

# WORSHIP AT THE TABERNACLE

LEVITICUS 16; 19; 26



**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 Samuel 2:2

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why do we need to be saved? People are sinful and cannot save themselves.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God instructed the Israelites to sacrifice animals to demonstrate the forgiveness and removal of sin. God gave His one and only Son, Jesus, as the perfect and final sacrifice for sin. Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins and made clean forever.

**STORY POINT:** God commanded the Israelites to be holy and worship Him alone.



## PREPARE

### PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## LEADER Bible Study

God’s levitical commands for atonement emphasize the gravity of people’s sin, as well as His graciousness to redeem their trespasses. Though our modern-day context seems so far removed from this sacrificial system, these guidelines from Scripture foreshadow the great, eternal sacrifice on which we place our hope: Christ’s life, death, and resurrection.

Why did God enact so many requirements for worship and sacrifice? How does Jesus fit into each of these God-ordained regulations?

God created stipulations for His people’s sacrifices because He, as a holy God, cannot tolerate sin. There was a weightiness to all the High Priest did throughout the year and on the Day of Atonement. God called the Israelite community to practice holiness in every area of their lives—from respecting their elders and upholding the Sabbath to fleeing idolatry, offering sacrifices, and caring for those in need. He revealed His character through these expectations of holiness; they were to be set apart and known in the world by how they conducted themselves, treated others, and demonstrated justice.

While God knew perfect obedience would be impossible for His people, He promised to bless them as they sought to live in obedience. What’s more, He swore to dwell among them! However, He also swore that their disobedience would bring consequences. He explained that His people did not have to walk on the path of destruction but were invited to walk the path of abundant life through a covenant relationship with Him. God offered them lives marked by repentance and remembrance of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He promised to never reject His people, destroy them, or break His promises.

We see the fulfillment of these promises through One who became God incarnate and lived in perfect obedience to God’s commands. While the priests offered sacrifices daily for themselves and others, Jesus provided an eternal sacrifice to settle the debts of God’s people for all time. His righteousness is counted to us when we place faith in Him. Lead boys and girls to see God’s kindness in providing forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus. May you show them the true meaning of worship as you guide them to see God’s worthiness through today’s passage.



## PREPARE

### THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



## WELCOME

### 10-15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



## LEARN

### 25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



## LOVE

### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



## LIVE

### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



## PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



### WELCOME

#### Activity Page

- "Color It" activity page

#### Session Starter (Option 1)

- plastic bags, 1 per group
- plastic utensils: forks, spoons, knives; 1 set per group

#### Session Starter (Option 2)

- mirror
- permanent marker
- glass cleaner
- paper towel



### LOVE

#### Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



### LIVE

#### Activity Choice (Option 2)

- dry erase board and marker

#### Reflection and Prayer

- Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



### LEARN

#### Introduce the Session

- countdown video
- Story Point Poster

#### Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

#### Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

#### Tell the Bible Story

- "Worship at the Tabernacle" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- "priestly" clothes (optional)

#### Questions from Kids

- "Unit 5, Session 4" Questions from Kids video

#### Missions Moment

- "The Praetorian Project" missions video

#### Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- "No One Like the Lord (1 Samuel 2:2)" song
- worship song of your choice (optional)
- ball



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “Have you ever gotten a stain or dirt on your clothes? How did you feel? Was the stain able to be removed? How?”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Color It” activity page.

**SAY** “Today, we will learn how God’s people worshiped at the tabernacle. An important part of their worship was the sacrifice of animals for the forgiveness of sin.”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### OPTION 1: SET IT APART

Form kids into groups of three or four and provide each group with a plastic bag filled with plastic eating utensils (forks, spoons, and knives). Challenge kids to pour the utensils out of the bag and set apart the utensils into their three separate categories, forming three distinct piles. The team to complete the challenge first is the winner. Then invite kids to discuss how each utensil is used for a different purpose.

**SAY** “**GOD COMMANDED THE ISRAELITES TO BE HOLY AND WORSHIP HIM ALONE.** Being holy means being ‘set apart for a specific purpose.’ Just like these utensils were set apart and categorized by their purpose, God desires for us to live set apart for Him, following His purposes for us. Today, we’ll learn that in order for Israel to be made holy or set apart, they first needed to be made clean before God.”

