when they sinned.**

**First, God gave rules about offerings. Offerings are gifts people give to God,** such as money or jewelry. Sometimes offerings included animals. People could also give grain and bread as offerings. **Different types of offerings were needed at different times. When people wanted to praise God, they gave burnt offerings. When they wanted to say they were sorry for sin, they gave a sin offering.**

**God also gave rules about the priests. Priests made the sacrifices that God commanded. The priests took care of the tabernacle, and they taught the people God's rules for living holy lives.** Aaron and his sons served as the priests. God gave them rules about how to offer sacrifices.

**God told Moses about a special day that would happen once a year. It was called the Day of Atonement.** *Atonement* means making right what had been wrong. The people needed to atone for their sin to make their relationship with God right again.

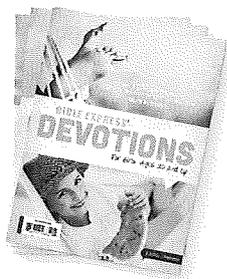
**On the Day of Atonement, the people paid for their sins. The high priest offered a special sacrifice.** He took the blood of an animal and went into the most holy place, a very special room in the tabernacle. Then

the high priest sprinkled the blood on the mercy seat of the ark of the covenant, which was a wooden box covered in gold that contained the stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments were written.

**The sacrifice was important because it paid for the sins of the people of Israel.** God said, “On that day your sin will be paid for. You will be made pure and clean. You will be clean from all of your sins in my sight.”

**God also gave the Israelites rules about how they should live. He said, “Be holy because I, Yahweh your God, am holy.”** God told the people what it is to be holy. God said, “Do not tell lies. Do not cheat. Love your neighbor as you love yourself. Obey My rules.”

*Christ Connection: The sacrifices God required of His people were a hint of what God was going to do to forgive sinners. We no longer need to offer sacrifices because we trust in Jesus. Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice that takes away our sin once and for all.*



**WANT TO  
DISCOVER  
GOD'S WORD?  
GET  
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that year after year, the people offered sacrifices to be forgiven of sin. Jesus is the perfect sacrifice. Jesus says "Come to Me, ... I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out [www.lifeway.com/devotionals](http://www.lifeway.com/devotionals).

# Small Group OPENING

**SESSION TITLE:** God Gave Rules for Sacrifice

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Leviticus 1–27

**MAIN POINT:** Because God is holy, God requires a sacrifice for sin.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Leviticus 11:45

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who can keep God's law? No one can keep God's law perfectly except Jesus.

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## Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group.

As kids arrive, invite them to play a guessing game.

Choose a volunteer to announce a category: person, place, or thing. He should choose an item from the category and whisper it to you. Then he should give three hints about the item. Kids will try to guess the item.

**SAY** • Great job giving hints! Another word for hint is *sign*.

God gave signs in the Old Testament to point to Jesus. One of those signs was the rules for sacrifices, which we will learn more about today. God showed that Jesus would die to take the punishment for sin.

## Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “That’s Not Right!” on the activity page. Kids should circle items that are not right or that are out of place.

**SAY** • Today we’re going to learn about wrong things being made right. A word that specifically means making wrongs right is *atonement*.

- “That’s Not Right!” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

## Session starter (10 minutes)

### OPTION 1: Move it back

Instruct the kids to close their eyes. Quietly change one (or several) thing(s) in the room. You might move a chair, hang something new on the wall, hide an object, and so forth.

Invite kids to open their eyes and guess what is different. Lead them to “make it right again” by putting everything back how it was. Play several rounds as time allows.

**SAY** • Remember that our sin separates us from God because He is holy. What or who can bring us back to Him? In our Bible story today, you will hear about atonement. *Atonement* means making wrong things right. But this kind of “making things right” is not about putting objects back where they belong in a room. It’s about making things right when it comes to our sin. **Because God is holy, God requires a sacrifice for sin.** He requires *atonement*.

### OPTION 2: What’s in common?

Form groups of two to four kids. Write the following words on a chalkboard or dry erase board so everyone can see: *money, animals, and grain.*

Allow time for kids to discuss what the object have in common. Then call on groups to share their guesses.

**SAY** • Great guesses! All of these things were types of offerings the people presented in the tabernacle. An *offering* is a gift for God. God’s people brought offerings to praise God or to say they were sorry for their sin. **Because God is holy, God requires a sacrifice for sin.**

LOW PREP

- dry erase board or chalkboard
- markers or chalk

## Transition to large group

# Large Group LEADER

**SESSION TITLE:** God Gave Rules for Sacrifice

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Leviticus 1–27

**MAIN POINT:** Because God is holy, God requires a sacrifice for sin.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Leviticus 11:45

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who can keep God's law? No one can keep God's law perfectly except Jesus.

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## Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

## Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire  
• flashlight

*[Large Group Leader enters carrying a flashlight.]*

**LEADER** • Hello, everyone! Welcome back to my tree house. I'm so glad you are here because I must say, these last two weeks have been quite a doozy! Remember the list of rules we came up with that first week we were in the tree house? Well, people have *not* been keeping them—not even me! I can't tell you how many times I've been out here when the sun went down and I realized I didn't have my flashlight! That's a very dangerous situation! Rules are certainly hard to keep, even when we know they are good rules.

In our Bible story today, we will see that the Israelites could not keep all of God's rules. They were not holy like God is holy. God knew this would happen. So God gave rules for what the people should do when they sinned against Him. He gave them rules for offerings and sacrifices.

## Big picture question (1 minute)

**LEADER** • Our big picture question is, *Who can keep God's law?* Do any of you want to guess what that answer might be? Maybe there's someone in your class who always obeys the teacher. Maybe your grandma reads her Bible every morning. Or maybe you have a sibling who seems to never get in trouble.

Even though those people might make a lot of wise choices, the Bible says that no one does everything right all the time. In fact, the Bible says that all of us are sinners, and we all deserve to be punished because of our sin! No matter how hard we try, we can't be good enough. And for that reason, we need God's help!

The answer to, *Who can keep God's law?* is "no one." Well ... that's not entirely true. *No one can keep God's law perfectly except Jesus!*

## Giant timeline (1 minute)

**LEADER** • Our Bible story takes place not long after last week's story. [*Point to the timeline map.*] The people set up the tabernacle, and God gave them rules for how to make offerings and sacrifices in the tabernacle. A *sacrifice* is a something presented to God as an act of worship.

Sacrifices were necessary because nobody could keep God's law perfectly. As you listen to the Bible story today, keep the big picture question in mind: *Who can keep God's law? No one can keep God's law perfectly except Jesus.*

• Giant Timeline

- Bibles
- “God Gave Rules for Sacrifice” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster

## Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to the Book of Leviticus. Tell the Bible story in your own words, or show the Bible story video “God Gave Rules for Sacrifice.”

**LEADER** • God gave the Israelites rules for sacrifice. God required blood to pay for the sins of the people. [See *Heb. 9:22.*] The Day of Atonement was a very important day for the Israelites. Once a year, the high priest offered a special sacrifice to pay for the sins of the Israelites.

But these animal sacrifices did not take away sin forever. Instead, the Israelites had to observe the Day of Atonement every year.

Ask the following review questions. Invite kids to stand up if they know the answer. Call on a volunteer to answer.

1. What did God’s laws show His people? (*what it looks like to live a holy life, Lev. 11:45*)
2. What kinds of things did the people bring to the temple for offerings? (*money, animals, grain/bread; Lev. 1–7*)
3. What kinds of offerings did we learn about today? (*burnt offerings for praise, sin offerings to say they were sorry for sin; Lev. 1; 4*)
4. What was the special day that happened once a year called? (*the Day of Atonement, Lev. 16*)
5. What was important about the sacrifice made on the Day of Atonement? (*It temporarily paid for the sins of the people that year, Lev. 16:17*)
6. **Who can keep God’s law? No one can keep God’s law perfectly except Jesus.**

**LEADER** • Our sin separates us from God. So why don’t we make sacrifices every year? The sacrifices God

required of His people were a sign of what God was going to do to forgive sinners. We no longer need to offer sacrifices because we trust in Jesus. Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice that takes away our sin once and for all.

### **The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)**

Use Scripture and the guide provided with this session to explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Assign individuals to meet with kids who have more questions.

Encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Tip: Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

### **Key passage (5 minutes)**

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Leviticus 11:45.

Form four or more teams. Assign each team a phrase of the key passage, including the reference. Kids on each team should say their assigned phrase when you point at them. Start out pointing at the teams slowly. Then increase the speed until the kids are talking over each other to keep up.

When the group has said the verse a few times, rearrange the teams or give the teams a new phrase and play again.

**LEADER** • God rescued His people so they could worship Him by obeying His laws. But they couldn't do it! They kept breaking His laws! This is why God gave them rules for sacrifices. Through these sacrifices, their sins were paid for over and over again. *Who can keep God's law? No one can keep God's law perfectly except Jesus.*

- Key Passage Poster
- "You Must Be Holy" song

• “Unit 6, Session 3”  
discussion starter  
video

### **Discussion starter video (4 minutes)**

Show the “Unit 6, Session 3” discussion starter video.

**LEADER** • Did anything Nell tried get the shoes clean? How does sin make us unclean? Can we clean ourselves up? Can God clean us? How?

Guide kids to discuss how a person becomes holy.

Emphasize that doing good works does not make us holy. The Bible says that God declares those who follow Jesus to be holy. Remind kids that our holiness as believers does not mean we will be perfect. God enables believers to live lives that honor Him, set apart for His purpose.

### **Sing (4 minutes)**

• “Holy God (Holy, Holy,  
Holy)” song

**LEADER** • God is perfectly holy. Nothing else and no one else is like Him. Let’s worship Him now by singing. Sing together “Holy God (Holy, Holy, Holy).”

