

Leviticus 19-20: Holiness, Love, and the Poor

Getting Started:

Begin by “checking in,” with each person introducing themselves (if needed) and sharing a highlight and a lowlight of your week.

Expect to experience God in prayer:

God, Help us to see people as you see people. Open our eyes to those around us who we can help. Open our hearts to the poor, the widows, and the orphans. Fill us with the same love that you have for each one of your children. Help us not to turn away due to business or apathy or potential awkwardness. Help us to be bold and to be your hands and feet. Give us the discipline to be set apart and to be holy as you are holy.

Expect to experience God in fellowship:

Ice-Breaker: What if?

*Ahead of time: Write on pieces of paper (one for each person in the group) possible life events from the list below.

Life Event List: you lost your job, you had to sell your house, your spouse died, your parents died, you got a raise, you had an amazing anniversary trip, etc (feel free to repeat events so each person in the group gets one; it's ok if there are duplicates).

*During the activity: Put all of the pieces of paper in a bucket and have each person randomly draw one. Go around the room and read out loud what your paper says.

*Discuss:

1. How did you feel when you read your paper?
2. Describe what this reality would practically look like for you and your family?
3. How could people help you?

Conversation Starter: Tell a story about an interaction you had with someone who was homeless, an orphan, or a widow (Where were you, what happened, how did you feel after?)

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

Background:

Leviticus 19–20 calls God's people to be holy because He is holy, setting them apart in how they live and treat others. Holiness is shown not only through worship and purity but also through moral integrity and compassion. The chapters emphasize loving one's neighbor as oneself, showing fairness, and avoiding hatred or revenge. God commands care for the poor and the foreigner by leaving part of the harvest for them, reflecting His heart for justice and generosity. Together, these laws reveal that true holiness involves both right relationship with God and genuine love for others.

Read Leviticus 19:9-18, 33-34 and 19:1-4, 20:22-24. Answer the questions below.

Discussion Questions:

1. What commands are given after the command to be holy? How are you following (or not following) those commands (Lev. 19:1-4)
2. Which command is easiest for you to keep? Which one is hardest? (Lev 19:1-4)
3. What was the purpose of the command in Lev. 19:9-10? How can we still do that today? How do you see people or businesses following this principal?
4. Which command from Lev 19:11-17 stuck out to you? Why?
5. How do you actively love your neighbors, sojourners, poor, widows, orphans as yourself?

Experiencing God by applying His Word to your life:

Brainstorm ways that your small group can go and do what these chapters are talking about.

Possible ideas:

1. Put together care packages for the homeless
2. Volunteer at a food pantry over the holidays together
3. Go on a mission trip, specifically focused on loving orphans
4. Pledge to give a certain amount to Grace Fellowship's Anonymous Angels this year.

Expect to experience God by closing in prayer together:

God, Thank you for being our good Father. Thank you for going before us and showing us what being holy is all about. Thank you for your rules and your laws, for giving us boundaries, and for showing us what is best for us. Help us to live in that truth and boldly live in such a way that people from all walks of life will feel loved by us. Help us to shine bright for you. Amen.