

1. YOBL Week 6: How to be Holy

2. Recap & Preparing for CG:

Daily Reading for Week

- Leviticus 14-15, Psalm 34
- Leviticus 16-18, Psalm 35
- Leviticus 19-20, Psalm 36
- Leviticus 21-23, Psalm 37
- Leviticus 24-25, Psalm 38
- Leviticus 26-27, Psalm 39
- Numbers 1-4, Psalm 40

Resources for Week

- Read Scripture Video: Leviticus and Numbers, Sacrifice and Atonement (themed video)

3. Focus of time together:

To examine how exactly Israel was to practice holiness individually and communally and to reflect on what it means for us to be holy today.

4. Ground rule / Value / Goal of the week:

Value: Faith

Hebrews 11 defines faith as the “confidence in what we hope for and assurance of things we do not see.” This is an excellent example of how scripture gives us a definition, but still leaves us in a mystery. In the context of community group, practicing faith as a value means acting toward one another with an acute recognition of this mystery, remembering that none of us has all the answers and we all have to rely on trust in the midst of incomplete knowledge. Actively remind yourself that you are not God, and are therefore not infallible or omniscient. We all are riddled with ignorance, error, and falsehood. In your time together, remember that you do not have all the answers and that nobody but God is a perfectly correct authority on any matter. Give

freedom for others to say and express things that you deem incorrect without racing to judgment or correction.

5. Connection and Unity Exercise (Mutual Invitation, 15min):

Has going through the Year of Biblical Literacy been what you expected it to be thus far? How has it been different than what you thought it would be like? One minute per person

6. Opening Prayer:

Open with the Unity Prayer. The way this corporate prayer exercise works is one person opens the group up by praying a simple, one-sentence prayer that begins with “Lord hear our...”. Based on what people shared that they are bringing into the room, express to God one sentiment that you heard or felt being expressed. For example, you may have heard someone express loneliness and you can pray “Lord hear our loneliness”. After the first prayer, the rest of the group can voice similar one-sentence “Lord hear our...” prayers aloud. You can pray your own feelings or those of others. The hope of this prayer is to help us remember and intentionally think through what we have heard expressed today and entrust it all before God. We will close each meeting with this exercise, hoping that it bonds us through recognizing and holding one another’s felt experiences and also teaches us to be better listeners during our time together.

7. Intro to Discussion:

Last week we focused on the two complementary sides of salvation: God redeemed Israel *out* of slavery and *into* holy life in the Promised Land. The forty years in the wilderness between leaving Egypt and entering the land were a sort of 40-year training plan in how to become a holy nation. God’s good plans for Israel and the world involved much more than simply not being slaves. He wished to transform the freed slaves into the most loving, just, righteous people the world had ever seen. It was to be the ultimate ashes to glory story. In fact, they were to become such a special and impressive nation that the rest of the world would come ask them, “What is the secret to your success?” And to this they would respond, “Making Yahweh our king and living according to his good commands.” In this way, they would truly be a kingdom of priests, connecting the rest of the world to God.

So what did this holy calling entail exactly? What did it mean to be holy? Firstly, holiness was simply to do with uniqueness, differentiation, distinction. Israel was supposed to be an entirely unique nation, a people set *apart* to live in illuminating

contrast to the rest of the world. This immediately begged the question though of *how* - in what unique way are we to live?

This second question is what the many chapters of intensive prescriptions and rules throughout Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy are essentially cataloguing. The Torah was to be their user guide for how to live and they were therefore to memorize it and pass it down to each generation.

8. Questions for Large Group Discussion (No small group tonight)

Questions for Basic Understanding:

These questions are to help us interpret and understand the text as it was intended to be interpreted and understood.

Can anyone offer a one-sentence summary of Leviticus? To help you answering, think about: "If the author of Leviticus wanted his hearers to come away with one thing, what would it be? Why did he work so hard to keep and record and pass along this text?"

Can you recall one specific way in which Israel was supposed to do or practice holiness?

Questions for Interacting with Scripture:

These questions are to help us be affected by Scripture in the way it was intended to affect us.

Reading chapter upon chapter about laws and regulations, what thoughts or feelings did you notice coming up in yourself?

Questions for Self-Examination

These questions are to help us look at ourselves, be aware and honest about who we are in light of our interaction with Scripture and consider any appropriate action.

If you try to imagine being apart of Israel at this time, how would you have responded to some of these Levitical commands? Do you think you would have obeyed? Would you have loved them or hated them?

Questions for Practicing Community:

These questions are to help us reflect thoughtfully on our felt experience together in light of our shared ground rules, goals and values.

Did you notice yourself in disagreement with something that someone said tonight? What was it like practicing the value of faith and trusting that God is at work in that person's life?

Were there any times where you felt someone or yourself did not adhere to our value of faith?

10. Closing:

End your time by praying corporately together. Offer to Jesus everything that you have experienced tonight in CG, throughout your week thus far, and your hopes for the next week.