

Leviticus 1-7 “Holiness Starts by Saying Please, Sorry, and Thanks”

Getting Started:

Introduce yourself (if needed) and share what’s going on in your life both good and not-so good using Praise Report & Prayer Request, Best and Worst, Hi-Lo Buffalo, or another means.

Expect to experience God in prayer:

Father God, Jesus, Holy Spirit: thank you for this time together and thank you most for what Jesus did on the cross. We ask that your word embeds in us regarding commitment to you, communion with you, and cleansing by you. Most holy and one true God, we ask all this in the powerful name of Jesus.

Expect to experience God in fellowship:

In today’s scriptures, Moses repeatedly told the Israelites that the “...aroma is pleasing to the Lord”. In three minutes or so, share with the group your favorite aroma (for example, fresh cut flowers, baking bread, or pancakes cooking on a Saturday morning) and how does the memory of this aroma make you feel? Why?

Alternate/Optional Activity: As a group or at home before meeting, listen to The Bible Experience video of Leviticus 1-7 (NIV). **PLEASE NOTE! This reading takes about thirty minutes.** Click this [hyperlink](#) to access the YouTube video.

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

There are five main types of sacrifices, or offerings, in the Old Testament. The burnt offering, the grain offering, the peace offering, the sin offering, and the guilt offering. Each of these sacrifices involved certain elements, either animal or fruit of the field, and had a specific purpose.

Most were split into two or three portions—God’s portion, the portion for the Levites or priests, and, if there was a third, a portion kept by the person offering the sacrifice. A summary table of the various offerings, including portions, is provided at end of this guide.

Take turns reading aloud the following scriptures:

Burnt Offering: Read Leviticus 1:3-9

Grain Offering: Read Leviticus 2:1-3

Peace Offering: Read Leviticus 3:1-5

Sin Offering: Read Leviticus 4: 1-12

Guilt (Trespass) Offering 5:14-19

Discussion Questions:

1. Share with the group the most important commitment you've made in your life and why it's the most important. What did you offer to bring to the commitment?
2. Why is commitment to God, communion with him, and cleansing by him essential to spiritual health? How have you experienced these needs in your life?
3. God provided the rituals in Leviticus to set apart the Jewish people, providing ways for them to show commitment to the one, true God, experience communion with him, and receive forgiveness of their sins. Given the number and precise detail of the Leviticus rituals, why do you think God created a New Covenant?
4. God required the very best that the people had to offer for the Leviticus rituals. As a Christian, how and when do you commit your very best to God? Does this commitment cost you something?
5. Has God set up apart for an area of service? If so, what is that area and how are you giving your best? If not, perhaps prompting you to serve. Share with the Group this prompting?
6. Read aloud Ephesians 5:1-2. Why do you think that Jesus' action at Calvary was a pleasing aroma to God?

Experiencing God by applying His Word to your life:

In all that you do to help build God's kingdom, you must give your very best to God. To this end, think about your daily activities, relationships, and services. Do you need to adjust something so that your offering is the very best possible and thus, you are a 'pleasing aroma to the Lord'?

Expect to experience God by closing in prayer together:

"Jesus provides all that we need. He is our burnt offering, and we must yield ourselves wholly to him. He is our meal offering, the seed crushed and put through the fire, that we might have the bread of life... He is our drink offering who poured himself out in sacrifice and service... He is our fellowship offering, making life a joyful feast... He is our sin and offering and our guilt offering, for he bore our sins in his body and paid the full price for our sins."¹

Father God, we thank you for Jesus. His offering to you was a sweet aroma unmatched by anything humans could ever do. Jesus tore the veil and restored relationship with you, and we thank you! God, to you we say: Please, Sorry, and Thanks!

¹ Adapted from Be Holy: Becoming "Set Apart" for God by Warren W. Weirsbé (1994). Published by David C. Cook, Colorado Springs, Co.

Table 1: Summary of Leviticus Offerings

Offering	What	Why	Portions
Burnt Lev. 1	A bull, bird, or a ram without blemish.	Voluntary atonement for unintentional sin.	The meat and bones and organs of the animal were to be totally burnt, and this was God's portion. The animal's hide was given to the Levites, who could later sell it to earn money for themselves.
Grain Lev. 2	A cake or baked bread made of grain, fine flour, and oil and salt.	Voluntary thanksgiving for God's provision.	The priests were given a portion of this offering, but it had to be eaten within the court of the tabernacle.
Peace Lev. 3	Any unblemished animal from the worshiper's herd, and/or various grains or breads.	Voluntary thanksgiving and celebration.	The fat, kidneys, and lobe of the liver were given to God (burnt), and the remainder of the animal was for the participants to eat, symbolizing God's provision.
Sin Lev. 4	A young bull or male goat, female or goat, or dove/pigeon, or portion of fine flour	Mandatory atonement from sin and to cleanse from defilement.	The fatty portions and lobe of the liver and kidneys were given to God (burnt); the rest of the animal was either totally burned on the altar and the ashes thrown outside the camp (in atoning for the high priest and congregation) or eaten within the tabernacle court.
Guilt Lev. 5	A ram	Mandatory atonement for unintentional sins that require reimbursement to an offended party and cleansing from defiling sins or physical maladies.	God's Portion: The fat kidneys, and liver. The remainder of the ram had to be eaten inside the court of the tabernacle.