#### OPTION 2: MADE CLEAN



Using a permanent marker, draw a heart on a mirror. Tell kids that the heart represents all people’s hearts. Invite kids one at a time to draw some marks inside the heart using the permanent marker. Then tell kids these marks represent the sin in our hearts. Share how all people sin. Rub your finger on the marks, showing kids that we can’t remove the sin on our own. The marks should not be able to be rubbed off.

Then hold up a bottle of glass cleaner and tell kids it represents Jesus’ blood. Spray the cleaner on the marks inside the heart. Hold up a paper towel and say that it represents Jesus. Rub the towel on the marks, being sure to remove them all. Show kids the paper towel and how it took the “sin” on itself.

**SAY** “Today, we will learn about the sacrifices God’s people made to make themselves clean before God. However, no matter how many sacrifices they made, their sins were never completely removed. Only faith in Jesus takes away our sin. He shed His blood, died on the cross, and rose again so people can be made clean forever.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## INTRODUCE the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

\* Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** ☞ Welcome, kids! My name is [your name], and I am looking forward to sharing more about God with you as we read from the Bible. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]

\* In today's story, we will hear from the book of Leviticus. We've been in Exodus, and Leviticus is the book right after Exodus. Today, we will learn how **GOD COMMANDED THE ISRAELITES TO BE HOLY AND WORSHIP HIM ALONE.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] We'll see that to worship God, the people needed to have their sin forgiven. Let's pray together to prepare to hear our story. [Invite kids to pray with you.] ☞

worship → \* Firm Foundation  
\* worthy of it all  
\* offering

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

\* Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

\* **SAY** ☞ What is our big picture question? [Allow responses.] Why do we need to be saved? What is the answer? [Allow responses.] People are sinful and cannot save themselves. Nothing we do will take away our sin. We can't follow God's commands perfectly or do good things to take away sin. We need a Savior!

Today, we will see how God's people needed to offer sacrifices for their sins. The blood of a spotless animal was needed to cover their sin. But even these sacrifices were never able to completely remove sin. God sent Jesus to be our perfect sacrifice for sin. Only faith in Jesus forgives people's sin forever. ☞

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** ☞ God gave His people commandments to help them live in a way that showed they loved Him and others. But the people disobeyed God's commands and worshiped a golden calf. Still, God had promised He would be their God, and He was merciful to forgive their sin. God wanted to live among His people. So, God gave instructions for the people to build a tabernacle where God would dwell. But there was still a problem: God's people were still sinful. Today, we will see how God made a way for His people to be made clean of their sin. ☞



## LEARN the Bible Story



### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Leviticus 16; 19; 26. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Worship at the Tabernacle.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### WORSHIP AT THE TABERNACLE

“The Israelites worshiped God at the tabernacle. God gave them specific instructions for how to worship Him on a special day each year. This day was called the Day of Atonement. On this day, the high priest, Aaron, would present animal sacrifices to the Lord for the sins of all the people. These were special offerings made in addition to all the animal sacrifices made by the people throughout the year. Here is how God instructed them.

Before he could go to the mercy seat, in the most holy place, Aaron had to prepare himself. The most holy place was a very special area of the tabernacle that no one was allowed to enter except the high priest on this one day a year. After Aaron bathed in water and put on the special clothes, he was to sacrifice a bull as an offering to God for his sin and sprinkle its blood on the mercy seat. Then he would take one goat and sacrifice it for the sins of all the people.

After sprinkling the blood of this goat in the most holy place, Aaron would take another goat and confess all the Israelites’ sin over it. Then the goat would be sent into the wilderness. This was to be a picture of how God had removed the sin of the Israelite people.

He gave the Israelites many commands to show them what was right and what was wrong. He told them to leave some of their crops for the poor to have something to eat, to be honest and fair when they had disagreements, and to treat everyone equally. He told them not to steal, not to lie, and not to hate each other. If the Israelites followed these rules and all the rules God gave, then they would be holy just as God is holy.

