



## Open it

1. Describe a time when you felt relieved of a stressful situation.

## Daily Devotions

### Day 1

#### Today's Theme: Explore It

Read Hebrews 9:1–14

2. What all was included in the tent the priests would go into to offer sacrifices?
3. Why do priests use the first section?
4. Why does the high priest use the second section?
5. What can't the gifts and sacrifices do?
6. What did Jesus secure that other sacrifices didn't?

## Day 2

### Today's Theme: Holy, Holy, Holy

#### Read Hebrews 9:1–5

I remember when I was younger, if there was something that I needed to do when I woke up, I would sleep without a pillow and I put my pillow by my door. When I woke up that morning, the pillow served as a reminder for whatever it was I needed to do. In this passage, the author of Hebrews is describing the tent where God has set up many reminders for Israel so that they remember who God is and what He's done.

Inside the ark were the golden pot that had the manna (Exodus 16:33), Aaron's rod that budded (Numbers 17:6–11), and the tablets of the covenant (Exodus 25:16).

- The manna reminded Israel of God's provision and their ungratefulness.
- Aaron's rod reminded Israel of their rebellion against God's authority.
- The tablets of the covenant reminded Israel of their failure to keep the Ten Commandments and rest of the law.<sup>1</sup>

7. What are things that remind you of who God is and what He has done for you?

8. Why is it important to remember who God is and what He has done?

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<sup>1</sup>Enduring Word Bible Commentary. <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/hebrews-9/>

### **Day 3**

#### **Today's Theme: Lord, I Need You**

#### **Read Hebrews 9:6–10**

Sin is a big deal. A deadly deal. Romans 6:23 tells us that the wages, or what is earned, of sin is death. We learn in this passage as well as throughout the Old Testament that in order to deal with sin, sacrifices needed to be made. And we're not talking about sacrificing twenty minutes of video games or a 2-hour practice. In order to deal with sin, something or someone had to die.

Regularly, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would sprinkle the blood of a sacrificed bull and a sacrificed goat to cleanse Israel's "unintentional" sins referenced here in Hebrews 9 (Leviticus 16). Not only would the high priest make sacrifices, but Israel would also not work on this day and intentionally focus on God's forgiveness of sins.

We might wonder why God would go to such drastic measures. Can't He just forgive us and call it a day? Sin is a very serious offense to God because it is the very thing that separates us from Him. We who sin are separated from Him who is sinless. And as we are separated from Him, we are separated from all that comes from Him, including life.

**9. Sin is a very serious issue that needs to be addressed. What are some ways in which you can take sin seriously?**

**10. Does knowing that sin leads to death make sin seem more serious? Why or why not?**

## Day 4

### Today's Theme: Power in the Blood

#### Read Hebrews 9:11–14

Jesus is seriously the greatest of all time. I know that's the whole point of Hebrews, but I think it deserves to be said. We've spent the last two days talking about the seriousness of sin and how God deals with that, but that's not even close to what we do today. We don't have to because of Jesus. He took care of sin once and for all. We know the truth that Jesus died for our sins, but today's passage shows clearly why that is good news. Can you imagine if every year we still had to find someone who could sacrifice a bull and a ram so that we could be right with God? I don't know about you, but I don't have any bulls or goats to sacrifice. Jesus gave up His life, His blood, as an atonement for our sin. And since He is perfect, He only had to do this once, not every year, that secured an eternal redemption, not just a temporary placeholder. He accomplished everything that previous sacrifices couldn't, and our sin has been permanently dealt with.

**11. Why is Jesus' sacrifice so much better news than the high priest's sacrifice in the Old Testament?**

**12. Now that you know your sins have been forgiven — not just all the sins you have committed, but all the sin you will commit — how does that change how you deal with your sin?**