

TERM 1, 2026



THE HOLY ONE
comes near

A SERIES IN LEVITICUS

DNA BOOKLET

TERM OVERVIEW

At the end of last year, I sat down to have a quick look through Leviticus, knowing we'd be preaching on it in Term 1 next year. Within about 10 minutes, I thought, *"What have I done? Why on earth did I suggest this?"*

Leviticus is a somewhat dense and very foreign book to us, but as I've spent some of the summer holidays going deeper into it, I've realised it's more like a blessing in disguise. It's disguised as a dull, awkward and slightly squeamish book, but is in fact packed full of rich goodness.

I hope this term in Leviticus will take you much deeper into the heart of the Holy God who comes near to us in Christ, our great high priest and atoning sacrifice.

James Ritchie
Preaching & Mission Pastor



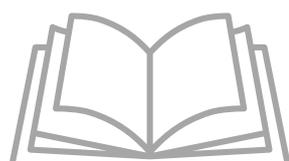
HOW TO BE GROWING FOLLOWERS OF JESUS AS YOU STUDY GOD'S WORD...

IN COMMUNITY



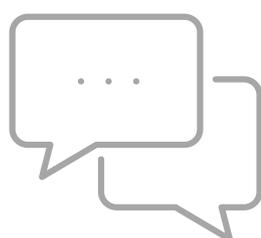
It's good to study the Bible by yourself but it's even better to do it with friends. Bible study is best when it happens in the context of community. Bible study shouldn't be just an unrelated add-on to the rest of your busy life, it should be an essential part of an integrated whole—Christian friends doing what Christian friends do. There are two key ways we should be making use of God's word in community: "word to life" and "life to word".

WORD TO LIFE



When we study the Bible together we're letting God set the agenda. That's very important! We listen to God speak in the Bible, we work hard to help each other understand exactly what he's saying, and then together we apply what God is saying to our lives in the confidence that our loving Creator and Redeemer knows what's best for us. The important thing to remember is that we actually need each other throughout this whole process. It's great to study the Bible together!

LIFE TO WORD



The second crucial way that we should be making use of the Bible in community is in day-to-day conversation, starting with the everyday happenings of our lives and applying the gospel to those situations. The great thing is that the better we get at moving from "word to life", the better we'll get at moving from "life to word" and the more our communities will be shaped by the gospel of Jesus! So enjoy—make the most of it—and let's watch as God shapes us to be more and more like his glorious Son!

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

What do people generally think of Leviticus?

In the series we will cover sacrifice (1-7), priesthood (8-10), cleanliness and uncleanness (11-15), atonement (16), holiness ethics (17-22), sabbath and rhythms of rest (23-25) and covenant (26-27). How are you feeling about doing a series in Leviticus? Circle all that are true of you.

*Excited Eager A bit ho-hum Uncomfortable Nervous Keen to learn
Expecting confusion Expecting irrelevance Expecting God to work
Other/s _____*

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...



READ GENESIS 3:22-24 (EDEN), 4:12-16 (CAIN) AND EXODUS 32:30-33:3 (GOLDEN CALF)

1. In these passages what are the consequences for sin against God? Especially look out for any related to presence/relating with God.

2. Why does sin have these sorts of consequences? What does it mean for our relating to God today?



READ EXODUS 19:9-25

3. When God's glory descended at Mt Sinai what sort of limits were there around relating to him? What does this also show us about God?



READ EXODUS 40:34-38

4. What does it say about God's presence with his people? Why is this so surprising given their continued sin and rebellion?



READ LEVITICUS 1:1-4

5. Notice that Leviticus 1 follows directly from Exodus 40 and that God speaks to Moses from the tent of meeting. What message does he provide? How is it significant in view of the earlier passages we've looked at?

Nurture & Apply: the "NA" in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God's word...

