



## SDG Discussion Guide

Leviticus 8-10; 21-22

January 28, 2018

For starters:

Imagine an ordination service for someone entering ministry: What images come to mind: Wedding? Graduation? Coronation? Funeral / Wake? Other?

Have you ever been served an elaborate, multi-course meal? What was the occasion? How did it feel being catered to and celebrated?

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; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday.)

As you can, read aloud at minimum chapter 8 in your group (read further if you have time). 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. Why do you think God saw the ritual cleanliness as important? What do you see as the link between ritual cleanliness and true spiritual cleanliness? Do you think ritual cleanliness was required mainly for God's benefit or for the people's benefit? Why?
2. With what (jewelry, clothing, decision-making ritual, offerings) do you symbolize your own faith? In what ways are these personal religious rituals like and unlike ritual cleanliness demonstrated in chapter 8?
3. What link do you see between spiritual cleanliness and spiritual leadership? How is your response supported by the passage of chapter 8.
4. When have the clergy in your life seemed most real and approachable? Most human and fallible? Most saintly or other-worldly?
5. Why do you think there is such an emphasis on physical perfection, ceremonial cleanliness and abstinence for the priests? How does this relate to God's holiness (21:6, 12, 15, 23; 22:1,9,16)? Likewise, how does this relate to the function of the priests (which is to restore the nation to a right relationship with God)?
6. In what area may you be giving God less than your "best"? Where may you be offering God only the "leftovers"? What may be keeping you from offering God your best?
7. Hebrews 7:11-28 tells us that Jesus is now our High Priest. How does this reality affect your spiritual pilgrimage? How would you explain God's process of reconciliation to someone who does not understand it? Who in your life may need to hear it?

Spend some time in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you to pray. Ask God to continue to open your hearts and minds to what he wants to say to you during the sermon series on Leviticus. Ask him to continue to speak to you about "sacrifice." Ask him also to continue to speak to you about "holiness." Spend some time in silence listening for God. Go forth this week continuing to listen... and to act as you are so led.

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