



**FAITH
& LOVE**

Church of God in Christ

Faith and Love C.O.G.I.C.
Sunday School

Lesson 11 February 15, 2026
DAY OF ATONEMENT

SUNDAY SCHOOL CORE VALUES



Reaching
People



Teaching
People



Ministering
to People



Assimilating
People



Building
People



Involving
People



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. **Psalm 133:1**

School/Class: But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Hebrews 13:16**

Superintendent/Teacher: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16**

School/Class: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. **Psalm 119:105**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Philippians 2:4**

School/Class: He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. **Proverbs 22:9**

Superintendent/Teacher: Therefore he says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” **Ephesians 4:8**

School/Class: As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **1 Peter 4:10**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

Superintendent/Teacher: For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:12**

School/Class: For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. **Romans 12:4**

Superintendent/Teacher: By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:35**

School/Class: For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **Gal. 5:13**

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESPONSIVE READING

ALL:

But grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

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DAY OF ATONEMENT



- Bible Basis: Leviticus 16:11-19
- Bible Truth: God commanded the Israelites to set aside a day to sacrifice animals for payment of sin debt.
- Memory Verse: “And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness” (Leviticus 16:16)
- Lesson Aim: By the end of the lesson, we will: EXPLORE the Day of Atonement rituals found in Leviticus; REFLECT on the meaning of atonement for our sins and its relevance today; and IDENTIFY those things in our lives needing repentance and seek atonement.
- Background Scriptures: Leviticus 28:15-22; Acts 2:1-36 & Romans 7:14-25 – Read and incorporate the insights gained from the Background Scriptures into your study of the lesson.

Leviticus 16:11-19 KJV

11 And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself:

12 And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the Lord, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail:

13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not:

14 And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.

Leviticus 16:11-19 KJV

15 Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat:

16 And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

17 And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel.

18 And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the Lord, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about.

19 And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

The Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Covenant was a wooden chest that measured approximately 4 x 2.5 x 2.5 feet. It was constructed of acacia, a strong and dense local wood that was resistant to water penetration and decay. The inside and outside were covered with gold and open at the top. The tablets inscribed with the Ten Commandments, a pot of manna, and Aaron's rod – all reminders of God's abiding love for Israel – were kept inside the Ark. The Children of Israel believed that it was the throne of God. The mercy seat is the area of the Ark where they believed God would actually sit.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Tabernacle. The tabernacle was the central place of worship for the Israelites until the Solomonic Temple was built. The tabernacle moved with the Children of Israel through the wilderness. A cloud hovered above it, showing the glory and presence of God among the Israelites. All the tribes were organized around the tabernacle, which was symbolic of God being central to all of life. Although it shared many similarities with the Temple, it was different in that it was a mobile tent. The tabernacle therefore showed that God could not be confined to one place.

LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON:

AIM: We will understand that people often feel guilty when they hurt others, and sometimes seek to make up for their mistakes.

INTRODUCTION

God's Special Instructions

In Leviticus, the laws of God are given not to the priests or high priest, but directly to His servant, Moses. Moses serves as the mediator between God and His people. In his role as prophet, Moses' position is higher than that of the high priest. Distinctions between clean and unclean, holy and unholy are made clear in Leviticus. When God dwelt on Mt. Sinai, Moses needed a particular reverence when he wished to approach the Lord. Now that God dwelled among the Children of Israel, the high priest needed to show this same reverence and requirement of purity. God's specific instructions about exactly how and when the high priest could enter into His presence are emphasized in Leviticus 16.

BIBLE LEARNING

AIM: We will know that God has provided Jesus as the supreme sacrifice, so animals are no longer needed.

I. SIN OFFERING FOR THE HIGH PRIEST

Leviticus 16:11-14

Now we encounter the greatest expression of God's care and concern for the Children of Israel. God now provides instructions to His people on how to obtain pardon for sins committed against Him and one another, and enter into communion with Him. This should not be surprising since man was created to walk in daily fellowship with God. Through Adam's sin in the Garden, mankind was thrust from the face of God. The sin in our lives not only separates us from God, but its very memory also undermines our confidence to approach until He has cleansed us from all our defilement. In these verses, our attention should immediately be drawn to the fact that only the high priest can perform the atonement sacrifice.

I. SIN OFFERING FOR THE HIGH PRIEST

Leviticus 16:11-14

The role of the high priest was special. He was appointed to offer gifts and make sacrifices for sins. That Aaron, or the high priest, is instructed to perform this atoning sacrifice for himself and his own household demonstrates the clear separation between the human priesthood and Jesus. This atoning was necessary for the human priests because they were capable of sinning. Jesus, the perfect High Priest, was incapable of sin. Because the human high priest was susceptible to sin, we read that his first obligation was to offer a sacrifice of a bull for himself and his household. After putting coals and incense inside the veil of the Holy of Holies, the high priest also sprinkles the sacrificed bull's blood on and in front of the mercy seat.

