



SACRIFICE

The Way to God

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson #1

THE OFFERINGS

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

The background of Exodus is needed for the understanding of the lessons in Leviticus. Exodus records God's giving the Law at Mount Sinai. It tells also of the construction of the Tabernacle, according to God's directions.

Leviticus is a book concerning the worship of God. Worship belongs only to God. He is displeased when worship goes to any other being. In Leviticus, God gives the people of Israel rules for worshipping Him at the Tabernacle. In addition, He teaches them to live lives that please Him. Because the Israelites were God's special people, they were to be different from all other

nations. And this difference included their worship.

The theme of the book is *holiness to God*. God made it clear that there was only *one* way to come to Him. This was by means of sacrifices offered at the gate of the Tabernacle.

In the first lesson, the Levitical offerings help us to understand Christ's work on Calvary. Since His death, the blood of bulls and goats cannot cleanse from sin. The precious blood of Christ is the only offering God accepts today. (See Hebrews 9:25–10:10.)

Scripture to be studied: Leviticus 1–7; Hebrews 9–10; all verses cited in lesson

The aim of the lesson: To show that the only way sinners can approach God is through an acceptable substitute offering.

What your students should know: That each of the five offerings illustrates Christ's offering Himself to God on the cross in place of sinners.

What your students should feel: Completely unholy and unfit to approach God.

What your students should do: Accept Christ as their offering for sin. (He died in their place thus providing a way to come to God, the holy One.)

Lesson outline for the teacher's and students' notebooks:

1. God is holy (Leviticus 11:44; 19:2; 1 Peter 1:16).
2. The voluntary offerings of *worship* (Leviticus 1–3; 6:8–23; 7:1–38).
3. The required offerings (of substitution) for *sin* (Leviticus 4:1–6:7; 24–30; 7:1–10).
4. Christ, our offering (Hebrews 9–10).

The verse to be memorized:

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood, Christ entered in once (for all) into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. (Hebrews 9:12)

THE LESSON

1. GOD IS HOLY

Leviticus 11:44; 19:2; 1 Peter 1:16

If we could pull back a curtain and look into Heaven and listen, we would hear a glorious heavenly choir exclaiming, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord!" (See Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4–8.)

The Lord God is holy. What does this mean? (Encourage student discussion.) God, the holy One, is absolutely pure. He is perfect. There is no sin, no wickedness, no evil in Him. He is so pure that He cannot ignore anything sinful and evil. (See Habakkuk 1:13.)

When God created Adam and Eve, the first people, He made them without sin. But when they disobeyed God, they were no longer pure. Indeed, they were sinful. And God's punishment for their sin was death. (See Romans 6:23a.)

Instead of killing Adam and Eve, God put to death an innocent animal. (See Genesis 3:21.) From then on God required animal sacrifices. He would forgive people who were sorry for their sins when they offered an animal on an altar.

One day God spoke to His people, the Israelites, from the top of Mount Sinai. They were terrified. They knew that because of His holiness, God must punish sin. And they were sinners. So they pleaded with Moses, "Do not let God speak with us! If He