

# Take Time to Be Holy

Lesson 3

## Priests Working for the Lord

Theme: Obedience—Following God’s commands carefully

### Memory Verse

“I am the Lord. I brought you up out of Egypt to be your God. So be holy, because I am holy.”

Leviticus 11:45

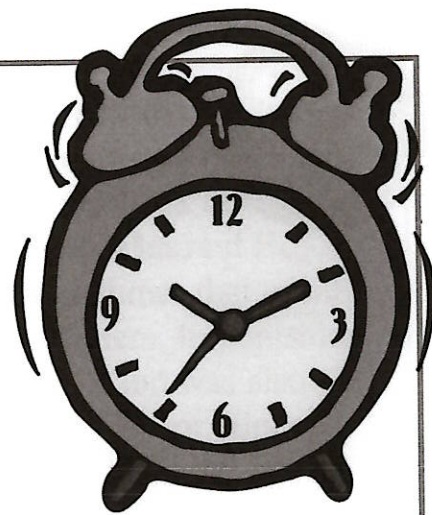
### Daily Bible Readings

- 1 Leviticus 6:8-18
- 2 Leviticus 8:1-13
- 3 Leviticus 8:22-30
- 4 Leviticus 9:1-7, 22-24
- 5 Leviticus 10:1-11

**G**od is in heaven, and people are on earth. God is big, great, and high; people are small, weak, and low. Yet, God made people to be His people. He also helps them be what He created them to be. For the people of Israel, God gave sacrifices and priests to help them be holy. God appointed Moses’ brother Aaron and Aaron’s family to be Israel’s priests. God set these men apart and helped them be holy so they could help others be holy.

### Priests Helped People Make Sacrifices

God gave His people priests to help them make sacrifices. God gave instructions about how priests were to dress when they did their work. The priests’ clothes were to be made of gold, blue, and purple cloth “for glory and for beauty.” When they came before God in the tabernacle, the priests were to dress



After this lesson you should be able to ...

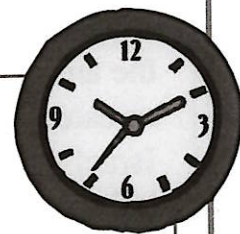
- Describe at least three responsibilities of the priests in making offerings
- Tell how Moses made Aaron and his sons ready to be priests
- Tell what Nadab and Abihu did to displease God

### Leviticus 6:8-18

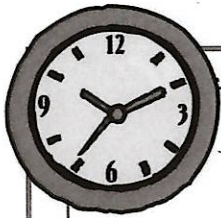
*Cross out the incorrect answer.*

When a burnt offering was given the priest had to a) keep the fire burning all night, b) change their clothes, c) scatter the ashes over the hearth.

What was done with the part of the grain offering that was not offered up to God?







**Leviticus 8:1-13**

Look up the word “consecrate” and write a definition here in your own words.

*Cross out the incorrect answer.*

Before Aaron and his sons made sacrifices for others, what did Moses help them do?

- a) wash themselves, b) make a speech,
- c) put on special clothes

instructions in offering animal sacrifices for Aaron and his sons, and in helping them get ready to serve as priests for Israel. To do this, Moses took blood from a ram and put it on Aaron’s right ear lobe, right thumb, and right big toe. Moses also did the same thing for Aaron’s sons. This action was likely to teach the men to use their ears to listen to God, their hands to do God’s work, and their feet to walk in God’s way. When Aaron and his sons were set apart to serve Israel, God’s glory appeared to all people and He sent fire to burn up all the sacrifices.

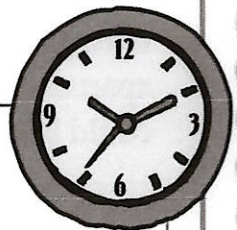
Once Moses helped Aaron and his sons be separated for God’s work, they were ready to help others with their sacrifices. A person making a sacrifice would bring an animal to the tabernacle. He would lay his hand on the head of the animal and then kill it. A priest would then begin to help the person offering the sacrifice. The priest would sprinkle the animal’s blood in the right places, depending on what kind of sacrifice was being made. In some cases, the entire animal was burned on the altar. In other cases, parts of the animal were burned and other parts were given to the priests as their food or eaten by those making the offering. Israel’s priests helped God’s people be holy.