I. SIN OFFERING FOR THE HIGH PRIEST

Leviticus 16:11-14

Leviticus 16, which is read on the Day of Atonement among Orthodox and Conservative Jews, immediately follows a section concerning various laws of purification from impurities, many of which are unintentional (out of human control), such as a woman's menstruation and childbirth (chapter 12), skin ailments (13-14), and various bodily discharges (15). The laws in these chapters prescribe ways to atone not for deliberate sins related to morality (i.e., murder, theft, etc.), but for unintentional and even unpreventable impurity that nevertheless makes the Israelites and God's sanctuary unclean. This uncleanness or impurity (Heb. *tumah*, **toom-AH**) is not a matter of being dirty or physically infected in the modern medical sense of the word, but instead has a more basic but profound meaning of a broken relationship with God. Chapters 12-15 regard unintentional sins, which are easily eradicated through ritual.

I. SIN OFFERING FOR THE HIGH PRIEST

Leviticus 16:11-14

However, moral sin could not be permanently eradicated, so it was necessary to purify both the tabernacle (and later the Temple) and the people once a year on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) by transferring the impurities to a goat that would take those sins into the wilderness, never to return. In addition, the altar was purified by spattering the blood of the bull sacrificed for Aaron and his family and the goat sacrificed for the rest of the Israelites.

Leviticus 16:11-19 provides these instructions for Aaron the high priest to atone for himself and his family, followed by the rest of the people of Israel, so that their relationship with the Lord and the purity of His sanctuary can be restored.

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I. SIN OFFERING FOR THE HIGH PRIEST

Leviticus 16:11-14

The purpose of the incense is to create a cloud of smoke covering the altar so that Aaron cannot see the Lord's presence. The vail is the curtain that divides the inner part of the sanctuary into two areas. The mercy seat is the cover for the Ark of the Covenant, upon which stand two winged cherubs ([Exodus 25:17-20](#)). The Hebrew for mercy seat is *kapporet* (kah-POH-ret), which belongs to the same root as the verb for atoning, and both words have a sense of covering, whether a physical object such as the Ark or something intangible such as sin. The Ark is referred to here simply as the covenant or testimony (Heb. 'edut, eh-DOOT), indicating that it is a testimony to the Lord's presence in the tabernacle. To be in the presence of God in the Holy of Holies could cause death if the high priest did not properly prepare to prevent himself from seeing God's face, and vv. 12-13 provide instructions on these matters.



Leviticus 16:11-14

12 And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail: 13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not: 14 And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.

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I. SIN OFFERING FOR THE HIGH PRIEST

Leviticus 16:11-14

In fact, only the high priest was permitted to enter the innermost sanctum, and only once a year to purify the actual sanctuary. Once Aaron has properly entered the Holy of Holies, he is to sprinkle blood from the bull that serves as a sin offering for himself and his family. The blood is to be spattered seven times both over the cover of the Ark and in front of it. Seven times represents completion – in other words, once the high priest has sprinkled the blood seven times, he has done as much as he can to atone. Blood was considered sacred in ancient Israel. The life of any living animal or human was in the blood, so as the essence of life ([Leviticus 17:14](#)), blood from a sacrifice could purify God's sanctuary.



Leviticus 16:11-14

12 And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail: 13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not: 14 And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Keeping Relationship

Both moral sin and physical changes to the body could alter the Israelites' relationship with God, and many of the laws of Leviticus provide a means for reestablishing this relationship.

II. SIN OFFERING FOR THE PEOPLE

Leviticus 16:15-16

The Day of Atonement was for atoning of all the Children of Israel's sins and failures, and allowing for God to dwell among them. Only on this day was the high priest allowed to enter into the veiled Holy of Holies, the holiest of areas, without risking death. While sin separates man from God, His love does not want this separation to remain. In these next verses, the high priest now sacrifices a goat as a sin offering for the people.

II. SIN OFFERING FOR THE PEOPLE

Leviticus 16:15-16

This sacrifice of the goat represents the blood sacrifice required to satisfy the righteousness and justice of God on behalf of the people. In Judaism, sacrifices are no longer offered since the Temple no longer exists, but Yom Kippur remains a day of repentance which is coupled with fasting as a way of expressing humility and remorse before God and community. Thus, Judaism no longer requires sacrifices in its religion, only a humble heart. God's love is expressed, in part, when His justice is satisfied, which is exactly what Jesus' death on the cross did. As His son's tortured body hung on the Cross, God poured out His wrath against sin on Jesus and in doing so showed His love to us. If Jesus had not died, then we would never have known the depth of God's love and His forgiving grace.

