

# WEEK 3

## GOD'S PLAN REVEALED

### GOD'S LAW WAS TEMPORARY PAYMENT

#### ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

## THE FOUR KEYS . . .

### KEY VERSE

For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:13-14

### KEY IDEAS

1. God's law showed His people how to live holy.
2. God's law showed His people they needed a Savior.
3. God's law required animal sacrifices as a temporary atonement for sin.

### KEY PASSAGE

Exodus 20:1-17 & Leviticus (use chart of offerings for summary)

### KEY PRINCIPLES



#### EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

that the purpose of God's law was to reveal to man the depth of his sin and his inability to save himself. The sacrificial system was a temporary atonement for sin so that God could dwell with His people until Jesus would become the final, permanent substitute.



#### EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

glad to know that we do not have to follow the Old Testament laws perfectly or make sacrifices to cover our sin because Jesus paid for it on the cross once and for all. Now we can live in freedom, obeying God out of our love for Him knowing that salvation is a free gift in Jesus.



#### EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

see the consequence of sin and understand their need for forgiveness.



#### EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to be forgiven of their sins in Jesus.

# INTRODUCTION

Once God chose His special people and showed them His mighty power to save, the next step was to show them how to live before a holy God. After their rescue from Egypt, God gave His people a set of laws that would show them the right way to live and they included a lot of sacrifices that had to be made to atone, or satisfy, God's anger at sin. None of these laws or sacrifices could permanently atone or pay for sin. But they were a temporary covering so that God could dwell among them in peace. God had a plan for a perfect, final payment for sin, in Jesus, who would willingly be our substitute and go to the cross on our behalf. But first He had to establish the people and nation Jesus would come from.

## OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin by asking the kids a series of questions to illustrate the meaning of sacrifice. "Raise your hand if you like giving up stuff. Like if I asked you to give up your video games or your favorite stuffed animal or that new toy from Christmas, how many of you would say "Yes! I want to! Please let me give it away!" To be honest, I don't like giving up stuff either. Now what if God asked you to give up something even greater? Something that really cost you something. Is anyone a farmer or know a farmer? It would be pretty hard for them to give up one of their cows right? They probably have grown to care for their cows as they take care of them but they also might use their cows to sell milk and make a living. That's kind of what it was like for God's people in the Old Testament when they had to sacrifice an animal for their sin. God takes sin so seriously that it has to be paid for in blood. Because sin causes death, the only acceptable payment for sin is death. A life for a life. So, when God gave His law to the people of Israel, they had to make sacrifices for their sin as the substitute for them. Those sacrifices weren't perfect enough to fully pay for sin, but God accepted it as a temporary payment because He had a plan."

## KEY IDEAS

Read Exodus 20:1-17 & the Sacrificial System chart attached. Then use the following points for guided discussion.

- God's law showed His people how to live holy.
  - How does God's law show us how to live holy? God's law, the 10 Commandments, was the standard given by God to Moses for the people of Israel to show them what God expected. We all must first understand that God is holy so His law is holy before we can understand that we are not.
- God's law showed His people they needed a Savior.
  - How does God's law point to the need for Jesus? God's law is an impossible standard for sinful man. By knowing that we fall short of reaching holiness on our own, we know that we need a Savior who can rescue us from sin and death.
- God's law required animal sacrifices as a temporary atonement for sin.
  - Why did God require animal sacrifices? Animal sacrifices were a requirement for the forgiveness of sin. The animal served as a substitute; the animal died in place of the sinner.
  - Why must sin be paid for with blood? The Bible explains that blood is where life is and it also states that there can be no forgiveness of sin without the shedding of blood. Because sin cost life, the payment for sin is life. Sacrifices were the way to atone or "cover" an offense, or sin, committed against God. Those who are covered can be set free from sin. (Lev. 17:11, Heb. 9:22)
  - Why were animal sacrifices not sufficient payment for sin? The forgiveness granted through animal sacrifice was only temporary which is why they had to be made regularly. Because Jesus came and paid the final price for us on the cross, animal sacrifices are no longer necessary. Jesus was the ultimate substitute for us because He was God in human form and lived a perfect life as only God could. Animal sacrifices were a picture of Christ's final sacrifice on our behalf. They were meant to prepare God's people to recognize that Jesus was the Messiah, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

