

Leviticus 16-17: The Key to Holiness (Leviticus 16–17)

Getting started:

Allow each person to introduce themselves (if needed) and share “high, low, buffalo.” (**High**= something good from the week, **Low**=something not good from the week, **Buffalo**=something surprising from the week, or something random). *Note: Anyone can choose to pass and not participate.*

Expect to experience God in prayer:

Pray together, asking God to open hearts to see his holiness and mercy in making atonement for sin.

Expect to experience God in fellowship:

Icebreaker: Clean or Dirty?

Ask: Look at the photos (attached) and vote: Clean or dirty?

1. Wood floor (answer: clean – made to look work, comes from the box looking faded)
2. Weaving (answer: clean – it is not bleached, but it is clean)
3. Water Droplet (answer: dirty, -appears clear, but magnification [photo 3A] reveals germs)
4. Hands (answer: dirty – seems clean, UV light reveals hidden filth)
5. Mobile Phone (answer: dirty – screens are germ repositories)
6. Termite Gut (answer: clean – looks dirty, but all the bacteria are supposed to be there and functioning properly)

Point: Sometimes, things that look clean are actually dirty, and things that may seem dirty are actually clean.

Conversation Starter (2 options):

When have you felt a real sense of relief after being forgiven or given a fresh start?

Or

“What’s something you really dislike getting dirty (shoes, car, kitchen, clothes, etc.)? How do you feel once it’s clean again?”

Expect to experience God by reading and discussing God’s Word together:

Background:

The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) was the most important day in Israel’s calendar. Once a year, the high priest entered the Most Holy Place to make atonement for the people’s sins. Two goats were used: one was sacrificed, and the other, the scapegoat, was symbolically carried away the people’s sins. Together, they pictured God’s holiness and his mercy in providing forgiveness.

Read Leviticus 16:29–34; 17:10–12 Together

Discussion Questions:

1. What do the two goats reveal about the seriousness of sin and the mercy of God?
2. How does the imagery of sins being “carried away” communicate what Jesus has done?
3. Why do you think blood was required to make atonement (see 17:11)?
4. How does Jesus fulfill the meaning of the Day of Atonement (see Hebrews 9:11–14)?
5. What does it mean to you that Jesus has atoned for you?
6. What is one way you can live differently this week because your sins are forgiven and carried away?

Experiencing God by applying His Word to your life:

This week, when guilt or shame comes to mind, stop and remind yourself: “Jesus has carried this away.” Write down one area where you often carry old guilt and pray daily to release it into Christ’s hands.

Ways to live in reality of Christ’s atonement for your sins:

- Confess your sins to stay in fellowship with God.
- Extend grace to others.
- Pursue reconciliation with someone.

Expect to experience God by closing in prayer together:

Pray for gratitude to live out holiness, for strength to let go of guilt already forgiven, and for others to experience God’s mercy in Christ.

Clean or Dirty? (Group Ice-breaker exercise)

Photo 1: Wood



Photo 2: Weaving



Photo 3: Water Droplet



Photo 3A (water droplet magnified)



Photo 4: Hands

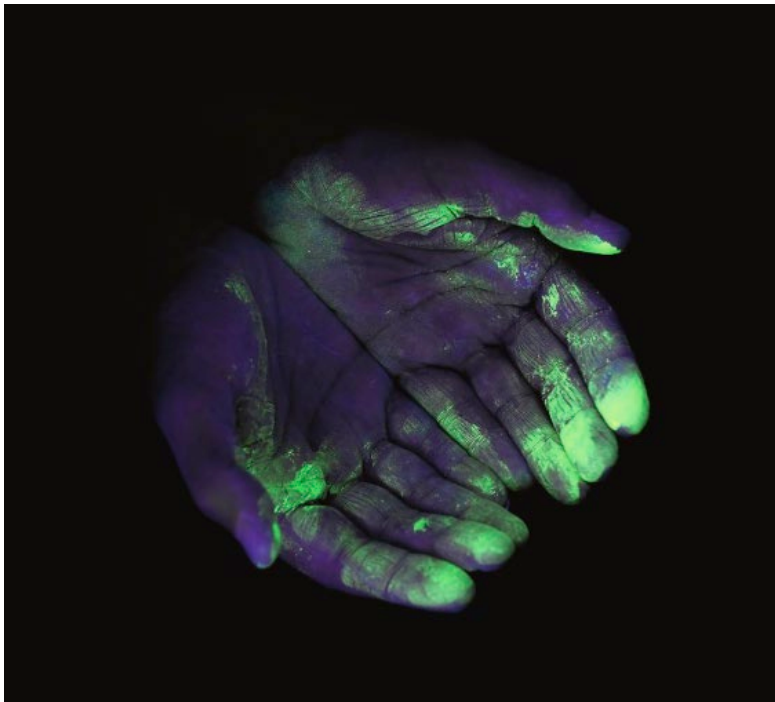


Photo 5: Mobile Phone



Photo 6: Termite Gut



