

BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Look over the suggested questions to the right. Ask God to guide you to the ones that will work best for your group.
- Be prepared to get the discussion going in your group if they're not feeling it today.
- Don't feel like you have to know all there is to know about scripture. Use this week's study notes to prepare yourself. But, if something arises that you can't answer, tell your group, "That's a great question. I'll research that and get back with you." Then, email eddie.mosley@lifepointchurch.org for help.

THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA

The actions of the Day of Atonement directly foreshadow the redeeming work of Christ.

TO PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK:

Read Numbers 7-22 as we follow the Israelites as they move toward the Promise Land.

AS YOU READ...

...Think about God's faithfulness to fulfill His promises despite how painfully sinful and flawed all humans are.

CONNECT**(10 min.)**

Choose one of the following questions to begin your time together as a group. If your group has been together longer, you may want to skip question 1 in favor of question 2.

1. Describe a time when you used a "scapegoat" for something you did wrong.
2. Has anyone ever volunteered to be your "scapegoat" and take the blame for something you did? Why would someone want to do this?

EXPLORE**(40 min.)**

Say something like, "Today we are studying the Day of Atonement and how it was a reminder that sin required a price to be paid." Then guide your group through these questions.

3. If you attended worship this week, what statement or experience stood out to you? What stood out during last week's reading?

(Leader: Take some time to discuss any questions that may have arisen as your members read through this week's assigned reading.)

4. Read Leviticus 16:34. What does the fact that this "Day of Atonement" took place only "once a year" tell you about its importance? What does the fact that it must be repeated every year tell you about human nature? Do you think the basic character of human beings is different today than in the days of Moses?
5. Read Leviticus 16:6-10 and 20-22. What are the major elements involved in the Day of Atonement? What is the purpose of the live goat or scapegoat? How many sins are placed on this goat? How does the scapegoat compare to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross?
6. Read Hebrews 9:11-14. How is the priesthood of Christ distinguished from the old system? What types of cleansing did the two sacrificial systems bring about? How is Christ's sacrifice better?
7. Read Leviticus 16:29-31. How were the people supposed to behave on the Day of Atonement? What implications does this have on our behavior today? How should we behave after we sin and ask for forgiveness?

TRANSFORM**(10 min.)**

Say something like, "Today we've talked about the Israelites' need for a scapegoat." Then wrap up your time by asking the following question and praying together.

8. Think about how you handle problems in your life. Do you look for someone or something to blame? God, family, a bad relationship? How do you think God would like to help you resolve your problems?

This Week's Study Notes:

Scripture Notes

Leviticus 16:20-22

The goat carried the pollution of the people's sins outside the camp, a picture of Jesus who was our sin-bearer. Jesus did more than the goat, He took our sins away forever (Isaiah 53:5-6).

Leviticus 16:34

The Hebrews never got to the place of knowing once-and-for-all they were forgiven. Christ made a once-and-for-all-sacrifice, so much more than a yearly scapegoat and sacrifice. His sacrifice for us was complete (Hebrews 9:11-12,24-26).

Hebrews 9:12

The finality of Christ's ministry stands in marked contrast with the ongoing cycle of sacrifices represented in the Old Covenant: Christ was sacrificed one time only (v. 26); He as the ultimate and eternal High Priest brought the blood of this sacrifice into God's presence (v. 21); His sacrifice secures the forgiveness of the sins of His people once and for all (10:10). eternal redemption. The Day of Atonement brought freedom from ceremonial uncleanness, but, as time wore on, the people were again defiled and needed another act of redemption the following year. The liberation from sin that Christ has secured, by contrast, is spiritual and permanent.

Hebrews 9:14

If the sacrifice of an animal could effect some change in a person's standing with God, obviously the sacrifice of the royal Son of God would be far more effective. the blood of the Messiah. Blood represents sacrifice and death. the eternal Spirit. Literally, "an eternal spirit." This does not refer to the Holy Spirit, but to Christ's eternal nature. Because Christ Himself is eternal in nature, the redemption He secured is likewise everlasting (v. 12). The phrase also contrasts the spiritual nature of Christ's sacrifice to the fleshly nature of the old (v. 13). While they only ceremonially cleansed the body, the new sacrifice actually cleanses the conscience.

Leader Tips

AS YOU READ THIS WEEK...

- Think about and pray for each member of your small group.
- Think through the following questions:
 1. Who does God bring to mind as I read these verses? Why?
 2. What needs to change in my own life as a result of what I'm reading?
 3. Whom do I need to tell about these verses?

FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY WE RECOMMEND...

- Bible Commentary: Bible.org
- Bible Commentary: DesiringGod.org
- Pronouncing Biblical Words: Netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm

