

Burnt.

(sacrifices)



GROUP GUIDE
4th Quarter, 2023

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ABOUT

Four thousand years ago, worship of YHWH (God) took place in the Tabernacle - a portable tent that the Israelites carried with them in the wilderness. In the Tabernacle, priests would offer sacrifices on behalf of the people - offering bulls, sheep, goats, doves, and grain on the altar of burnt offerings. A right relationship with God only came through the fire.

As Christ-followers, we still are called to sacrifice; but our offerings don't 'moo' or 'bleat'. Instead, we are called to offer our time, treasures, and talents. In this series, we'll be looking at the sacrifices the Israelites were commanded to offer in the Law and discover their counterpart for those who choose to follow Jesus.

Ground Rules

Here are some guidelines for your gatherings.

Confidentiality

If the group is going to move towards authenticity, then what's shared in the group should stay in the group (note: for situations that you are not qualified to speak into, use a referral to Cornerstone Counseling).

Don't Rescue and Don't Fix

Let people openly share without trying to solve their problems. Only give advice if they request it.

No Crosstalk

People feel valued when we listen. The opposite is true as well: people will feel devalued if they are constantly interrupted. If someone has the floor, no other conversations should be happening.

Give Everyone a Chance to Share

Everyone has something to contribute and everyone should feel heard. Don't be too quick to provide all of the answers. Give others space to share.

Use Humor Responsibly

Our conversation should build up rather than tear down. Humor can be a great thing provided it is not used as the expense of others.

Use 'I' Statements

Groups are an opportunity for self-reflection. We should be quick to reflect on how what we are studying should shape us personally, and slow to tell others how it should shape them.

Fight for the Relationship

Real relationships only thrive when we commit to 'fight' for the relationship. We will not hide from conflict or disagreement, but will instead discuss them in an open and healthy way.

Leader Guidelines

Thank you for taking the time to invest in others by leading a group. As a leader, your task is to create an environment where real relationships can thrive. Here are some things to keep in mind as you do that:

Multiply.

The mission of the church is to multiply disciples. Groups are one of the environments where this occurs. You are involved in the discipleship of each person in your group. We ask that each of our group leaders has someone who they are equipping to be a disciple-maker.

Create a safe environment.

When we say 'safe', we mean an environment where participants can freely share without feeling belittled or that what they share will get spread beyond the group. When we say 'safe', we also mean a group where participants can encounter Jesus and His plan for their life.

Recognize that your group is unique.

This booklet is designed to be a general guide, but every group is unique. So when you're planning, take into account what does and doesn't work for your group and shape the session to their personalities and needs.

Review the ground rules.

Periodically, remind your group about the ground rules for the group.

Ask lots of questions.

Engaging leaders draw participants into the discussion. Ask many questions and lead your group into self-discovery. Follow the 70/30 rule: your goal should be to talk for less than 30% of the time. If you're going over that, then people in your group are going to feel limited in their ability to engage!

Get feedback.

Improve your group by asking others for feedback.

Seek wise council.

There are some questions you won't be able to answer and some situations you aren't trained to handle. That's OK! Know who your wise council is (whether a coach, minister, or another disciple-maker) and turn to them in your time of need.

For more on this topic, check out *Servant-Leadership Training* and the *CCW Group Leader Training 2.0* resource on RightNow Media.

Before the Session

Prepare for the Session: As a group leader, it's essential to be prepared. Before the group session:

1. **Pray.** God is the one doing the transformation.
2. **Take time to read over the Bible passage.** Write down questions and observations.
3. **Preview the session guide.** Highlight important questions to ask and add your own.
4. **Tap into study resources.** Check outside sources to expand your understanding of the topic. Some recommended resources include: The BibleProject, RightNow Media, and the CCW Resource Center.

During the Session

Share: Take time to review the content from last week. Use this time to check on:

- **Prayer Requests:** Follow up on any prayer requests that were made the previous session.
- **Application and Challenges:** Take time to provide accountability for any goals that the group set the previous week ('This week, I would like to...').

Transition: Introduce the topic (we give you an example each session).

Read It: Read through the Scripture passage. If it's a larger section of scripture, break it into smaller sections and ask questions throughout.

Talk About It: Make sure the passage is understood by:

1. *Retelling* the story in your own words.
2. *Asking review questions.*
3. *Seeking additional questions.* Check to see if your group has additional questions about the passage.

Apply It: The apply it section may have both (a) application questions and (b) challenges. Challenges are real-life ways to put Biblical Truth into effect this week.

Pray Together: Find creative ways to engage your group in prayer.

After the Session

Follow Up: Be present with group members throughout the week by: (1) Reminding them of their application/challenge commitments, (2) Checking in on needs and prayer requests and (3) Finding opportunities to do life together.

Input Group Attendance: Fill out your Group attendance in the ChurchTeams email that you receive.

THE CALL TO SACRIFICE

Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- What was the most challenging thing that you have ever had to give up?

Transition

Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

In this new series, we'll be taking a look at the Israelites and their worship of God in the book of Leviticus. This week, we start down this path by talking about the call to sacrifice that we find in Scripture.

Talk About It

Read: **Matthew 6:19 - 24**

Review:

- (19 - 21) According to Jesus, where are we supposed to store our treasures? What is the danger of storing your treasure on earth? What is the blessing of storing your treasure in heaven?
- (21) How have you seen this principle to be true?
- (22 - 23) What might Jesus mean when He says that the 'eye is the lamp of the body'? What is the product of healthy eyes? Unhealthy eyes?
- (23) How does 'light and darkness' tie in to Jesus previous idea about 'treasures'?
- (24) What happens when someone attempts to serve two masters? Who are the masters that Jesus says we need to decide between?

Reflect:

- What are some examples of storing treasure up on earth? What treasures have you stored up on earth?
- How does one go about storing treasure in heaven?
- How are your 'eyes' these days? Are they a product of light or darkness in your life?
- What other masters are competing with God for your devotion?

Read: **1 Peter 2:4 - 5; Romans 12:1**

Review:

- (1 Peter) What title is Jesus given here? What do we become when we choose Jesus? What is the purpose of the 'spiritual house' that God is building?
- (Romans) What are we called to do with our bodies?

Reflect:

- Both 1 Peter and Romans call us to offer 'sacrifices' to Jesus. What does it mean to be a 'living sacrifice'?

React:

- What needs to change for you to gain God's perspective on treasure?
- How will you choose the path of 'sacrifice' this week?

Pray Together

BURNT OFFERINGS

Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- What is the largest bonfire that you've ever been a part of?

Transition

Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

In the Burnt series, this week we focused on the Burnt and Sin offerings. Christ-followers have moved beyond the need to offer animal sacrifices - because Jesus became the Perfect Sacrifice.

Read It

Scripture reference: **Hebrews 10:1 - 18**

Talk About It

Review:

- (1) Why can't the Law make perfect those who follow it?
- (2 - 4) What was the purpose of the the sacrificial system?
- (5 - 9) According to Jesus, what was God's true desire?
- (10) What is it that makes us holy? What does it mean to be holy?
- (11 - 14) What is Jesus doing now that He accomplished God's will on this earth? What words are used to describe US now that Jesus has become the sacrifice?
- (15 - 17) A covenant is a promise or pact. What is the covenant that God has made with us? What might be our part in this

covenant?

- (18) Why do we no longer need to offer sacrifices?

Reflect:

- At times, we try to earn God's favor through rituals, offerings and sacrifices. What sacrifices have you made to God? How do these fall short of the sacrifice that Jesus made? How might our sacrifices impede the work of Jesus?
- What does it mean to know that, through Christ, you are 'perfect' and 'holy'?
- If God isn't looking for our sacrifices and offerings, what is He looking for from us?
- How does the new covenant made through Jesus shape our interaction with God?

React:

- What sacrifices do you need to stop relying on in order to trust in the sacrifice of Jesus?
- What reminders can you place in your life that you are part of a 'new covenant' characterized by faith and Spiritual obedience?

Pray Together

GRAIN OFFERINGS

Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- How do you typically express thanks to someone?

Transition

Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

This week, we learned about the Israelite Grain Offerings. These offers were a way to give thanks to God.

Read It

This session is going to be a little different than the previous, because we're going to practice some guided meditation together. This is how it works:

- *We start with prayer; asking God to speak to us thru what we're about to read.*
- *We will minimize distractions by turning off phones and creating a quiet space (this may include dimming the lights).*
- *You will close your eyes as I slowly read over the following Scripture.*
- *We will have one minute of silence as we strive to listen to God. Try to hold on to a phrase or idea that sticks with you from what we've read.*
- *I will read over the Scripture a second time.*
- *We will have a second minute of silence.*
- *I will read over the Scripture a final time.*
- *We will go to God in prayer, thanking Him for what He has revealed to us.*

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. 2 He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 3 "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. 4 All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Luke 21:1 - 4

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Philippians 4:6

Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

Hebrews 13:15

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17

Talk About It

- What were some specific words or phrases in these passages that resonated with you?
- What do you feel that God is saying to you through the Scripture that we meditated on?
- How will you live out this message from God this week?

FELLOWSHIP OFFERINGS

Icebreaker

Spend some time opening conversation with this question:

- What

Transition

Transition your group into the study by saying something like:

In this series, the final sacrifices that we learned about were the Fellowship and Guilt offerings. These offerings were made to right relationships, recognizing that these all relationships thrive when bound up in God.

Talk About It

Scripture reference: **Luke 19:1 - 10**

Review:

- (1) Where did this story take place?
- (2 - 3) Who wanted to see Jesus? How is this man described? What was the problem that he encountered?
- (4) How did Zaccheus solve the problem he was facing?
- (5 - 6) What invitation did Jesus extend to Zaccheus?
- (7) How did the people respond to Jesus spending time with Zaccheus?
- (8) What did obedience look like in Zaccheus' life?
- (9 - 10) What was the surprising conclusion to this story? How does Jesus describe His mission?

Reflect:

- What does the story of Zaccheus have to teach us about responding to Jesus? Why

do you think that Zaccheus repentance and obedience revolved around resources?

- How did Zaccheus put his ill-gained resources to use in repairing broken relationships? In your own life, how have you seen generosity used to jumpstart healing?

Scripture reference: **Luke 21:1 - 4**

Review:

- (1) What did the widow put into the treasury?
- (3 - 4) What impressed Jesus about this woman's gift?

Reflect:

- Why was the widow willing to give the remainder of what she had?
- Was Jesus more impressed by the small gift of the widow or the large gift of Zaccheus?

React:

- What are you holding onto that you need to learn to let go of?
- What would it look like for you to choose the path of being a generous giver?
- How might you use your resources to grow God's Kingdom instead of your own?

Pray Together

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

RIGHTNOW MEDIA

Get a free RightNow Media account to get access to thousands of study resources. Some potential resources include:

- **Leviticus** (Michael DeFazio): Michael DeFazio (New Testament and Hermeneutics professor at Ozark Christian College) walks through the book of Leviticus. Michael will break down different chapters of this book to help you see the whole picture of God's holiness through an ancient Israelite lens, and what we can learn from this book in our 21st-century world.
- **The Genius of Generosity** (Chip Ingram): The secret to being financially savvy is all around us. Just go to your local bookstore to read all the books written on finances, or turn on the television or computer to see wise tips from financial experts. So the question is "What is so genius about generosity?" After all, our world celebrates people who have learned how to have it all...not those who have learned to give it all away! The Bible teaches that the wisest thing we can do with our resources is to learn to invest them in God's kingdom. This series will both challenge and encourage you to be wise in your giving and generous in your living. Don't be satisfied with earthly stock options and interest rates- learn the genius of generosity
- **Leviticus** (Ann Voskamp): How natural is generosity to who you are? What do you do with what you have? Have you ever wondered what the Bible says about hospitality, generosity, and stewardship? We have a cloud of witnesses globally, nationally, and locally who provide incredible testimonies of generosity. Tethered to biblical accounts of giving, this six-session series with author and speaker Ann Voskamp explores examples of offering hospitality, time, money, spiritual gifts, and empathy to the glory of God. Everything we have is a gift. Will we hold tightly to these gifts with a scarcity mentality or will we handle them with open hands?
- **Jesus in All of Leviticus** (David Bowden): Walk through Leviticus with Spoken Gospel to see Jesus in every corner of the book. We start with a short film introducing you to the book and its main themes. Then quick devotional videos will explain what's happening in each section and how it leads us to Jesus.

THE BIBLE PROJECT (www.thebibleproject.com)

The Bible Project offers a variety of amazing resources. These videos expand on many of the ideas that we have touched on in this series.