### **Pray (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

**LEADER** • Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to keep Your laws perfectly, die as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins, and rise again. We do not deserve Your love, but You give it to us anyway. Help us to trust You and obey You because You loved us first. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

### **Dismiss to small groups**

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:19.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

# Small Group LEADER

**SESSION TITLE:** God Gave Rules for Sacrifice

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Leviticus 1–27

**MAIN POINT:** Because God is holy, God requires a sacrifice for sin.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Leviticus 11:45

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Who can keep God’s law? No one can keep God’s law perfectly except Jesus.

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## Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- shatterproof hand mirrors
- dry erase markers

Provide mirrors and dry erase markers. Invite kids to write the key passage on mirrors with the dry erase markers.

Challenge them to say the verse aloud, erase one or two words, and see if they can say the verse again. Encourage them to keep going until their mirrors are blank.

**SAY** • Our key passage reminds us that God is holy.

Through Jesus, we can reflect His holiness to the world.

## Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster

Read Hebrews 10:1–4, 11–18 aloud, or select a kid read it to the class. Lead the kids to compare and contrast the Day of Atonement in the Book of Leviticus to what the Book of Hebrews says about Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Ask the following questions. Prompt kids to look up the provided Scripture references to find the answers:

1. What animals were killed on the Day of Atonement?  
*(a bull for the sins of the priest, a goat for the sins of the people; Lev. 16:11, 15)*
2. Who died as the sacrifice for our sins? *(Jesus, Heb. 10:12)*

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

3. How often did the Day of Atonement happen? (*every year; Lev. 16:34; Heb. 10:11*)
4. How many times did Jesus die? (*once, Heb. 10:14*)
5. Who made the sacrifice for the people on the Day of Atonement? (*the priest, Lev. 16:32*)
6. Where did the priest go on the Day of Atonement? (*into the most holy place, Lev. 16:17*)
7. Do Christians still make sacrifices to atone for sin? Why or why not? (*No, Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice that takes away sin forever; Heb. 10:14-18*)
8. Where is Jesus now? (*He is alive in heaven, at the right hand of God; Heb. 10:12*)

### Activity choice (10 minutes)

**OPTION 1:** Paid in full

Give each child a piece of white paper. Direct the kids to write down a few sins they have committed this week.

Mention that *sin* is breaking God's law. Offer suggestions such as lying, disobeying parents, saying mean words, wanting something that doesn't belong to them, worshipping something or someone other than God, being selfish, and so forth. Give the kids several minutes to make their lists. Invite them to pray and ask God to bring sins to mind.

**SAY** • Look at your paper. ***Who can keep God's law? No one can keep God's law perfectly except Jesus.*** Your sin separates you from God. God is holy and can't be around sin. Today we learned that because God gave the Israelites rules for sacrifice. **Because God is holy, God requires a sacrifice for sin.**

Now crumple up your paper. Jesus died on the cross as the ultimate sacrifice for our sin. Jesus never sinned! But He took our place and paid the



- white paper
- pencils or pens

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

- masking tape or painter's tape
- paper wads
- timer

punishment for our sin.

Exchange each kid's crumpled paper for a piece of blank white paper.

**SAY** • When we trust in Jesus, He gives us His righteousness. God forgives our sin and gives us eternal life. We will live with Him forever!

**OPTION 2:** Keep away

Form two teams. Follow these steps to lead kids in a keep-away game.

1. Tape a line down the middle of the room. Scatter several paper wads on each side of the room.
2. Assign each team a side. Challenge kids to keep the paper wads out of their area.
3. Set the timer for two minutes and prompt them to begin. Kids should toss the paper wads out of their area and into the other team's area.
4. After two minutes, the team with the fewest paper wads on their side gets a point. Keep track of points and play several rounds. The team with the most total points wins.

**SAY** • We have talked these past several weeks about how God is holy. In this game, you kept the paper wads away from your side. You couldn't be around them. God is holy, and He cannot be around sin. And **because God is holy, God requires a sacrifice for sin.** In the Old Testament, the Day of Atonement was the day the people made payment for their sins. Today we can rejoice because Jesus paid the sacrifice for our sins once and for all when He died on the cross.

## Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Give each kid a journal page and a Bible. Guide them to find Romans 12:1 in the Bible and write it on the page.

**SAY** • Because Jesus died for us as the true and final sacrifice, we do not offer sacrifices to pay for our sin. Instead, the Bible says we should offer ourselves to God as a *living sacrifice*.

Because God has shown such great love to us, we should be grateful. We should live in a way that pleases God. We can use our feet to go where God wants us to go. We can use our hands to serve people in need. We can worship God with our lives.

As time allows, lead kids to complete “Search and Sacrifices” on the activity page. Encourage kids to find in a Bible dictionary any words that are unfamiliar to them.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- “Search and Sacrifices” activity page, 1 per kid
- Bible dictionaries (optional)

Tip: Give parents this week’s *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.