

# Small Group Discussion

## Week 15



### Chapter 15 – Sacrifice and Atonement

Remember, teach what you learn and share life, not just information.

#### Coaching Conversations:

Because we discuss the Old Testament sacrificial system and its witness to the ultimate sacrifice that Christ would eventually endure on the cross this would be a great week to consider closing your group with communion. Between the two major ordinances of the Christian faith (baptism and the Lord's Supper) communion is a rite that may be partaken outside of the church. If you would like to lead your group in this act of remembrance, it's important that you, as a leader first understand the significance and symbolism that the Lord's Supper represents. The articles listed at the bottom of this guide will help you with Scripture references and some simple explanations. The most important aspect of communion is remembrance; reflecting on the sacrifice that Christ made for us, and the eternal significance that his death AND resurrection carries for believers. When we remember, our reflection leads us to act differently in personal holiness and external representation of the Gospel to others. When you partake, any juice and cracker will suffice for your group time. Give your group members time to reflect on Christ's sacrifice and then take the elements together as you close your time.

#### How HIS-story becomes My Story:

**GOD'S STORY** - A holy and perfect God demands perfection. Therefore, He himself had to provide a way for sinful man to be in relationship with Him through the shedding of blood.

**OUR STORY** - Our sin requires a sacrifice, the shedding of blood, in order for our relationship with God to be restored.

**MY STORY** - Because no sacrifice that I could give would be enough to restore my relationship with God, God provided the ultimate blood sacrifice for us through Christ's death on the cross.

#### Starting the Conversation:

Reflect on the previous week. Did learning that we are the people of God affect the way you represented Christ to those around you? If so, how?

#### Life Group Questions

1. Explain what you already know about the Old Testament sacrifices. Have you ever thought of Jesus's sacrifice in light of the Old Testament sacrificial system? How so?
2. Why was sacrifice an important theme in the Old Testament?

3. Summarize the role that sacrifices played in the way Israel related to their God.
4. How should the Old Testament sacrificial system put our sin into the proper perspective?
5. Read Leviticus 16. What stands out from reading this description of the Day of Atonement?
6. What does the Day of Atonement teach us about the nature of sin and the reality of forgiveness?
7. How should God's emphasis on the heart of the worshipper affect the way we approach God in our worship and in our everyday lives?
8. Read Hebrews 9:11–10:25. In light of what we've studied about the Old Testament sacrificial system and what we read in Hebrews, how does the Old Testament system of sacrifice and atonement help us to better understand the significance of Jesus's death?

**Additional Recommended Resources:**

"What is the importance of the Lord's Supper?" – GotQuestions.org article

"Is it acceptable to have communion outside of the church?" – GotQuestions.org article

"What is transubstantiation?" – GotQuestions.org article

**Prayer Assignment:**

Ask God to affect your heart with the significance of the sacrifice that Jesus offered on your behalf. Ask God to break your heart over the sin in your life. Ask Him to give you the strength and motivation to identify and uproot that sin. Pray that your life would be the "living sacrifice" that Paul described in Romans 12:1. And most of all, thank God for sacrificing Jesus as a substitute for you.