**Two Priests Disobeyed God**

Aaron and his sons were the first priests in Israel. Two of Aaron’s sons, Nadab and Abihu, disobeyed God by offering strange fire before the Lord. The fire was “strange” because it was not what God commanded. God had set the

in special clothes. When the time came for Aaron and his sons to begin their work as priests, Moses washed them with water and helped them put on the special clothes that God commanded. When a priest left the tabernacle to carry ashes outside the camp, he would take off his special clothes and wear plain clothes. God wanted priests to dress in clothes that were appropriate for their work.

Before the first priests performed their service, they first had to be made holy. Moses followed God’s



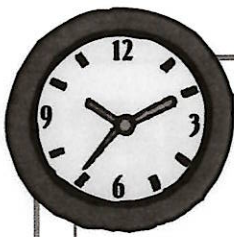
**Leviticus 8:22-30**

On what parts of Aaron’s body did Moses put some blood?

- a) head and hands, b) left ear, hand and big toe, c) right ear, hand and big toe,
- d) forehead, nose and chin

The bread-cake offering had a \_\_\_\_\_ aroma.





**Leviticus 9:1-7, 22-24**

*True or False?*

Aaron had to offer a sin offering and a burnt offering so that the glory of the Lord would appear to him.

men apart to do His special work in Israel. But they chose to do things their own way. God was not pleased with Nadab and Abihu, and He punished them with fire that came down and killed them. In punishing the men this way, God was also teaching people to honor Him and treat Him as holy.

The sin of Aaron's sons was so serious that God did not allow Moses, Aaron, or their brothers to be sorry or cry over their deaths. God did not want the men to do anything that would make people think that disobeying Him was okay. In everything the priests did, they were to help people understand the difference between what was holy and not holy, and what was clean and unclean. This would help people know how to be holy as God is holy and honor Him as He should be honored.

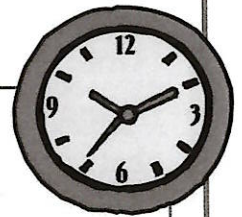
Today, Jesus is the High Priest for Christians. His work as priest is greater and better than Israel's priests. Jesus sacrificed Himself for people's sins and serves in heaven for those who believe. He is "a great High Priest over the house of God."

**Leviticus 10:1-11**

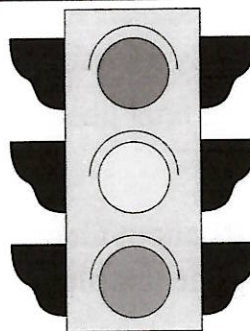
What did Nadab and Abihu do that caused their deaths?

What was Aaron not allowed to do when God consumed his sons with fire?

- a) gripe or complain, b) sit down,
- c) uncover his head or tear his clothes



I think it's too hard to be right with God.

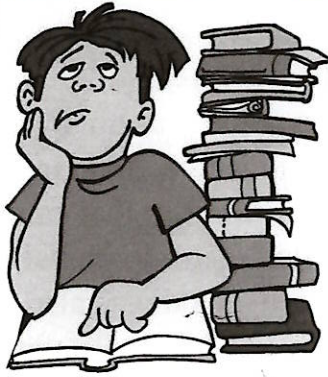


Put an X in the light that best describes you.

**Red**—not often

**Yellow**—sometimes

**Green**—all the time



## Think About It...

Suppose you say something to your good friend that hurt his feelings. You get angry and say, "You're mean and ugly, and I don't like you anymore." With these words, you hurt your friendship. If you become friends again, something has to be done about your hurtful words. You must apologize by saying, "I'm sorry. I really didn't mean what I said." Or you might send a card or give him a small gift of friendship.

Your apology, card, or gift would be a way to express that you are sorry and you want to be friends again. These acts "atone" for your hurtful words and make it possible for you to be friends again. "Atonement" works something like this in our relationship with God.

"Atonement" means something is done to make people friends with God. Sin comes between people and God. Sacrifices are offerings for sins to bring sinners back together with God. In Old Testament times, God provided and accepted animal sacrifices to "make atonement" for people's sins. Priests had special work in making sacrifices for others to help them be right with God.

In a dictionary, look up the meaning of the word "atonement." Discuss the meaning of "atonement" with your parents. In your own words, write a definition of "atonement" in the space that follows.

## Take Time for Bible Facts

Right here, right now, write Galatians 5:22-23 from memory.

Which book of the Old Testament tells about God's people returning to Jerusalem and rebuilding the temple?

On a map inside the back cover, mark Canaan, Jerusalem, and the Jordan River with a small O.