God told them that if they would keep all of His commandments, then they would be blessed. They would have peace with other nations, have plenty to eat, and live well. God knew His people would not obey Him, and there would be consequences for their sin. He said they would live in exile in the lands of their enemies because of their disobedience, but God also said He would not destroy His people. When His people confessed their sin, He would remember the promises He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and be their God forever.

Christ Connection: God instructed the Israelites to sacrifice animals to demonstrate the forgiveness and removal of sin. God gave His one and only Son, Jesus, as the perfect and final sacrifice for sin. Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins and made clean forever. ”

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Explain it:** Tell kids that the high priest was in charge of the tabernacle and worship at the tabernacle. Share that only the high priest could enter the most holy place. Discuss how Jesus is our perfect High Priest who removes our sin forever (Hebrews 2:17).

**Dress up:** Dress up as a “priest” using materials such as a robe, turban, and sash when you tell kids about the high priest’s special clothes.



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

## 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ We learned that a sacrifice must be given for the forgiveness of sins. God’s people, like all people, sinned continually. Throughout the year, they would offer sacrifices for their sins. But on one special day of the year, a special ceremony was held to show the forgiveness of the people’s sins. What was the name of the special day? [Allow responses.] Only the high priest could go into the most holy place inside the tabernacle, and he could only go in once a year on the Day of Atonement. He had to wear special clothes and prepare himself before he could go in.

What two actions did the high priest perform with the two goats? [Allow responses.] First, the high priest sprinkled the blood of a goat on the mercy seat where God’s presence was. The blood of the goat showed how sin must be punished and that God’s punishment for sin was on the goat, not the people. Then the high priest released another goat into the wilderness. This goat showed that God removed the people’s sins and would not remember them. The people had to do this every year! It was not a permanent forgiveness. However, we have a way to be forgiven forever through Jesus’ once-and-for-all sacrifice. Jesus died on the cross, shed His blood, and took on sin so people can be forgiven forever.

**GOD COMMANDED THE ISRAELITES TO BE HOLY AND WORSHIP HIM ALONE.** He gave His people many instructions for how to live, helping them to know what was right and wrong. God wanted His people to help the poor, treat others equally, and be fair. What did God say would happen if they obeyed His commands? [Allow responses.] If the people obeyed God’s instructions, they would enjoy peace and happiness. But if they disobeyed, they would have punishment.

God instructed the Israelites to sacrifice animals to demonstrate the forgiveness and removal of sin. God gave His one and only Son, Jesus, as the perfect and final sacrifice for sin. Anyone who trusts in Jesus is forgiven of their sins and made clean forever. ”

## 3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

**SAY** “ We are all sinners who disobey God. Because of Jesus, we don’t have to offer sacrifices for the forgiveness of our sin. Jesus paid the price for sin when He died on the cross. Those who trust in Jesus, the perfect and final sacrifice for sin, will be forgiven forever. If you haven’t trusted Jesus as your Savior, I would love to talk with you more! ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

## 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 5, Session 4” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why can’t some countries worship God like we can in the United States?
2. What are some ways we can be a part of sharing the gospel with others around the world?



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL



5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes) *optional video*

**SAY** 📖 The Praetoria Project is an effort to start new churches in military communities around the world. The churches are known by their common name, Pillar Church. The goal is for military and non-military families to find a church home at any Pillar Church as they move from place to place. 📖

Play the video. Point out to kids that there is a huge military presence around Washington, DC. Share how Doug Hanna has served as the pastor of the Pillar Church in DC since the church was started in 2019. He is passionate about ministry in DC. He wants to see people trust Jesus as their Savior and live their lives in a close relationship with Him. He also wants the believers at Pillar Church to help others in DC, and around the world, know more about Jesus. Pray for Pillar Church of Washington, DC. Ask God to help the church tell people in DC about Jesus.



6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 1 Samuel 2:2 together.

**SAY** 📖 God is holy, and He wants His people to be holy or set apart for Him. Through faith in Jesus, we can be made holy. What good news! 📖

Invite kids to stand in a circle. Give the ball to one kid in the circle. Challenge her to say the first word of the key passage and then toss the ball to another kid in the circle. Continue until the group has said the entire key passage. Repeat as time allows, making sure kids get at least one chance to say a word from the key passage.



