

OT JESUS



March 11-17

Introduction

As 21st century people, we're removed from the Bible's context in many ways and that distance can make our view of Jesus a bit fuzzy. Old Testament (OT) Jesus looks more closely at the connection between Jesus' life and the OT.

Open (Get comfortable talking with each other)

- 1) What is your favorite smell?
- 2) What was something from Sunday's sermon that stuck with you?

Discover (Open the Bible to see how truth meets life.)

- 1) "The very first thing described in the book of Leviticus is an animal sacrifice to the Lord, call the burnt offering (43)." Read Leviticus 1:1-17. What does atonement mean (4)? How does God respond to the faithfulness demonstrated through a burnt offering (9, 13, & 17)? Without a sacrificial system, how does God respond to you?

In the Jesus Prequel, Eric Smith writes, "The burnt offering (Leviticus 1) is a means of expressing total devotion to Yahweh, whereas the purification offering (Leviticus 4) is primarily for atonement, or cleansing (i.e., purification) (46)."

- 2) Read Leviticus 4:4-7. Where was the blood distributed from the sin offering? What is being cleansed?

"Since God is a holy God living amongst an unholy people, a process has to be put into place whereby God's house can be kept clean (47)."

- 3) If the temple is cleansed by sacrifice, what is done with the sin of the people? Read Leviticus 16:20-22. Why does God use this visual picture to remove sin? How could this illustration be updated with a modern flair?
- 4) Read Hebrews 10:1-4. If the Old Testament sacrifices could not provide total forgiveness, why did God institute that system for 1,500 years? God had a plan to introduce Jesus to the world.
- 5) Jesus is cleansing us to prepare us to be his holy temple. Read I Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. Knowing you are the holy temple in the NT, does anything need to change in your life as the vessel of God?

Close (Look at the person in the mirror and decide to make a change.)

Make a commitment to strengthen your attachment to Jesus. The Bible describes multiple ways to draw close to Jesus. You could read the Bible, pray, serve, meditate on scripture, fast, study, practice simplicity, be submissive, step away for some solitude with Jesus, confess your faults, celebrate God, or worship to name a few. This week decide to obey his commands, study God's Word, meet with other Christians for times of fellowship and prayer, and devote yourself completely to Jesus.

Quotes taken from *Jesus Prequel* by Eric Smith.