

**Investigating**

**God's Word...**

**YEAR TWO**

**Exodus 21-40,  
Leviticus**

**Sunday School Curriculum**

*Winter Quarter*

# Lesson Sequence

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## *Winter Quarter*

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter.

The central goal of the *Investigating God's Word...* curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

Week One	Exodus 21-23
Week Two	Exodus 24-27
Week Three	Exodus 28-31
Week Four	Exodus 32:1-33:6
Week Five	Exodus 33:7-34:35
Week Six	Exodus 35-40
Week Seven	Leviticus 1:1-5:13
Week Eight	Leviticus 5:14-7:38
Week Nine	Leviticus 8-10
Week Ten	Leviticus 11-15
Week Eleven	Leviticus 16-17
Week Twelve	Leviticus 18-22
Week Thirteen	Leviticus 23-27

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Spring Quarter: Numbers, Deuteronomy



### Suggested Schedule

<b>Welcome</b> <i>The blame game</i>	<b>2-3 min.</b>
<b>Drill Time</b> <i>Unclean, unclean!</i>	<b>5 min.</b>
<b>W.O.W!</b> <i>Scapegoat</i>	<b>5 min.</b>
<b>Historical Context</b> <i>Timeline</i>	<b>2-3 min.</b>
<b>Bible Investigation</b> <i>Leviticus 16-17</i>	<b>20-30 min.</b>
<b>Lesson-At-Home</b> <i>Hebrews 10:4</i>	<b>2-3 min.</b>

# Lesson Eleven

## *Leviticus 16-17*

### Overview

Leviticus 16 presents the procedures for the yearly celebration of the Day of Atonement. The LORD tells Moses to teach Aaron how to lead this most holy ceremony as high priest. Once a year, Aaron was allowed to enter the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle in order to make atonement for the sins of the people. He had to make sure his sins were atoned for first! Then, he was to sacrifice a bull and a goat as sin offerings. The blood was sprinkled on just about everything to make sure all was clean before God.

The centerpiece to the Day of Atonement was the scapegoat. As one goat was killed as a sin offering, a second goat was set loose into the desert. The scapegoat carried the sin and the guilt of the people out of the community. Aaron laid his two hands on the scapegoat's head, confessed the sins of the people on it, and then the scapegoat was never seen again.

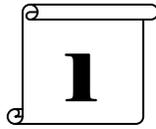
Leviticus 17 focuses on the importance of blood. The LORD forbade His people from eating the blood of animals, since it was the life of the animal. The blood was to be shed for the atonement of sins. Here again we have a picture of salvation, as the life blood of one is given so that another may live.

### Preparation

Read and meditate on Leviticus 16-17 this week. Use **flannelgraph figures or other pictures to illustrate the lesson.**

### Teaching Encouragement

What a perfect picture the LORD has given us! Even children can understand the concept of something or someone taking the blame for our own sins. The scapegoat provides an image that can truly stick in our heads, as it trots off into the wilderness with our sins aboard. Make sure the children make the connection that Jesus became both the scapegoat and the goat-sin offering. Jesus shed His blood for sins AND carried the guilt of sin away. Use this powerful picture in a passionate way this week. Drill home how the Israelites needed scapegoats year after year after year due to the magnitude of their sin. Enjoy sharing how the Day of Atonement is no longer necessary because of Jesus' sacrifice!



## Welcome

**Greet the students. Welcome visitors.**

**Say:** *Who here likes to play games? I know of a game that we all play much of the time. It's called the "blame game." Here's how we play it: We do something wrong, then we blame someone else for it! Isn't that a good game to play? [No!]*

*Why do we like to blame others for our own sins? Allow answers. If we blame someone else for our sins, then we don't have to deal with the guilt from our sins. But, there's a better way to deal with our sins! We will find out today.*



## Drill Time

*But first, let's have our DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past.*

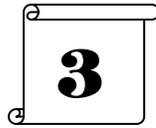
**Today's questions:** *What were some UNCLEAN animals that the Israelites could not eat? Why was it important for God's people to be CLEAN? What happened to a person who was UNCLEAN? How do we keep from being UNCLEAN in our sins?*

**Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.**

**Answers:**

1. Camels, rabbits, pigs, lobsters, crabs, clams, scavenger birds, most insects, dogs, cats.
2. They were to be holy, just as God is holy.
3. He had to live alone outside of the community; He had to cover his face and say, "Unclean, Unclean!"
4. By faith in Jesus Christ, who can cleanse us from all sin.