6. The heart of Leviticus is about God coming near and providing a way for sinful people to be in relationship with him. Ultimately, we see the fulfilment of that in his Son, the 'Holy One of God" (John 6:69), who became one of us and made atonement for us through the sacrifice of himself (Heb 2:17). How might today's study, plus our coming series in Leviticus, help us more deeply appreciate the gift of Jesus?

7. Take a few minutes to write a short prayer for yourself as you come to God's word in Leviticus this year. Share the prayers with each other afterwards.

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

How might Old Testament animal sacrifices be perceived by your friends, work colleagues etc.? What might you say to them about the sacrifices?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...



READ LEVITICUS 1

1. [Quick starter Question] Who speaks first in Leviticus and what does this tell us about who initiates access to God?

2. Leviticus 1-7 outlines different types of sacrifices, the burnt offering (ch. 1), grain offering (ch. 2), peace offering (ch. 3), sin offering (ch. 4-5:13) and guilt offering (ch. 5:14-6:7). The burnt, sin and guilt offerings are done to 'make atonement' (1:4, 4:26, 5:16). What does this mean and why is it significant?

3. What is the significance of the offeror laying his hand on the animal?

4. In ancient Near East cultures meals together were a powerful expression of unity and bond. They sealed and celebrated covenants (e.g. Exodus 24:9-11) and expressed reconciliation and peace (e.g. Genesis 26:26-31, Genesis 31:44-54). In Leviticus 6:11-18 the peace offering is eaten by the offeror, along with friends and family. What might this meal express? What could the emotional or personal experience be like for those eating it?

5. Why do you think there are multiple sacrifices rather than just one? What, together, might they symbolise?



READ HEBREWS 10:1-14 (or 10:11-14 if time is short)

6. What do we learn about the sacrifices? How are they ultimately fulfilled for us?

7. Revelation 19:6-9 describes the “wedding supper of the lamb”. How might this promise take on fresh significance in view of the significance of meals in the ancient Near East.

Nurture & Apply: the “NA” in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God’s word...

8. If God’s goal in Leviticus is restored fellowship with his people, what would it look like for you to live this week as someone welcomed into God’s presence?

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

What makes something feel serious or sacred in everyday life today (e.g. weddings, courtrooms, ANZAC Day, funerals)?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...



READ LEVITICUS 9:1-10:3

1. Leviticus 9:1-21 describes the atonement of the priests and people before God's glory appears. Why is it necessary for atonement to be made for both?
2. What is so significant about 9:22-24, especially in view of passages like Exodus 19:21-24, 33:3-7 and 40:34-38?
3. How does this event show the powerful effect of God's provision of atonement through sacrifice (given in Leviticus 1-7 and enacted in 9:1-21)?

4. What immediately follows the appearing of God's glory (10:1-3)? Why does God act so decisively at this moment in salvation history?

5. How does this whole passage hold together joy, fear, grace and holiness?

6. Why does God give so many detailed instructions about approaching and worshipping him instead of simply saying "be sincere"?

7. In Hebrews 9:11-14 how does Jesus both remove the need for repeated sacrifices and also magnify the absolute holiness and sacredness of God?

Nurture & Apply: the "NA" in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God's word...

8. What things does the passage reveal about God and relating to him that we might be quick to overlook in our Christian culture today? Where might you in particular need to have your attitude or perspective shifted?

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

When you hear the words 'clean' and 'unclean', what ideas or emotions come to mind? Where do you think those responses come from?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...



READ LEVITICUS 11:1-8, 39-47

1. What reasons are given in 11:44-47 for the rules about cleanliness?
2. How does 15:31 help to further explain God's purpose in giving these rules?
3. How is uncleanness different to sin (both in what it is and what its consequences are)? Why is this distinction important?
4. Chapters 11-15 deal with very normal aspects of life including eating, childbirth, illness, mould and bodily discharges. Why do you think God is concerned with such ordinary realities, not just clearly spiritual matters?

