



SDG Discussion Guide

Leviticus 23-25

February 25, 2018

For starters:

What big occasions do you celebrate each year with family or friends? Which one is the biggest? What is your favorite festive meal?

Describe your perfect off day.

If you could take a year off, with all expenses paid, what would you like to do?

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 23 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. From the various aspects of this “feast of weeks” (ch 23), what do you see as its basic purpose? How would this festival help to maintain a right relationship with God?
2. What is the New Testament name for this festival (see Acts 2:1)? What insights into Pentecost do you “glean” from this festival as it is described here? Even in its original context, how is this worship related to mission (see 23:25)?
3. What call to action do you associate with the sound of trumpets? Why do you think God chose trumpets for the Jewish “New Year’s” feast (23:23-25)?
4. Why do you think Israel was not allowed to work on feast days (23:3, 7, 21, 25, 28-32, 35-36)? What does this rule say about the relative importance of God and work? How would this rule help the people focus on the meaning of the different feasts?
5. The consequences for working on the Sabbath and appointed feast days is underscored for the “Day of Atonement” in particular. Why do you suppose that is? How has the “work” of Christ fulfilled the original purpose for this day (see Heb 9:7-15; 10:1-10; 13:11-12)?
6. Why would God want the Israelites to especially remember their time in the wilderness (23:33-44)? How would the feast of tabernacles remind them of their wilderness journeys? Of God delivering them?
7. What redemptive actions has God taken in your life? What has he used to re-enact or remind you of them: Any “tent” meetings? “Wilderness” excursions? “Feast” times?
8. Which of these memorable events is most important to you? Why? What feeling did this event give you for God?

Spend some time in prayer. Ask God to help you to pray. Ask God to speak to you and to show you anything you need to see in or around the content of this passage. Pause and sit in silence a while, listening.... Ask God to help you to respond. Ask God to both encourage and challenge you regarding any particular area you may need redeeming. Go forth this week in the knowledge and confidence of God’s redemptive power coming to bear on your circumstances, as you seek him... and obey him.

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