

# XXXIX

## THE OLD TESTAMENT

### Leader Conversation Guide – XXXIX: Leviticus

#### Main Idea

Have you ever felt the weight of distance between you and God—like no matter how hard you try, something keeps you from fully experiencing His presence? Maybe you’ve wondered what it really takes to be close to Him or if you’re even worthy of that kind of relationship.

Leviticus answers these questions in a powerful way. After God rescued Israel from slavery and established His covenant with them, the question remained: How could a holy God dwell among an unholy people? Leviticus isn’t just a book of rules—it’s a roadmap to relationship. It reveals God’s deep desire for fellowship with His people and the reality that we can’t come to Him on our own.

From the sacrifices to the priesthood, every detail points to our need for atonement and the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus. Through Him, we are invited to draw near, not with fear, but with confidence.

**“Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them.”**

EXODUS 25:8

#### Make It Practical:

##### God Desires Fellowship with His People

- From the beginning, God’s desire was to dwell among His people (Exodus 25:8-9, Exodus 29:45-46).
- The problem: Sin separates us from a holy God (Exodus 40:35).

##### Holiness is Required to Be in God’s Presence

- “Be holy as I am holy”—God calls His people to live set apart.
- The Israelites needed purification laws, sacrifices, and the priesthood to be made right before God.

##### Atonement is the Only Way to Restore Our Relationship with God

- Sin requires a price to be paid for reconciliation (Leviticus 16:7-10, 22).
- Hebrews 9:11-14: Jesus, our High Priest, secured redemption forever through His own blood.

##### Jesus is the Perfect Sacrifice and High Priest

- 2 Corinthians 5:21—Jesus took on our sin so we could be made righteous.
- 1 Peter 3:18—He died once for all to bring us to God.
- Hebrews 4:14-16—Because of Jesus, we can now boldly approach the throne of grace.

##### We Can Now Draw Near to God with Confidence

- Unlike the Israelites, who needed priests and sacrifices, we have direct access to God through Jesus.
- God invites us to come close, receive mercy, and walk in holiness.

## Talk About It

Leviticus shows us that God desires fellowship with His people but that we can't approach Him on our own. How does this challenge or change the way you think about your relationship with God?

The concept of atonement is central to Leviticus and ultimately fulfilled in Jesus. How does understanding the sacrificial system deepen your appreciation for what Jesus did on the cross?

Hebrews 4:16 encourages us to "draw near to the throne of grace with confidence." What does it look like for you to boldly approach God in your daily life, and what might be holding you back?

# Atonement: the price that has to be paid to reconcile humans to God

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for desiring a relationship with us. We acknowledge that on our own, we could never be holy enough to stand in Your presence—but through Jesus, You have made a way. Help us to draw near to You with confidence, trusting in the perfect sacrifice of Christ. Teach us to walk in holiness, not out of obligation, but out of love for You. May our lives reflect Your grace and draw others to know You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Next Steps

Draw Near to God – Spend intentional time in prayer and Scripture, trusting that through Jesus, you have direct access to Him (Hebrews 4:16).

Pursue Holiness – Ask God to shape your life to reflect His holiness, surrendering any areas that need to be set apart for Him.

Trust in Jesus' Sacrifice – Stop striving to earn God's approval and rest in the finished work of Christ, who has already made a way for you (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Live Boldly in Faith – Approach God with confidence, share His grace with others, and walk daily in the freedom He provides.