

Leviticus 21-22: When Leaders Aren't Holy

Getting Started:

Begin by “checking in” with each person introducing themselves (if needed) and sharing “high and low of their week.

Expect to experience God in prayer:

Prayer Prompt:

Invite the group to ask God to open their eyes to His heart for holiness—especially in those who lead, teach, or influence others. Pray that God would grow humility, integrity, and dependence on Him in every area of leadership represented in the group (parenting, work, ministry, friendships, etc.).

Expect to experience God in fellowship:

Ice-Breaker: Leader Like...

Supplies:

- Index cards or small scraps of paper
- Pens or pencils
- A bowl or basket

Instructions:

1. Give each person a card and a pen.
2. Ask them to write one word that describes a great leader (not a name, just a quality (e.g., “patient,” “brave,” “fair,” “gentle,” “hardworking”).
3. Fold the cards and place them in the bowl.
4. Mix and draw one at a time.
5. As a group guess who wrote each word.
6. After guessing, ask them why they chose that trait.

Discussion Prompts:

- Why do these qualities matter in everyday leadership roles?
- Which trait do you personally value most in leaders you trust?

Conversation Starter:

Choose one:

1. Describe a leader you have admired in your life. What stood out about them?
2. When is a time you felt disappointed by a leader? How did it affect you?
3. What leadership role do you play right now (big or small)?

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

Background:

Leviticus 21–22 continues God's instructions about holiness, but now the focus shifts specifically to the priests—the spiritual leaders of Israel. After outlining how all Israelites were called to live set apart (Leviticus 17–20), God now explains how much more serious holiness must be among those who represent Him to the people. These chapters highlight God's concern that leaders reflect His character, honor His presence, and treat holy things with reverence. The spiritual health of the community was connected to the spiritual integrity of its leaders.

Read Instructions:

Invite volunteers to read Leviticus 21:1–9, 21:16–24, and 22:1–9 aloud.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stands out to you about the higher expectations God places on the priests? What does this reveal about God, leadership, and accountability?
2. Why do you think God ties holiness to leadership so strongly? How does the behavior of leaders influence the people they serve?
3. In what ways do modern leaders—church leaders, parents, public figures, mentors—shape people's view of God? How have you seen this done well or poorly?
4. These chapters show that spiritual leadership requires limits, sacrifices, and intentional holiness. What limits or boundaries help *you* stay spiritually healthy and faithful in your leadership roles?
5. Where in your life do you feel God calling you to greater integrity, humility, or holiness? What is one step you could take this week to respond to that call?
6. How does knowing that Jesus is the perfect High Priest (Hebrews 7) encourage you when earthly leaders fail? How does His example shape your own leadership?

Experiencing God by applying His Word to your life:

Application Challenge:

Identify one area of influence you have this week (family, workplace, friendships, ministry).

Pray each morning for God to help you reflect His holiness in that specific area—through your choices, your words, and your attitude. Share with someone in the group how you hope to grow in that space.

Expect to experience God by closing in prayer together:

Close in a time of group prayer.

Focus on asking God to form leaders—formal and informal—who walk in holiness, humility, and faithfulness. Pray for your pastors, your homes, and your own influence. Invite God to make the group a community that reflects His character to others.