Lead kids to sing "No One Like the Lord (1 Samuel 2:2)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** 📖 Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus as the perfect and final sacrifice for sin. Thank You that we can be forgiven forever through faith in Jesus. Help us trust You for salvation and live in a way that brings You honor. In Jesus' name, amen. 📖

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**







## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

# LOVE God by Applying the Story

### 1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Leviticus 19. Explain that Leviticus is the third book of the Old Testament. Tell kids that Leviticus explains the job of the priests and the sacrifices needed to make people clean. Share how Leviticus helps us understand how God's people were to live as people set apart for God and His glory.

Consider pointing out Mount Sinai (I9) on the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Leviticus 19:18 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

**SAY** 📖 After God gave instructions for the Day of Atonement, He gave His people commands for how to live with one another. God's commands showed His people how to love one another. They weren't to hold grudges, steal, lie, or treat others badly. When the people followed God's commands, not only did they love each other, but they also showed others what God is like.

Faith in Jesus gives us the power to obey God's commands too. We can love one another like Jesus has loved us. **GOD COMMANDED THE ISRAELITES TO BE HOLY AND WORSHIP HIM ALONE**, and He commands us to be holy and worship Him too. 📖

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** 📖 Why did the high priest need to sacrifice a bull before he sacrificed a goat for the people's sin? 📖

Help kids understand that the high priest was also sinful. Discuss how he first had to atone or seek forgiveness for his own sin before he could offer a sacrifice for the sins of the people. Share how Jesus is a better High Priest because He never sinned. Tell kids that Jesus' sacrifice was a once-and-for-all sacrifice.

**SAY** 📖 God told His people to keep all of His commands. Why do you think the people would fail at obeying God all the time? 📖

Discuss how all people sin. Share how God's commands are good and should be obeyed; however, people can never obey perfectly. Remind kids that God knew His people would not obey Him. Share how God's plan was always to send Jesus to be the way people could be forgiven of their sin.

**SAY** 📖 How can you live in a way that shows you are set apart for God? 📖

Remind kids that **GOD COMMANDED THE ISRAELITES TO BE HOLY AND WORSHIP HIM ALONE**. Explain that we can only be made holy by faith in Jesus. Then encourage kids to ask God to help them obey His commands and live in a way that shows they love Him and others.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### OPTION 1: REMOVED



Play four corners and label each corner of the room 1–4. Choose one kid to be it first and direct her to stand in the center of the room and slowly count to 20. While it is counting, direct the other kids to run to one of the four corners of the room. Instruct it to keep her eyes closed, while calling out a number 1–4. The kids who are in the corner it calls out are removed from the game. Play as time allows, choosing new kids to be it each round.

**SAY** 📖 When your corner was chosen, you were removed from the game. Today, we learn how one goat was chosen to be sent off into the wilderness to represent how God removes sin. But like you were only removed for a short time from the game, animal sacrifices could not completely remove sin. Hebrews 13:10 tells us that Jesus offered His life as the perfect sacrifice so that people can be forgiven of their sin for all time. Only by faith in Jesus can we have forgiveness of our sins forever. 📖

##### OPTION 2: ONE ANOTHER MATCH

On a dry erase board, write the following Bible references in one column: John 13:35; Romans 15:7; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13. Then write the following words in a second column: kind to one another, love one another, serve one another, forgive one another, welcome one another.

Form kids into five groups. Assign each group one of the Bible references. Provide kids with a Bible and lead them to find the Bible verse. Challenge groups to determine which words in the second column match with their Bible verse. Then invite a kid from each group to draw a line from the Bible reference to the words it matches. (Answers: John 13:35 and love one another; Romans 15:7 and welcome one another; Galatians 5:13 and serve one another; Ephesians 4:32 and kind to one another; Colossians 3:13 and forgive one another)

**SAY** 📖 **GOD COMMANDED THE ISRAELITES TO BE HOLY AND WORSHIP HIM ALONE.** Jesus' followers are able to obey God's commands because the Holy Spirit lives in them to help them. When we obey God's commands, we are living in ways that show we are holy and that we worship God. 📖

#### 2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.