**Say:** *Eating the right foods and avoiding skin diseases kept the Israelites outwardly clean. But just like us, they were sinners. Their sins had to be cleansed before they could truly be clean. You and I need cleansing as well!*



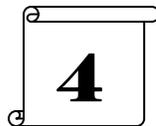
## W.O.W!

Are you ready to learn an interesting new word today? Our *W.O.W!* (*Word of the Week*) this week is **SCAPEGOAT**. **Write the word on the board.** Has anyone ever heard this word before? **Allow answers.**

*SCAPEGOAT* is a word we use to describe a person who gets the blame for someone else's sin. A *SCAPEGOAT* is someone who didn't do anything wrong, but is forced to take the blame for someone else.

This word actually comes from the Book of Leviticus. A *SCAPEGOAT* was at first an actual *GOAT*! The *GOAT* had the "sins" of the Israelites put on its head. Did the *GOAT* actually commit those sins? No! That's why it is a *SCAPEGOAT*—it took the guilt and blame that it did not deserve.

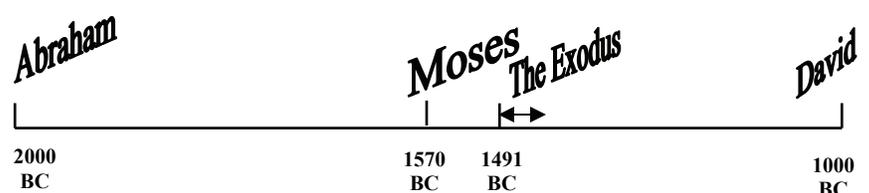
Listen for our *Word of the Week* during Bible Investigation time. I also want you to think about who our *SCAPEGOAT* is today. We don't put our sins on a goat. But someone has taken the blame for our sins, becoming our *SCAPEGOAT*. Who could that be?

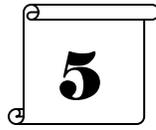


## Historical Context

If necessary, draw this timeline on the board and show the students when our reading takes place.

*When the events in the Book of Leviticus occurred*





## Bible Investigation

**Make sure all of the children can see the flannelgraph figures or pictures you use to illustrate today's reading.**

**Introduction:** *Once again, the LORD is talking to Moses. He is giving Moses more of His laws for the Israelites to live by.*

*Let's listen closely today. Read Leviticus 16:1.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron who died when they approached the LORD.

**Discussion:** *Remember that incident? What were the names of the two sons of Aaron? [Nadab and Abihu.] Nadab and Abihu were sinful priests. They did not serve God according to His ways.*

*Let's read on. Read verse 2.*

<sup>2</sup>The LORD said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die, because I appear in the cloud over the atonement cover.

**Discussion:** *Aaron, as high priest, was the only one who could go behind the curtain into the Most Holy Place to make ATONEMENT for the sins of the people. But he could not just go in whenever he wanted! God makes the rules. If Aaron disobeyed them, he would die, just like his sons.*

*Let's continue. Read verses 3-6.*

<sup>3</sup>"This is how Aaron is to enter the sanctuary area: with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. <sup>4</sup>He is to put on the sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments next to his body; he is to tie the linen sash around him and put on the linen turban. These are sacred garments; so he must bathe himself with water before he puts them on. <sup>5</sup>From the Israelite community he is to take two male goats for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. <sup>6</sup>"Aaron is to offer the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household.

**Discussion:** *Aaron had to bathe with water and wear the right clothes before he could appear before the LORD. Why? [Because God is holy, and His people must be holy and clean.] Aaron also had to make a blood offering for his own sins before he could make an offering for Israel. Do you remember what ATONEMENT*

*means? [To cover sin, to forgive sin.]. Even the high priest was a sinner! He needed his sin covered too.*

*Now, listen for our W.O.W! Read verses 7-10.*

<sup>7</sup> Then he is to take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. <sup>8</sup> He is to cast lots for the two goats—one lot for the LORD and the other for the scapegoat. <sup>9</sup> Aaron shall bring the goat whose lot falls to the LORD and sacrifice it for a sin offering. <sup>10</sup> But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD to be used for making atonement by sending it into the desert as a scapegoat.