5. Much of chapters 1-15 focus on how to bring about restoration to community and to God's presence (through washing, waiting and sacrifice). Why might the restoration focus of these chapters often be overlooked and what does it say about God's character?



READ HEBREWS 9:6-14

6. How do these verses help explain why the purity laws existed and what they ultimately pointed forward to?



READ MARK 1:40-46

7. How does the presence of Jesus, God's son, reverse the direction of how uncleanness worked?

Nurture & Apply: the "NA" in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God's word...

8. We are still called to live holy lives today, do you need to separate yourself from others to do that, or come close to them?

9. Hebrews says Christ cleanses the conscience, not just the body. How is that good news when it comes to the way you respond to guilt, shame, or a sense of "spiritual uncleanness"?

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

What does 'atone' or 'atonement' mean in our culture? When is the word used?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...



READ LEVITICUS 16

Note that questions 1-6 are comprehension questions.

Aim to work through them fairly quickly before spending more time on the later questions.

1. What procedure must be followed by the high priest to enter the most holy place?
2. What is the bull sacrificed for? (vv11-14)
3. What is the first goat sacrificed for? (vv15-19)
4. What happens to the second goat and what does this symbolise? (vv20-22)
5. What further sacrifices are offered and why (vv23-28)?
6. What further sacrifices are offered and why (vv23-28)?

7. How does Genesis 3:20-24 help us understand Leviticus 16 (both in terms of clothing and exile)?



READ HEBREWS 9:23-10:4, 10:19-20

8. Compare with Leviticus 16 in the following areas:

- The nature of the holy place
- The quality of the priest
- Frequency of sacrifices
- Effectiveness of the sacrifices
- The level of access to God

Nurture & Apply: the "NA" in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God's word...

9. When we continue to sin, how confident can we be about our acceptance before God?

10. How can we help each other to live with confidence and assurance in Jesus' atonement? Are there specific things you could do, or could ask someone else to do for you?



You might have heard of the Quiet Revival - a renewed interest in Christianity in the West. But superstition is making a comeback too! Christianity is competing with Witch-Tok, Tarot and Psychic readings in this supposedly modern age.

So, what's driving this interest in the "transcendent"? What are the risks in looking for spiritual answers outside of Jesus? And how does the gospel both dispel superstition AND offer true meaning and purpose to a society looking for something "more"?

Learn more at our Equip night!
Tuesday 17th March
7:30pm @ Park Ave

Kick-off: before jumping into God's WORD, it's worth taking a few minutes to reflect on your own thoughts and attitudes and on the thoughts and attitudes you encounter in the WORLD...

How do you manage your time? Work, rest, play? Do you have a philosophy that governs your choices or is it mostly haphazard?

Discover: the "D" in DNA stands for DISCOVER. It's now time to read God's word and discover what God wants to teach us and why it matters...



READ LEVITICUS 23

1. Which aspects of the festivals help the people remember what God has done? Which anticipate what he will do in the future?
2. How would the festivals together help to reinforce and shape community identity?
3. How do the Sabbath and festivals shape Israel's understanding of time as something God owns rather than something people manage?



READ LEVITICUS 25

4. What does this chapter reveal about God's heart for his land and his people?

5. Leviticus 25 highlights repeatedly that both the people and the land belong to God. How might this challenge our ideas of ownership, freedom and stewardship?

6. How difficult would it have been for the Israelites to trust the Lord by resting, cancelling debts and showing kindness to the poor?



READ LUKE 4:16-21

7. How does Jesus bring in the ultimate Jubilee?

Nurture & Apply: the "NA" in DNA stands for Nurture & Apply. These questions are designed to help us care for each other and live out God's word...

5. Where do you feel the greatest pressure at the moment to ignore rest or trust?

6. How might a community embody the values of Jubilee without replicating the laws directly?

08

The Holy One Comes Near





SOUTHERN CROSS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PRINTED JANUARY 2026