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II. SIN OFFERING FOR THE PEOPLE

Israel's Broken Relationship with God

Leviticus 16:15-16

Two goat sacrifices are involved in the Day of Atonement – one to serve as a slaughter sacrifice for the people's sins and the other as a scapegoat. The decision regarding which goat to slaughter is made by casting lots (vv. 7-10). After Aaron atones for himself, he must perform parallel rituals for the people (v. 15), which purify God's sanctuary from the sins of the people. Several words for sin are used here in addition to the word for impurity/uncleanness, designating broken relationship with God. Transgressions (Heb. *pesha*, PEH-shah) is a general word for any action that strays from God's commandments, whether intentional or unintentional, though the word often carries the sense of rebellion. Sins (Heb. *chatt'at*, chaht-TAHT) are wrong actions that a person does to somebody else or to God, often intentionally.



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II. SIN OFFERING FOR THE PEOPLE

Israel's Broken Relationship with God

Leviticus 16:15-16

All actions that lead people away from God's commandments by profaning the Lord's name or doing wrong to others harm the people's individual and communal relationship with Him and pollute His sanctuary. The tabernacle of the congregation is the outer room that has become impure due to direct contact with the people, who have sinned. The idea is that everything the Israelites do affects everyone and everything around them, and the commandments in Leviticus serve as a re-minder to the people of the gravity of their actions. God has set the regulations in place as not a burden but a guide for how to live a holy life in community with Him and others.



Leviticus 16:15-16

15 Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: 16 And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

III. ATONEMENT FOR THE HOLY PLACE

Leviticus 16:17-19

One purpose of the Day of Atonement was to cleanse the tabernacle of the uncleanness introduced into it by the unclean worshippers. The rituals we see here allowed for God's continual presence among His people.

For the second time, the high priest enters the Holy of Holies and sprinkles the blood of the goat on and in front of the mercy seat and over the altar. Now we see that he is atoning not only for the people, but also the place itself. For both Jews and Christians, it is no longer the Old Testament Temple or tabernacle, but our entire beings that are the tabernacles in which God dwells. For Christians, the sacrifice of Jesus atoned for our sins and cleansed our tabernacles-our bodies, souls, and spirits-in the sight of God.

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III. ATONEMENT FOR THE HOLY PLACE

Yom Kippur

Leviticus 16:17-19

Leviticus 16:17-19

17 And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel. 18 And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about. 19 And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.

These verses provide a summary of the rituals outlined in more detail in the previous verses, with the additional proviso that the high priest must be completely alone even in the outer sanctuary when he atones for himself and the people. The following verses provide the remainder of the observances for Yom Kippur, including the transfer of the community's sins to the scapegoat and the fast and Sabbath from work observed by the people. Although the animal sacrifice portions of the holy day were abandoned after the destruction of the Second Temple (70 AD), fasting and refraining from work on Yom Kippur remain central to Jewish tradition as a reminder of human inability to remain completely sinless.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

God's Holiness

Rather than pointing to a God who requires animal sacrifices, Yom Kippur assures the faithful that despite human transgressions, it is possible to rectify our relationship with God. God is Holy, and Yom Kippur serves as a reminder of His holiness in the midst of human sin.

BIBLE APPLICATION

AIM: We will know that believers accept that God wants His people to understand that sin defiles them and separates them from Him.

BIBLE APPLICATION

All too often Christians struggle with the notion of forgiveness. They say that they know God has forgiven. They insist that they know that God's Word is true and that they understand that Jesus' death on the Cross paid the debt for their sins. However, they struggle under the burden of guilt and shame from what they have done in the past. This sense of shame hampers our praise, inhibits our prayers, and prevents us from being able to worship God in spirit and truth. We must remember that this uncertainty is only a trick of the enemy. Paul called them "the fiery darts of the wicked" (from [Ephesians 6:16](#)). Satan wants us to believe God does not fully love and accept us. Nothing could be further from the truth. When the blood of Jesus was shed on Calvary, the punishment for all our sins was paid once and for all. He died so that we might be worthy to stand in the presence of God – forever, and never be separated from His presence again.

STUDENT RESPONSES

AIM: We will know to acknowledge theirs in, and
repent, and make atonement.

STUDENT RESPONSES

God provided the Day of Atonement so that His flawed and often sinful people could "by the mercies of God, present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship" (from [Romans 12:1, ESV](#)). Pray and ask God to help you in this area. Commit to believing that not only does God love and accept you the way you are, but more importantly, He is ready to use you without hesitation or exception. Tell God that you are ready for Him to use you, today.

Prayer

Precious Lord,

We are truly grateful that You forgive us of our sins and love us. We thank You for your grace that covers us and allows us to try again. We love You and We adore!

In Jesus' Name we pray.

Amen.

Next Sunday
February 22, 2026
Lesson 12
The Feast of Booths
Leviticus 23:33-43