



SDG Discussion Guide

Leviticus 16

February 11, 2018

For starters:

Describe the most loved or appreciated quality of a close friend of yours. How does the quality help him or her in life do you think?

When did you last attend a family reunion? What was the best part of it? Why?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of further interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.)

As you can, read aloud chapter 16 in your group. Before doing so, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text, what points and questions of the text arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. What else did you notice? Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions for interaction.

1. Based on this chapter, how would you describe the human condition? How do Aaron and his two sons (Nadab and Abihu) typify this basic character composition (vv 1-2; see 10:1-3)?
2. What is God's typical response regarding the above question? How does this affect one's fellowship with God?
3. Why do you think God chose animal sacrifice to reconcile the differences between a sinful people and a sinless God? Why is it that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness" (Heb 9:22)?
4. What does the fact that this "Day of Atonement" took place only "once a year" (v 34) tell you about its importance? What does the fact that it must be repeated every year ("a lasting ordinance") tell you about human nature? And what about the lasting effect of this sacrifice (see Heb 9:9-10)?
5. The role of the two goats (vv 20-22) shows us that no single offering could fully typify the sacrifice of Christ, "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29). What aspect of his atonement is typified by the goat that is killed? What distinct aspect of Christ is typified by the scapegoat?
6. By establishing this process for ancient Israel to be reconciled with their Lord, what does that tell you about the Lord's yearning for a right relationship with us?
7. What is your favorite "scapegoat" to blame when things go wrong?
8. Do you think the basic character of human beings is much different today than in the days of Moses? Why or why not?
9. How about God's character: Is he much different now than back then? Why or why not? How does this understanding affect the continuing need to apply the principles of reconciliation outlined in the chapter?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to help you to pray. Ask God to show you how you view and handle your problems. Pause and sit in silence a while, listening. How may God want to help you resolve your problem(s)? Ask God to help you to respond-- to take the appropriate action toward such a resolve.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).