

## Rules for Sacrifice

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Leviticus

**STORY POINT:** God is holy and requires a sacrifice for sin.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Exodus 15:2

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

### Parent Devotional

The tabernacle was complete. God now had a place where His glory could dwell without causing the Israelites to fear death. God had given His people laws from the mountain, and He gave them more rules for living and worshiping Him in the tabernacle. These rules are recorded in the Book of Leviticus. The reasoning behind Leviticus can be found in Leviticus 19:2: “Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.”

In Leviticus 17:11, God set apart the blood of a creature as the means for making atonement. This answers the question, “Why did Jesus have to die?” God’s requirement for the forgiveness of sins was the shedding of blood: “According to the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (Heb. 9:22).

It is important to note a New Testament revelation about the sin offering. Hebrews 10:4 says, “It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.” Then why did God require people to make sacrifices? The institution of a sacrifice was to point to something greater—the ultimate sacrifice God would make by sending His own Son, Jesus Christ, to pay for the sins of the world once and for all. (See Eph. 1:7; Rom 5:9.)

The Book of Leviticus contains many rules for the Israelite people, but we do not obey all the rules in Leviticus today because we trust Jesus, who obeyed the law perfectly for us.

Few—if any!—of the kids you teach will be familiar with the Book of Leviticus. Use this session as an opportunity to emphasize God’s holiness and His requirement of a blood sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. Lead them to treasure Jesus as the perfect and final sacrifice “who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

### **Bible Storytelling Tips -**

Highlight new concepts: As you tell the story, write a list of the different terms mentioned. Review them after the story. Examples: burnt offerings (praise), sin offering (to say sorry), Day of Atonement (making right what has been wrong), scapegoat (picture of the people’s sin being removed).

Pause for effect: Use pauses and silence between paragraphs to capture kids’ attention.

# 1.5-5 YEAR BIBLE STORY + DISCUSSION QUESTIONS + ACTIVITY

## WORSHIP

Watch and sing the song with the kids. Love the Lord | Kids Worship Motions with Lyrics | CJ and Friends:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdMlxCdIY-c>

## BIBLE VERSE

Matthew 22:37-39

**37** Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39** And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

## BIBLE STORY

### The Big God Story

Rules for Sacrifice

Leviticus

When Moses met with God on the mountain, God gave him many rules and laws. These rules showed the people what it looks like to be holy. God is holy and He wanted to be with His people, but God’s people could not obey God’s laws perfectly. So God met with Moses in the tabernacle—the tent of worship—and He told Moses what to do when the people sinned.

First, God gave rules about offerings. Offerings are gifts people give to God, such as money or jewelry. Sometimes offerings were animals. People also gave grain and bread to God as gifts. The offerings had special purposes. When people wanted to praise God, they gave burnt offerings. When they wanted to say they were sorry for sin, they gave a sin offering.

God also gave rules about the priests. Priests were leaders who helped people worship God by making sacrifices. The priests also took care of the tabernacle, and they taught the people God’s rules for living right lives. Moses’ brother, Aaron, and Aaron’s descendants were the priests.

God told Moses about a special day that would happen once a year. It was called the Day of Atonement. Atonement means “making right what has been wrong.” The people needed to pay for their sin to make their relationship with God right again.

On the Day of Atonement, the high priest went into the most holy place, a very special room in the tabernacle. He made sacrifices for the sins of all the people. He offered one goat as a sin offering. The high priest put his hands on a second goat’s head to move the sins of the people to the goat. This goat was the scapegoat. Then the goat was led away into the wilderness to show that the people’s sins were taken away.

God said, “On that day your sin will be paid for. You will be made clean. You will be clean from all of your sins in My sight.”

God also gave the Israelites rules about how they should live. He said, “Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.” God told the people how to be holy. God said, “Do not tell lies. Do not cheat. Love your neighbor as you love yourself. Obey My rules.”

*Christ Connection: The Book of Leviticus is about the sacrifices God told His people to offer for sin. God wanted to show the Israelites that He was going to forgive people. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice. Jesus forgives our sin once and for all.*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- Why did Moses build a tabernacle?
- What was in the tabernacle?
- How did God show himself?

## **CRAFT & HANDS ON ACTIVITIES:**

### **March in an animal parade:**

Invite preschoolers to march around the room pretending to be goats. Encourage them to walk on all fours and bleat. Consider showing preschoolers video of goats on a mobile device. Switch to parading as cows, sheep, doves, and other animals as desired.

SAY • Today we learned about the sacrifices God told His people to offer. When people wanted to say they were sorry for sin, they offered animals like goats as gifts to God. God made ways to forgive His people. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice, so we don't have to offer animals anymore. Jesus forgives our sin once and for all.

### **Make watercolor hearts**

#### *Supplies:*

- heavyweight paper into a heart
- scissors (adult use)
- white crayon
- plastic tablecloth or newspaper to cover table
- watercolor paints
- cups
- water
- paintbrushes

heart for each preschooler. Use a white crayon to write God loves you! in the center of each heart.

#### *Instructions:*

- Cover a table with a plastic tablecloth or newspaper.
- Use a white crayon to write God loves you! in the center of each heart.
- Have your kiddos paint their hearts to reveal the message.

SAY • God loves us. He wants to be with us, but our sin keeps us from God. God made ways to forgive His people through offerings and sacrifices. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice. Jesus never sinned, but He took the punishment for our sin. Jesus forgives our sin once and for all.

### **Search for Gifts**

Fill a bin with dried corn and hide toy animals, play money, and fake jewelry in the bin. Encourage preschoolers to dig in the bin to find the hidden items.

SAY • The Israelites gave money, jewelry, grain, bread, wine, and animals to God as offerings. Offerings are gifts people give to God when they want to praise Him or say they are sorry for sin. God gave us His Son, Jesus, to forgive our sin once and for all. God gave us the best gift, so now we offer Him our praise and worship! What is worship? Worship is celebrating the greatness of God.

Here is a link to a few activity pages as well!

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hW6v84cz0wdusW\\_IxPTWS1RiDAIHV9MT/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hW6v84cz0wdusW_IxPTWS1RiDAIHV9MT/view?usp=sharing)