

WORKSHOP: How to Read the Bible without Studying it (and why you should...)

Benefits of Reading the Bible:

Goals for Reading the Bible:

Tips for to Reading the Bible:

Specifics on Leviticus

Context: Leviticus was written by Moses with mostly direct quotes from God to the Israelites. After the Israelites were freed from Egypt and Pharaoh, God led them to the foot of Mt. Sinai, where He proposed a covenant with them, whereby He would be their God and they would be His people. The people accepted that covenant, which included a legal code. The book of Exodus ends with the people building the Tabernacle exactly to the specifications God gave and God coming to dwell among them. The book of Leviticus includes detailed instructions for the Israelites on how to dwell with a holy God.

When you read Leviticus, keep in mind that none of the prescribed sacrifices are going on today and they haven't been since 70 A.D., when the Temple was destroyed.

Outline:

- I. Instructions for the Offerings (Leviticus 1:1 - 7:38)
- II. Instructions for the Priests (Leviticus 8:1 - 10:20)
- III. Instructions for the People (Leviticus 11:1 - 15:33)
- IV. Instructions for the Altar / the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:1 - 16:34)
- V. More Instructions for the People (Leviticus 17:1 - 20:27)
- VI. More Instructions for the Priests (Leviticus 21:1 - 22:33)
- VII. Appointed Times of the Lord (Leviticus 23:1 - 23:44)
- VIII. Other Instructions (Leviticus 24:1 - 27:34)

Some options:

1. Read once
 - a. If you read one chapter a day, you could read the entire book in 27 days.
 - b. If you read for 15 minutes a day, you could read the entire book in about a week.
 - c. If you read in one sitting, it would take you about 2 hours to read the entire book.
2. Read Repetitively: Aim to read (quickly!) through the entire book several times this summer. Perhaps choose different translations for each reading.
3. Personal study: As you read, consider the following:
 - a. What does this teach me about God, His opinions, and His standards?
 - b. How does this increase my understanding and appreciation of what Christ did for me?
 - c. What do I learn about holiness and approaching a holy God?
 - d. What do I learn about true repentance? What do I learn about restitution--what God expects us to do to make amends when we harm someone?
 - e. What is repeated? Where does God use strong language?
 - f. What has God been bringing to my attention and how can I respond?
4. Form a Discussion group...Recruit friends to read with you and discuss periodically.