

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of March 16, 2014

This Week's Focus: Jesus is our better and greater sacrifice.

This Week's Text: Hebrews 10:11-12

Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Hebrews 9:18-22

The cross is the lightning rod of grace that short-circuits God's wrath to Christ so that only the light of His love remains for believers. **A.W. Tozer**

Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it as something done by us. John Stott

<u>Related Texts</u>: Genesis 1 & 3, Leviticus 17:11, Hebrews 9 & 10, Romans 5:11, 1 Corinthians 15:3, Jeremiah 31:31-34

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- What does the word "Atonement" mean? What does it presuppose?
- Read the creation account in Genesis and discuss what it tells us about God.
 - What does the Imago Dei imply? Reference Genesis 1:26-27 and 2:15-17.
- What was the result of our first parents' decision to disobey God? Reference Genesis 3:14-21.

- What did they do as the result? What did God do?
 - How did they try to hide their shame?
 - In what way do we try to deal with our sin?
 - What do we learn about God through His actions after Adam and Eve sinned?
- What is a good and biblical definition of sin?
- How is breaking the first commandment a precursor to breaking all the rest?
- Discuss the biblical concept of "Penal Substitutionary Atonement". Can you find verses that support that view?
- Discuss the meaning of covenant? What does it say about God? About His people?
- What are some conditional and unconditional covenants in the scriptures?
- Read Jeremiah 34:8-22. How were covenants "cut" in ancient Israel? What was the meaning?
- Why did God give us a way to atone for sins? Why all the blood shed? Reference Leviticus 17:11.
- How is the gospel different from the placating of the gods of Greek Mythology?
- Read Hebrews 10:5-12. Discuss why Jesus is the better and greater sacrifice.
- How does the truth that Christ took our sin on the cross free us to run to God instead of away from Him when we sin?
- Discuss and compare the Old Covenant Exodus19 and the New Covenant Jeremiah 31:31.
 Reference Matthew 26:26-28 and Luke 22:17-20.

Gospel Celebration:

- Jesus shed His blood as an atonement for ALL sin.
 Jesus lived the life we could not lived, died the death we should have died, and gives the gift that we cannot earn!
- I Peter 3:18: For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.

Prayer Focus:

• Pray for opportunities to boldly speak of the work of Christ to others.

Next Week's Text: Jesus our Substitute