

## Why Leviticus Feels Like Another Planet

### Leviticus 16

### Leader Setup

This guide is designed for individuals, families, or groups. The goal is to read Leviticus 16 closely, but also to practice the fourth Bible-reading question from this series:

### Where have I seen this before?

Leviticus can feel strange because it uses categories many of us do not naturally think in: sacrifice, priesthood, cleansing, blood, holiness, atonement, and access to God. But those categories do not stay in Leviticus. They echo throughout Scripture and help us see Jesus more clearly.

Helpful follow-up prompts:

- “Where do you see that in the text?”
- “What pattern or image is showing up here?”
- “Where else have we seen something like this in Scripture?”
- “How does this help us understand Jesus?”
- “What does this passage teach us not to treat casually?”

## Part 1: Getting Oriented

1. When you hear “Leviticus,” what thoughts, feelings, or assumptions come to mind?
2. Why do you think Leviticus is one of the places where many Bible readers get stuck?
3. This week’s question is: **Where have I seen this before?** Why might that question help when reading a strange passage?
4. What are some repeated biblical images or themes you have noticed before? Examples: lambs, blood, wilderness, water, gardens, trees, temples, priests, exile, return.

## Part 2: The Day of Atonement

### Read Leviticus 16:1-10

5. What event does Leviticus 16:1 refer back to?
6. What warning does God give Aaron about entering the Holy Place?

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7. What does this show us about access to God's presence?
8. What preparations, sacrifices, or rituals are mentioned in these opening verses?
9. What does this passage teach us about God's holiness?
10. What does this passage teach us about the seriousness of sin?
11. What does this passage teach us about mercy?
12. Why is it important to remember that God is the One giving Israel a way to come near?

## Part 3: Where Have We Seen Holy Space Before?

13. Think back to Genesis 2-3. How does Eden function as a place where humanity lives in God's presence?
14. What happens to access to God's presence after sin enters the story?
15. How does the tabernacle in Exodus show God moving toward His people again?
16. How does Leviticus 16 answer the question: **How can sinful people live near a holy God?**
17. How does this background make access to God feel more weighty, not less?

## Part 4: Sin Must Be Dealt With

### Read Leviticus 16:11-22

18. What does Aaron do with the blood of the sacrifice?
19. What happens with the live goat?
20. What does it mean that the goat symbolically carries the sins of the people away?
21. What do these two goats teach us about sin needing to be cleansed and carried away?
22. Why is it tempting to make sin sound smaller than it is?
23. What are some ways people today rename or minimize sin?
24. What is hopeful about the fact that God provides a way for atonement?

## Part 5: Where Have We Seen Sin Carried by Another?

### Read Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-12

25. What words or phrases in Isaiah 53 sound similar to Leviticus 16?
26. What does the Servant bear or carry?
27. How does Isaiah 53 deepen the idea of sin being placed on another?

28. How does this passage point us toward Jesus?

## Part 6: Leviticus and Jesus

### Read John 1:29

- 29. When John calls Jesus “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,” what Leviticus themes should come to mind?
- 30. How does Leviticus make that statement feel deeper than simply “Jesus forgives people”?

### Read Mark 5:25-34

- 31. Why would the bleeding woman’s condition matter in a world shaped by clean and unclean categories?
- 32. What would we expect to happen when an unclean person touches someone else?
- 33. What actually happens when she touches Jesus?
- 34. What does this show us about Jesus’ holiness and cleansing power?

### Read Matthew 27:50-51

- 35. What happens to the temple veil when Jesus dies?
- 36. Why does that matter if we understand Leviticus and the Most Holy Place?
- 37. What does the torn veil show us about access to God?

### Read Hebrews 9:11-14 or Hebrews 10:19-22

- 38. How does Hebrews use Leviticus language to explain what Jesus has done?
- 39. What is different about Jesus’ sacrifice compared to the sacrifices in Leviticus?
- 40. How does Jesus fulfill the roles of priest, sacrifice, and the One who opens the way to God?

## Part 7: Bringing It Together

- 41. What is one part of Leviticus 16 that makes more sense after asking, “Where have I seen this before?”
- 42. How does Leviticus help us avoid treating access to God casually?
- 43. How does Leviticus help us avoid making sin smaller than grace says it is?
- 44. How does Leviticus make Jesus look bigger, deeper, or more beautiful?

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45. What is one strange or difficult part of Scripture you could revisit this week using the question: **Where have I seen this before?**

## Closing Prayer Prompt

Close by thanking God for making a way for His people to come near.

Pray specifically:

- for humility before God's holiness
- for honesty about sin
- for gratitude that Jesus carries sin away
- for confidence to draw near through Christ
- for eyes to see how Scripture's patterns lead us to Jesus

Possible closing prayer:

Holy God, thank You for making a way for sinful people to come near. Teach us not to treat Your presence casually or make our sin small. Help us see Jesus as the Lamb, the Priest, the Sacrifice, and the One who opens the way. Amen.