

#My Jubilee Bible

Reflection/Discussion Guide: Leviticus 14-27; Numbers 1-3; Psalm 36-42

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's people are to be distinct from every other nation on earth. The big distinction is that the God who created the universe and delivered Israel from slavery will also be with them. So God commands Moses, "Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. I am the Lord your God. So do not act like the people in Egypt, where you used to live, or like the people of Canaan, where I am taking you. You must not imitate their way of life."—Leviticus 18:1-3

We may not appreciate all of the detailed rules and regulations because we don't know how these rules make them distinct from the surrounding nations, but we can be certain that God's ways pointed His people to things that brought life and away from things that were deadly and destructive.

The beginning of Numbers reveals that God's plan is working. "The Lord spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the tent of meeting..."—Numbers 1:1. God is determined to bless His people with His presence and begins preparing them for the journey toward the Promise Land.

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

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Questions for Personal Reflection

Leviticus chapter 14-15 Clean & Unclean

- God now deals with bringing people who have become unclean through leprosy back into the community.
 - How do these rituals assure that the leper is fit to return to the community? (14:20)
 - How do these laws have a social justice element to them? (14:21)
 - How do these rituals ensure that the community accepts the leper back into the community?
 - What seems to be the greater concern in these rules; the individual or the community?
 - How were the cleanness rules supposed to benefit the people? (15:31)

Leviticus chapters 16 The Day of Atonement

- Once per year the priest was to offer the sacrifice of atonement, or covering from sin. (16:34)
 - What was Aaron to do before he could enter the Holy Place? (16:3)
 - What were the two goats for? (16:10)
 - Why did Aaron put his hands on the second goat? (16:21-22)
 - What were the people to do on the Day of Atonement? (16:29-31)
 - How can you relate to the rest provided through the Day of Atonement?

Leviticus chapter 19 Holiness and Justice

- God's holiness is the basis for the people being holy. (19:2)
 - How do the laws in this section help us to understand what it means to be a holy people? (19:9-18)
 - What areas of life should be affected by our call to be a holy people? (19:19-37)
 - Are there areas of your life that you hold as "off limits" from God?
 - Why do you keep that area separate from God's rule?
 - What would it look like for you to yield it to God?

Leviticus chapters 23 The Feasts

- Former slaves get to experience rhythms of Resting, remembering, and relief of burdens. These aren't just functional. They are also beautiful because they emphasize the relationship that Israel has with the God who delivered them from Egypt.
 - Which feast do you find easiest to relate to? Why?
 - Which feast do you find hardest to relate to? Why?
 - How did these rhythms remind them they were the people of God's presence?
 - How do the rhythms of your life reflect the relationship you have with your savior?

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Leviticus chapters 25-27 Social Justice and Blessing/Curses

- Rest, not slavish work was built into the fabric of Israelite life. Sabbath was not just a cessation of common labor; it was an act of trust in God that He was the Provider.
 - How would your life be different if you rested one day a week? What about one year out of seven?
- The Year of Jubilee was an amazing declaration of freedom for those who had gotten themselves into deep debt situations. It wasn't just freedom from the debt, it was the restoration of their inheritance and hope for future generations. It was a year of rest from common labor that allowed rest not just for people, but also for beasts of burden and for the land itself.
 - How is the proclamation of the gospel a declaration of Jubilee? (Luke 4:18-19)
 - How is your life different when you realize that Jesus is your Jubilee?
- Chapter 26 reveals the blessings of God's presence for His people as they seek to live life on His terms. But we also get to see the negative outcomes of rejecting God and his ways.
 - What reasoning does God give for His laws? (26:1-2)
 - How does God communicate the personal nature of a life of obedient faith? (26:11-12)
 - What does the language in verse 14 reveal about the personal nature of disobeying God's law?
 - What is hope does God give that His anger will not last forever? (26:40-45)
 - How does chapter 26 elicit awe and devotion to God?
- Numbers 2 Arranging the camp
 - How does the arrangement of the Israelite camp express the importance of God's presence?

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CG Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: What would your perfect day look like?

Read Leviticus 19:1-4

- What is the reasoning that God gives for being separated only unto Him?
 - How do the rules listed in verses 3-4 reflect on the 10 commandments?
 - An idol can be defined as anything that we place as more valuable than God. What are some ways that we can form anything into an idols?

Read Leviticus 23:1-2

- How did these rhythms remind them they were the people of God's presence?
 - How often do you take a day off? What do you do that refreshes and restores you?
 - Which feast do you find easiest to relate to? Why?
 - Which feast do you find hardest to relate to? Why?
 - How do the rhythms of your life reflect the relationship you have with your savior?

Read Leviticus 25:11 and Luke 4:16-19

- How is the proclamation of the gospel a declaration of jubilee?
- How is your life different when you realize that Jesus is your jubilee?
- Who do you know who is bound up and needs to hear the good news of God's jubilee?

Pray for one another:

- Pray for people who are struggling with anxiety and not finding rest in God.
- Pray for people who are struggling with living in the freedom God provides through Christ.
- Pray for people who need to hear the gospel.

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Notes: