

#My Jubilee Bible

Reflection/Discussion Guide: Exodus 33-40; Leviticus 1-13; Psalm 29-35

This guide is broken into three parts:

1. A brief overview of the Scriptures you are reading this week
2. Questions for personal reflection
3. Questions for group discussion and application

Feel free to answer the questions for personal reflection at your own pace. They are designed to help consider a section of Scripture: the people, relationships and events described in the section.

Overview of Leviticus

God is still working toward blessing the entire world through promises that He made to Abraham. The laws governing worship, work and relationships reveal major distinctions from Egypt that they have come from and Canaan to which they are going. The priestly garments are completed and the Tabernacle is set up and Moses blesses the people for the work. Now Moses carefully sets everything up and God's glory fills the tabernacle, but Moses cannot enter. The Book of Leviticus opens with God speaking from inside the tent to Moses and who is outside the tent. Sin has brought separation and God addresses how a holy God can dwell near to sinful people.

Leviticus brings definition to what leads to life and what leads to death; clean and unclean, holy and sinful. But it also shows how God graciously makes a way for his holy presence to be in the midst of people even when they sin.

For a brief, but great overview of the book of Leviticus, please go to <http://www.jubileestl.org/my-jubilee-bible/>

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Questions for Personal Reflection

Exodus chapter 33: A people of God's presence

- A command from God is issued to depart from Sinai and make the trek to the Promised Land, but there is a break in the story: God will not go up among them.
 - How does Israel respond to this news? (33:4)
 - How would you have responded?
- Moses speaks to God like a man speaks to a friend. (33:11)
 - What impresses you about Moses interaction with God in verses 12-23?
 - How do your prayers reflect your desire to be with God?
 - How do your interactions with God through prayer reveal that you believe He knows you by name?

Exodus chapters 34-40: The Covenant - Renewed

- God describes Himself in chapter 34:6-7, and then Moses responds 34:8-9.
 - How does God's description of himself inspire you to worship?
 - What can you learn from Moses' response?
 - How do your prayers reflect your desire for God's presence?
- In chapter 35:4-29 God commands an offering be taken so that the tabernacle and priestly garments can be made.
 - How does God frame the command? (35:5)
 - How did people respond? (35:20-29)
 - What surprises you about the way people gave?
 - How does God use men's natural bent to design and build the tabernacle? (35:30)
 - How do you think God empowers your natural talents?
- How do the priestly garments reflect God's intention for priesthood? (39:6-7, 14, 30)
 - Jesus is called the great high priest in Hebrews 4:14-16.
 - How does the Old Testament description help you understand Jesus role as a priest?
 - How does Jesus' priesthood encourage you to pray?
- Once the tabernacle is completely assembled God's presence fills it and Moses was not able to enter. (40:35)
 - How is that a good segue in the book of Leviticus?

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Leviticus chapters 1-7: Offerings

- Offerings were the means by which people gave thanks, sought peace and atoned for sin. God graciously gave clear instruction about what is acceptable, good and right in which He took delight. He also defined what was not acceptable worship and what should be avoided.
 - In chapters 1 and 2 God prescribes four things that can be offered. What four things are acceptable sacrifices?
 - What insight does this provide for you in understanding the heart of God?
- Chapter 4 makes it clear that sin is not just a feeling, but is a matter of breaking the laws he has put in place to govern His people. Guilt isn't just a feeling, but a fact of an offense.
 - God makes provision for unintended, and unrealized offenses. How were people to respond when an offense was realized?
 - What does this tell you about God's grace?
- Chapter 6 deals with not only making offerings to be forgiven by God but to also make restitution for restoration of human relationships.
 - Restitution is not just repayment of the debt, but also includes a penalty. Have you ever had to make restitution because of sin against someone?
 - How did it help you to comprehend the suffering you caused to the person you offended?
 - How is restitution a positive part of a good justice system?

Leviticus chapters 8-10: The Priesthood

- The tribe of Levi was set apart as priests to represent Israel to God and God to Israel. Aaron's sons in particular were set apart and anointed to offer sacrifices on behalf of the people.
 - How do you think the consecration ceremony helped to embolden Aaron and his sons?
 - How did God respond to the sacrifices? (9:23-24)
 - How do you think you would have responded?
- Chapter 10 draws attention to the flagrant and careless actions of Aaron's sons.
 - What does God's response to Nadab and Abihu reveal about God's holiness?
 - What is at stake if the priests get by with misrepresenting God? (10:3)
 - How does reading this chapter affect your mindset toward worship?

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Leviticus chapters 11-13: Clean and unclean

- The content of these chapters seem to do more with public health than sin. Uncleaness rules seem to be focused on keeping the entire community healthy by prescribing quarantine.
 - Most of the animals banned from the diet were predators and scavengers. We are no longer under such restrictions, but what value does there seem to be in restricting these kinds of animals from our diet?
- In chapter 12 quarantining mother's of newborns seems strange to us, but since newborns are often more susceptible to disease, how do these rules seem to be good for the health, welfare and well-being of both the mother and the baby?
- Leprosy is not a common illness for us, so these rules may seem strange to us. But how do they demonstrate God's concern for both the diseased and the community?

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CG Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: What part of B.L.E.S.S have you found most challenging this past week?

Read Exodus 33:1-5

- God is willing to give Israel the land he promised, but not his presence.
 - How does Israel respond?
 - What would your response have been?

Read Exodus 34:5-9

- How does God describe himself?
 - Why is it important that God both forgives sins and yet doesn't clear the guilty?
 - Read Romans 3:21-26
 - How has God dealt with sin?
 - How was God right to deal with sin in this way?

Read Leviticus 10:1-3

- Who were Nadab and Abihu?
 - Why does it matter who they were?
 - Why do you think they got sloppy in their responsibilities?
 - Why does God's action seem so extreme?
 - What was at stake?
- 1 Peter 2:9-10 says that we are a holy priesthood
 - How are you made holy?
 - Does knowing that you are holy change anything about the way you live?
 - Are there behaviors or attitudes in your life that don't line up with being holy?
 - How can we help you this week?

Pray for one another:

- People may confess areas where they are not living into the holiness they are called into. Pray for them to draw near to Jesus and draw near to community
- Read 1 Peter 2:12. Pray for opportunities to BLESS (let good deeds show) someone this week.

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Notes: