

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

The guide is a companion to the *Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*, “Leviticus,” Vol. 3 (2014), by Dr. Jay Sklar, abbreviated throughout as “TOTC.” You will need a copy of the commentary to use this study. The commentary is available at Amazon.com and other publishers. (Note: Jay has also written a longer commentary on Leviticus that will be published by Zondervan; this study assumes you have the InterVarsity Press TOTC commentary.)

Individual and Group Study

The study guide is designed to facilitate a weekly individual and group study. Although you can work through this study of Leviticus on your own, we strongly recommend that you participate with a small group of friends in your church community. If you’re not a Christian, or if you don’t have a church family, we recommend that you complete the study with a few Christian friends. God has revealed his word to us as a people, not as individuals, so he desires that we come to know him better and grow deeper in relationship with him as part of a community. From a practical perspective, working through this study and growing deeper in your understanding of a difficult book such as Leviticus will be much easier and more rewarding if you pursue it with others. However, if you choose to do the study on your own, the questions in the Group Study will certainly enrich your time by adding to or reinforcing the applications in the Individual Study.

Course of Study

This guide is designed generally to facilitate a 29-week study period, working through the commentary Introduction and each chapter or section of Leviticus, roughly one chapter/section per week. The 29-week study will take most groups a year to complete, from September through May. For groups not able to accommodate a full 29-week study, we’ve designed a number of shorter topical studies of 12 weeks. Consult “Options for Study Series” further below if your group is interested in pursuing one of these shorter studies.

Weekly Readings

Each week, the guide will direct you to read a passage of Leviticus for that lesson. We recommend that you read the passage at least twice and take notes on any questions you may have. Because the historical, cultural, and literary context of a Scripture passage (or any text) is so important to understanding its meaning, the study guide will also direct you to read a “Context” section in the commentary relating to the passage and sometimes background readings in the commentary’s Introduction. Then, as you begin working through questions in the study guide, you will be directed to read “Comment” sections in the commentary relating to specific verses in the passage. Some students may benefit from reading the entire commentary section corresponding to the Leviticus passage for that lesson and then re-reading specific “Context,” “Comment,” and Introduction sections as directed by each part of the lesson.

Individual Study

The first part of each lesson is the Individual Study, divided into three sections.

- The “Engage” section connects the lesson’s key theme with your life through an initial reflection question. It then directs you to the Scripture, “Context,” and Introduction readings.

- The “Understand” section leads you through a series of questions to reinforce information you have learned from the Scripture and commentary “Comment” readings.
- The “Apply/Respond” section helps you apply what you have learned in Leviticus to the New Testament and to life in general. In particular, the prompts to “Meditate” and “Take Action” help move your new learning from your head to your heart and hands.

The Individual Study will take an hour or so of your time each week. Some students may benefit most from a single study session. Others may choose to break the Individual Study into two or more sessions. You can also divide it into three sessions, for example, with the “Engage” section as session one, “Understand” as session two, and “Apply/Respond” as session three.

Group Study

The second part of the each lesson is the Group Study. Each lesson is meant to facilitate a group meeting time of about 50 minutes. The lessons provide suggested time allocations for each part of the Group Study. You can adjust these times, of course, for your particular needs, such as fellowship, prayer, or worship. You’ll notice the directions on the first page of each Group Study are the same for each lesson. This is meant to provide a consistent rhythm across the lessons. But you should feel free to modify any of these elements to meet specific desires for your group. Some groups, for example, may prefer to have spontaneous opening prayer, rather than using the prayer suggested in the lesson. Some groups may prefer to not break into pairs to share reflections from the Individual Study; others may decide not to share reflections at all.

The application questions in the Group Study typically differ from those in the Individual Study. In some cases, however, they are meant to enhance and reinforce certain application questions from the Individual Study.

The Group Study ends with a prompt called “Evaluate” or “Create.” These are meant to give your group “action items” for application beyond your gathering times. These are merely suggestions related to each particular lesson; your group should feel free to modify them in ways that may be more pertinent to your group, community or church.

May the Lord richly bless your study of Leviticus!

OPTIONS FOR STUDY SERIES

The table below describes seven 12-week study series for churches or small groups that are not able to complete the full 29-lesson series in this Study Guide:

1. **Jesus in Leviticus**
2. **The Gospel in Leviticus**
3. **Holiness in Leviticus**
4. **Sacrifice and Worship in Leviticus**
5. **Community and Ministry in Leviticus**
6. **Ethics and Mission in Leviticus**
7. **Understanding Leviticus**

Wk	Topic	Title of Lesson	Lesson
Jesus in Leviticus			
1	Jesus and the return to Eden	Context, Theology, Special Issues, and Jesus' Fulfillment of Leviticus	Introduction
2	Jesus' atoning sacrifice	The Burnt Offering	Lev 1
3	Jesus' purifying sacrifice	The Purification Offering	Lev 4
4	Celebrating Jesus in the Lord's Supper	The Fellowship Offering	Lev 3
5	Honoring Jesus in the Lord's Supper	Proper Worship: Fellowship Offerings	Lev 7:11-38
6	The body of Christ as God's holy temple	The Reparation Offering	Lev 5:14-6:7
7	Jesus as our great high priest	Ordination of the Priests for Public Worship	Lev 8
8	Confidence before God in Jesus our high priest	The Day of Atonement	Lev 16
9	Responding to the glory of Jesus	The Beginning of Public Worship and the Lord's Appearance in Glory	Lev 9
10	Honoring the holiness of Jesus	Commands for the Priests and People to Revere the Lord's Holy Sacrifices	Lev 22
11	Identifying ourselves as Jesus' followers	Laws on Pure and Impure Creatures and How Israel is to Relate to Them	Lev 11
12	Signs of the new covenant in Jesus	Covenant Blessings and Curses	Lev 26

Wk	Topic	Title of Lesson	Lesson
The Gospel in Leviticus			
1	Introductory matters	Context, Theology, Special Issues, and Jesus' Fulfillment of Leviticus	Introduction
2	Holiness	Proper Worship: Purification and Reparation Offerings	Lev 6:24-7:10
3	Holiness	Laws on Pure and Impure Creatures and How Israel is to Relate to Them	Lev 11
4	Holiness	Commands for Priests and the People to Revere the Lord's Holy Sacrifices	Lev 22
5	Sin	Laws on the Ritual Status and Treatment of Skin Diseases and Infestations of Garments and Homes	Lev 13-14
6	Sin	Consequences for Illicit Sexual and Spiritual Practices	Lev 20
7	Sin	The Lord's Judgment on Unfaithful Priests, His Warning to Aaron, and Aaron's Faithfulness	Lev 10
8	Forgiveness	The Purification Offering	Lev 4
9	Repentance	Proper Worship: Burnt and Grain Offerings	Lev 6:8-23
10	Atonement	The Burnt Offering	Lev 1
11	Atonement	The Day of Atonement	Lev 16
12	Mission	The Lord's Holy Practices for His Holy People	Lev 19
Holiness in Leviticus			
1	Introductory matters	Context, Theology, Special Issues, and Jesus' Fulfillment of Leviticus	Introduction
2	Respecting the Lord's holy things	The Reparation Offering	Lev 5:14-6:7
3	Respecting the Lord's holy things	Commands for Priests and the People to Revere the Lord's Holy Sacrifices	Lev 22
4	High standard of holiness for leaders	Commands for Priests to Revere the Lord's Holy Things	Lev 21
5	Spiritual leaders modeling holiness	Proper Worship: Burnt and Grain Offerings	Lev 6:8-23
6	The holy priesthood of believers	Ordination of the Priests for Public Worship	Lev 8

Wk	Topic	Title of Lesson	Lesson
7	Pursuing moral purity as Jesus' followers	Laws on Pure and Impure Creatures and How Israel is to Relate to Them	Lev 11
8	Holiness in the midst of our culture	Proper Worship: Purification and Reparation Offerings	Lev 6:24-7:10
9	Purifying ourselves in the world	Further Laws on Ritually Defiling Body Fluids	Lev 15
10	Moral impurity spreading in the community	Laws on the Ritual Status and Treatment of Skin Diseases and Infestations of Garments and Homes	Lev 13-14
11	Temptation to overlook sin in the community	Consequences for Illicit Sexual and Spiritual Practices	Lev 20
12	Holiness in ethics and mission	The Lord's Holy Practices for His Holy People	Lev 19
Sacrifice and Worship in Leviticus			
1	Introductory matters	Context, Theology, Special Issues, and Jesus' Fulfillment of Leviticus	Introduction
2	Burnt offering	The Burnt Offering	Lev 1
3	Grain offering	The Grain Offering	Lev 2
4	Fellowship offering	The Fellowship Offering	Lev 3
5	Purification offering	The Purification Offering	Lev 4
6	Purification offering	The Purification Offering – Part 2	Lev 5:1-13
7	Reparation offering	The Reparation Offering	Lev 5:14-6:7
8	Proper worship	Proper Worship: Burnt and Grain Offerings	Lev 6:8-23
9	Proper worship	Proper Worship: Purification and Reparation Offerings	Lev 6:24-7:10
10	Proper worship	Proper Worship: Fellowship Offerings	Lev 7:11-38
11	Proper worship	Beginning of Public Worship and the Lord's Appearance in Glory	Lev 9
12	Day of Atonement	The Day of Atonement	Lev 16
Community and Ministry in Leviticus			

Wk	Topic	Title of Lesson	Lesson
1	Introductory matters	Context, Theology, Special Issues, and Jesus' Fulfillment of Leviticus	Introduction
2	Gathering together in the Lord's presence	Ordination of the Priests for Public Worship	Lev 8
3	The Lord's Supper and shared covenant meals	The Fellowship Offering	Lev 3
4	Community, Sabbath, and the Lord's Supper	Observing the Lord's Holy Times	Lev 23
5	Worship, dedicating children, caring for needy	Laws Concerning Dedication and Redemption of Persons or Property Vowed to the Lord	Lev 27
6	Caring for others in community	Laws on Ritual Impurity Through Loss of Blood in Childbirth	Lev 12
7	Honoring leaders and helping them lead	Proper Worship: Fellowship Offerings	Lev 7:11-38
8	Helping our leaders live holy lives	Commands for Priests to Revere the Lord's Holy Things	Lev 21
9	Ministering in areas of sexual morality (part 1)	Laws Against Certain Sex and Worship Practices	Lev 18
10	Ministering in areas of sexual morality (part 2)	Consequences for Illicit Sexual and Spiritual Practices	Lev 20
11	Healing ministries in Jesus' cleansing of sin	The Purification Offering	Lev 4
12	Manifesting Jesus and blessing others	Beginning of Public Worship and the Lord's Appearance in Glory	Lev 9
Ethics and Mission in Leviticus			
1	Introductory matters	Context, Theology, Special Issues, and Jesus' Fulfillment of Leviticus	Introduction
2	Blessing those who treat us poorly	Beginning of Public Worship and the Lord's Appearance in Glory	Lev 9
3	Leading others into sin, impairment of judgment	The Lord's Judgment on Unfaithful Priests, His Warning to Aaron, and Aaron's Faithfulness	Lev 10
4	Advocating for the poor and powerless	The Purification Offering – Part 2	Lev 5:1-13
5	Sexual ethics in the Church	Consequences for Illicit Sexual and Spiritual Practices	Lev 20
6	Protecting the sexually vulnerable in society	Laws Against Certain Sex and Worship Practices	Lev 18

Wk	Topic	Title of Lesson	Lesson
7	The care we owe to God for all forms of life	The Proper Use of Sacrifice and Proper Use of Animals' Lifeblood	Lev 17
8	Caring for the earth, God's good creation	Covenant Blessings and Curses	Lev 26
9	Providing for the needy, removing economic barriers to worship	Laws Concerning Dedication and Redemption of Persons or Property Vowed to the Lord	Lev 27
10	Economic equity and fighting modern slavery	Laws for the Sabbath and Jubilee Years and for Redeeming People and Property	Lev 25
11	Ethics, immigration, and treatment of elders	The Lord's Holy Practices for His Holy People	Lev 19
12	Advocating for justice around the world	Continual Rites in the Holy Place and Revering the Lord's Holy Name	Lev 24
Understanding Leviticus			
1	Introductory matters	Context, Theology, Special Issues, and Jesus' Fulfillment of Leviticus	Introduction
2	Sacrifice	The Burnt Offering	Lev 1
3	Sacrifice	The Fellowship Offering	Lev 3
4	Sacrifice	The Purification Offering	Lev 4
5	Sacrifice	The Reparation Offering	Lev 5:14-6:7
6	Priests	Ordination of the Priests for Public Worship	Lev 8
7	Purity	Further Laws on Ritually Defiling Body Fluids	Lev 15
8	Day of Atonement	The Day of Atonement	Lev 16
9	Living as a kingdom of priests: worship and sexuality	Laws Against Certain Sex and Worship Practices	Lev 18
10	Living as a kingdom of priests: worship and sexuality	Consequences for Illicit Sexual and Spiritual Practices	Lev 20
11	Living as a kingdom of priests: ethics and God's mission	The Lord's Holy Practices for His Holy People	Lev 19

Wk	Topic	Title of Lesson	Lesson
12	Living as a kingdom of priests: ethics and God's mission	Covenant Blessings and Curses	Lev 26