**Discussion:** *How many goats were used by Aaron? [Two.] One goat was chosen to be the SCAPEGOAT. What happened to the other goat? [It was killed as a sin offering.] The SCAPEGOAT was set free into the desert. The goat made ATONEMENT for sin! How did the SCAPEGOAT do that?*

*We'll see in a bit. Read verses 11-14.*

<sup>11</sup> “Aaron shall bring the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household, and he is to slaughter the bull for his own sin offering. <sup>12</sup> He is to take a censer full of burning coals from the altar before the LORD and two handfuls of finely ground fragrant incense and take them behind the curtain. <sup>13</sup> He is to put the incense on the fire before the LORD, and the smoke of the incense will conceal the atonement cover above the Testimony, so that he will not die. <sup>14</sup> He is to take some of the bull’s blood and with his finger sprinkle it on the front of the atonement cover; then he shall sprinkle some of it with his finger seven times before the atonement cover.

**Discussion:** *Do you hear how important blood is? The blood of the bull was sprinkled on the atonement cover of the ark of the covenant so that it would be clean. The blood of the bull also made Aaron clean before God.*

**Application:** *Can the blood of animals make us clean from our sins? Our sins are too many and too big, aren't they?*

*Let's continue. Read verses 15-17.*

<sup>15</sup> “He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain and do with it as he did with the bull’s blood: He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it. <sup>16</sup> In this way he will make atonement for the Most Holy Place because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been. He is to do the same for the Tent of Meeting, which is among them in the midst of their

uncleanness. <sup>17</sup>No one is to be in the Tent of Meeting from the time Aaron goes in to make atonement in the Most Holy Place until he comes out, having made atonement for himself, his household and the whole community of Israel.

**Discussion:** *Even the Most Holy Place and the whole Tabernacle had to be sprinkled with blood to make them clean. Why? Because the sins of the Israelites made everything UNCLEAN!*

*Let's keep reading. Read verses 20-22.*

<sup>20</sup>“When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the Tent of Meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat. <sup>21</sup>He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites—all their sins—and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the desert in the care of a man appointed for the task. <sup>22</sup>The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a solitary place; and the man shall release it in the desert.

**Discussion:** *Here we learn more about the SCAPEGOAT. What does Aaron do with the SCAPEGOAT? [He places his hands on it, confesses the sin of Israel on its head, and sends it away.] The SCAPEGOAT carries the sins of the people off into the desert. The SCAPEGOAT is never seen again!*

**Application:** *Do you get the picture? God uses a SCAPEGOAT to take the blame and the guilt of sin out of Israel. This is done on a day called the Day of Atonement. On this special day, the sins of Israel were cast away on a goat. We don't have a Day of Atonement anymore, because of another most special day. Does anyone know what that special day was? [The day when Jesus died on the cross for our sins.] Jesus is the last SCAPEGOAT we will ever need. He took the blame for our sins. Isn't that awesome?*

*Let's read more. Read verses 23-28.*

<sup>23</sup>“Then Aaron is to go into the Tent of Meeting and take off the linen garments he put on before he entered the Most Holy Place, and he is to leave them there. <sup>24</sup>He shall bathe himself with water in a holy place and put on his regular garments. Then he shall come out and sacrifice the burnt offering for himself and the burnt offering for the people, to make atonement for himself and for the people. <sup>25</sup>He shall also burn the fat of the sin offering on the altar. <sup>26</sup>“The man who releases the goat as a scapegoat must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water; afterward he may come into the camp. <sup>27</sup>The bull and the goat for the sin offerings, whose blood was brought into the Most Holy Place to make atonement,

must be taken outside the camp; their hides, flesh and offal are to be burned up.<sup>28</sup> The man who burns them must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water; afterward he may come into the camp.

**Discussion:** *Aaron had to wash himself after the ceremony. So did the man who let the SCAPEGOAT go, and the man who burned up the offering. Why? This is another picture of how sin is totally dealt with by the LORD. Even the priest and his family had to make sure that they weren't touched by sin.*

*Let's finish this chapter. Read verses 29-31, 34.*

<sup>29</sup>“This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: On the tenth day of the seventh month you must deny yourselves and not do any work—whether native-born or an alien living among you—<sup>30</sup>because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the LORD, you will be clean from all your sins.<sup>31</sup> It is a sabbath of rest, and you must deny yourselves; it is a lasting ordinance.<sup>34</sup>“This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: Atonement is to be made once a year for all the sins of the Israelites.” And it was done, as the LORD commanded Moses.

**Discussion:** *What's a “lasting ordinance?” Allow answers. A lasting ordinance is a rule that Israel was supposed to do every year, year after year. Every year, the Israelites celebrated a Day of Atonement. Every year, they took a special day off of work to do this. Every year, one goat was killed for their sin and the SCAPEGOAT was released with their sin on its head. Why every year? [Because they kept on sinning every year.] The Israelites needed their sin forgiven every year!*

**Application:** *We sin all the time too, don't we? Then why don't we have a Day of Atonement anymore? [Because Jesus, our Scapegoat, died for our sins once and for all.] The blood of goats and bulls didn't really cleanse the people from sin. But, the blood of Jesus does!*

*Let's read some of Leviticus 17. Read Leviticus 17:1-5.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Moses,<sup>2</sup>“Speak to Aaron and his sons and to all the Israelites and say to them: ‘This is what the LORD has commanded:<sup>3</sup> Any Israelite who sacrifices an ox, a lamb or a goat in the camp or outside of it<sup>4</sup> instead of bringing it to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting to present it as an offering to the LORD in front of the tabernacle of the LORD—that man shall be considered guilty of bloodshed; he has shed blood and must be cut off from his people.<sup>5</sup>This is so the Israelites will bring to the LORD the sacrifices they are now making in the open fields. They must bring

them to the priest, that is, to the LORD, at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and sacrifice them as fellowship offerings.

**Discussion:** *The LORD again makes it clear that He is in charge! The people were not allowed to sacrifice animals their own way, at their own house. Where were they to bring their sacrifices? [To the Tabernacle of the LORD.] The sacrifice is the LORD'S, so it must be brought to the LORD'S house.*

*Let's finish our reading for today. Read verses 10-12.*

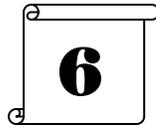
<sup>10</sup>“Any Israelite or any alien living among them who eats any blood—I will set my face against that person who eats blood and will cut him off from his people. <sup>11</sup>For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life. <sup>12</sup>Therefore I say to the Israelites, “None of you may eat blood, nor may an alien living among you eat blood.”

**Discussion:** *Wow! Eating the blood of an animal brought with it a heavy punishment. Why did God not want His people to eat the blood? [The blood is the life of the creature.] The blood means life, and blood must be shed to give life. God made atonement for sins by shedding blood. In other words, one creature's life was given for another's! The life of a bull or goat was taken so it could be given to a human being. Isn't that amazing?*

**Application:** *Do you see why Jesus Christ had to die on the cross in order for His people to have life? His blood had to be spilled to cover our sins and give us life. Jesus died so that we could live! If Jesus doesn't die for your sins, then you have to die for your own sins! Do you want to die for your own sins? [No!] In this way, Jesus is that goat who Aaron had to kill as a sin offering.*

**Conclusion:** *So, Jesus is both our goat-sin offering and our SCAPEGOAT. He sheds His blood for His people and He carries our sins outside of the camp. The blood of goats and bulls could not atone for sin—that's why they had to be killed every year, year after year. The Day of Atonement was just a foretaste of the day when Jesus would die on the cross for our sins.*

*Aren't these amazing pictures of what God does to deal with all of our sin? We will continue reading in the Book of Leviticus next week, and learn what else God had to say to His people.*



## Lesson-At-Home

**Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Hebrews 10:4) together.**

**Hebrews 10:4 (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup>because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

**Say:** *This verse in the New Testament confirms our lesson today. The blood of bulls and goats can't take away sins! So, what can take away our sins? [Nothing but the blood of Jesus.]*

**Review the verse a couple of times.**

**Direct the students' attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today's lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.**

**Close in prayer and dismiss the students.**