

The BIBLE Story

Rules for Sacrifice

Leviticus

When Moses met with God on the mountain, God gave him many **rules and laws**. These rules showed the people what it looks like to be holy. **God** is holy and He **wanted to be with His people**, but **God's people could not obey God's laws perfectly**. So **God met with Moses in the tabernacle—the tent of worship—and He told Moses what to do when the people sinned.**

First, **God gave rules about offerings**. Offerings are gifts **people give to God**, such as money or jewelry. Sometimes offerings were animals. People also gave grain and bread to God as gifts. The offerings had special purposes. When people wanted to praise God, they gave burnt offerings. **When they wanted to say they were sorry for sin, they gave a sin offering.**

God also gave rules about the priests. Priests were leaders who **helped people worship God by making sacrifices**. The priests also took care of the tabernacle, and they taught the people God's rules for living right lives. Moses' brother, Aaron, and Aaron's descendants were the priests.

God told Moses about a special day that would happen once a year. It was **called the Day of Atonement**. *Atonement* means “making right



what has been wrong.” The people needed to pay for their sin to make their relationship with God right again.

On the Day of Atonement, the high priest went into the most holy place, a very special room in the tabernacle. He made sacrifices for the sins of all the people. He offered one goat as a sin offering. **The high priest put his hands on a second goat’s head to move the sins of the people to the goat.** This goat was the scapegoat. **Then the goat was led away into the wilderness to show that the people’s sins were taken away.**

God said, “On that day your sin will be paid for. You will be made clean. You will be clean from all of your sins in My sight.”

God also gave the Israelites rules about how they should live. He said, “Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.” God told the people how to be holy. God said, “Do not tell lies. Do not cheat. Love your neighbor as you love yourself. Obey My rules.”

Christ Connection: The Book of Leviticus is about the sacrifices God told His people to offer for sin. God wanted to show the Israelites that He was going to forgive people. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice. Jesus forgives our sin once and for all.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use a prop:** Unroll a dramatically long “scroll of the law” as you tell the story. Emphasize the Christ Connection as you drop the scroll in a heap on the floor at the end.
- **Art:** Draw the various types of offerings and other items from the story on a chalkboard or dry erase board as you talk about them. When you say “you will be made clean,” wipe the board clean. Draw a cross on the board as you explain the Christ Connection.