## Activity

Divide children into two groups and draw a vertical line in the middle of the whiteboard creating two columns so there is one per group. Then draw a horizontal line across the board dividing both of their columns into a top and bottom section. Set a timer and ask the children to take turns drawing pictures or listing as many things as they can think of that last forever on the top section of their column. Set the timer again and have them draw or write as many things as they can think of that do not last forever on the bottom section of their column. Once the timer goes off each time, ask the groups to discuss their pictures/lists. Talk with them about how many things do not last forever. Lead them in a discussion about how Jesus's perfect sacrifice of himself on our behalf is forever, whereas animal sacrifices were only a temporary way to atone for sin.

## Prayer

Thank God for offering us a permanent substitute in Jesus who offered Himself as a sacrifice on the cross in our place so that we would not have to. Ask God to help you see your need for Him as your Savior.

# FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

## ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse Hebrews 9:13-14.

Write in colorful marker the key verse for the week on a large piece of paper or poster board. Place it somewhere in your house where there is normal traffic, a place you walk by regularly. Set a rule for everyone that each time you walk past the verse this week, you have to try to say it from memory. Each time you do it correctly, record a tally mark on a separate sheet of paper where you can keep track of everyone's score. Set a goal that at the end of the week, whoever has the most tally marks and can say the verse correctly without looking gets to decide on a fun activity for the family to do together.

## DISCUSSION

- Try to name all 10 Commandments without looking.
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- **Are the 10 Commandments still important to us today? Why?** The 10 Commandments are still important because they remind us of the standard God has for holiness. As Christians who have the Holy Spirit in us, we have the power because of Him to obey. As followers of Christ, we want to honor Him in all we do, and that includes keeping His commands. We should do it because we love God and want to please Him.
- **What does it mean for us that Jesus paid our sin debt in full?** We can live in freedom, not having to follow a strict set of rules for our salvation but rather walking in simple obedience and worship, keeping our hearts set on Jesus because we know that our sins past, present, and future were paid for.

## PRAYER

Thank God that He replaced the temporary payment for sin with a final, permanent payment in Jesus. Thank God that He sent Jesus to be our substitute and take our place when we deserved death and eternal separation from Him. Ask God to help you understand the depth of His love for you and your need for Him.

## Sacrificial System

NAME	REFERENCE	ELEMENTS	SIGNIFICANCE
Burnt Offering	Lev. 1, 6:8-13	Bull, ram, male goat, male turtledove, or young pigeon without blemish. (Always male animals but species varied according to person's economic status.)	Voluntary. Signifies propitiation for sin and complete surrender, devotion, and commitment to God.
Grain Offering	Lev. 2, 6:14-23	Grain, flour, or bread (always unleavened) made with olive oil and salt; or incense	Voluntary. Signifies thanksgiving for firstfruits.
Peace Offering (Fellowship Offering)	Lev. 3, 7:11-36, 22:17-30, 27	Any animal without blemish. (Species of animal varied according to a person's economic status.); could be a grain offering	Voluntary. Symbolizes fellowship with God.
Sin Offering	Lev. 4:1-5:13, 6:24-30, 12:6-8	Male or female animal without blemish as follows: bull for high priest or congregation; male goat for king; female goat or lamb for common person; turtledove or pigeon for slightly poor person; tenth of an ephah of flour for the poorest people	Mandatory. Made by one who had sinned unintentionally or was unclean in order to attain purification.
Trespass Offering	Lev. 5:14-6:7, 7:1-6, 14:12-18	Ram or lamb without blemish	Mandatory. Made by a person who had either deprived another of his rights or had desecrated something holy. Made by lepers for purification.