

LEVITICUS 16:1-6, 20-22; HEBREWS 4:14-16 | THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

This guide is designed to be used for community group discussions, but can easily be adapted for personal reflection.

ENGAGE (15-20 MINUTES)

Real Biblical community involves people “doing life together.” As much as we can, we want to create an atmosphere where people get to know one another, and feel comfortable sharing the ups, downs, and in-betweens of life. So take some time for people to get acquainted. A possible icebreaker question: Share a high and a low from the previous week. Or, rate your week 1-10. Or, make up one of your own.

REFLECTION AND STUDY (30-35 MINUTES)

Open Up: Will Witherington talked this week about the “red thread” - the theme that pervades all of Scripture. God is redeeming a people for himself, and he does this by sending a Redeemer – Jesus Christ.

Read Leviticus 16:1-6, 20-24

- 1.) What stood out to you as interesting, challenging, helpful, or confusing (from the passage or from Sunday’s sermon)?
- 2.) What does this passage teach you about God?
- 3.) What does it teach you about man?
- 4.) Several animals are offered as sin offerings in Leviticus 16. Why do you suppose this is? Now read Matthew’s account of the Last Supper in Matthew 26:26-29. How does Leviticus 16 help you understand the meaning of Jesus’ death?
- 5.) Back to Leviticus 16. What happens to the live goat? What is the purpose of this ritual? Read Isaiah 53:6. How is the promised Messiah the fulfillment of the Day of Atonement?
- 6.) Read Hebrews 4:14-16. What do you learn about Jesus?
- 7.) If you were completely confident that your sins were atoned for by Jesus, how would it change the way you live?

PRAYER (15 MINUTES)

Break into men and women for prayer. Share prayer requests and pray for one another. Pray especially that we would rediscover the beauty of Biblical rhythms of work and rest that provide for human flourishing.