



Open it

1. Describe your favorite picture taken with friends or family. Who is in this picture with you? What makes this picture so meaningful? What was happening when this picture was taken?

Daily Devotions

Day 1

Today's Theme: Explore It

Read Hebrews 10:1–18

2. Why could the Old Testament sacrifices not perfect those who drew near?
3. What effect did the Old Testament sacrifices have for the people of God?
4. What are some of the main differences between Jesus' priestly service and that of every other priest?
5. What did Jesus' superior sacrifice effect?
6. Why is there no longer any offering for sin?

Day 2

Today's Theme: Repeated Sacrifices are a Reminder of Sin

Read Hebrews 10:1–10

Have you ever set a reminder to do something? Maybe it was a reminder to clean your room or finish your homework. Maybe it was a reminder of someone's birthday coming up so you didn't forget to get them a gift or send them a message. Reminders are such helpful things because they help us keep in mind the important things in life.

God gave His people different reminders so they wouldn't lose sight of the important things in life either. There were times in the Old Testament that Israel would set up some sort of memorial to remind them of when God would do something significant in their lives. After the flood, God set a rainbow in the sky to serve as a reminder that He would never again destroy the earth by flood. God has even given us reminders today. Things like communion serve as a reminder for us of what Jesus did on the cross and remind us to look forward to the day when He returns!

But another reminder God had established for His people was sacrifices. We aren't really familiar with making sacrifices on account of our sins because we now live under Jesus' final sacrifice. But under the old covenant (promise) God's people would have to make sacrifices for their sins over and over and over again. And Hebrews 10:3 teaches us that those repeated sacrifices served as "a reminder of sins every year."

It was this ongoing reminder that was meant to point God's people to the Savior that was promised to one day come.

7. What things do you set up reminders for today?

8. Why do you think it was helpful for God's people to have an ongoing reminder of their sins? Why do you think we don't have an ongoing reminder of our sins today?

Day 3

Today's Theme: A Single Sacrifice that Sanctifies

Read Hebrews 10:11–14

Contrary to the repetitive sacrifices offered under the old covenant, Jesus made one sacrifice of Himself that was done once for all. As Hebrews says, Jesus has now been seated, which no other priests would ever do while “on the clock.” They had to keep standing to keep making sacrifices over and over. But Jesus accomplished His work in total completion, perfecting those who are being sanctified.

What exactly does that mean? Well, first of all, by perfecting us, it doesn't mean that we are in the here and now perfect. Obviously, all Christians still struggle with sin in our lives. But what it means to be made perfect is that we are now granted access to God through Jesus. This is something that would never have been possible under the old covenant. Even when the sacrifices were made, no one was perfected! In perfecting us, we are now identified in Jesus' perfection and therefore given the ability to come directly to God and to know him.

But what is this sanctification thing that is mentioned here? Sanctification is one of those big, fancy theological words, but that doesn't mean it needs to scare us! Basically, what sanctification means is the process by which we are being made free or pure from sin. In other words, sanctification is the process of being purified from sin in our lives today! As we are sanctified, we become more like Jesus each and every day as we continue to find victory in Jesus over sin in our lives.

9. How does knowing that you have already been made perfect in Jesus change the way you fight sin today?

10. What battles with sin (big or small) are you fighting today? How does knowing Jesus has already made you perfect and is now purifying you from sin today change how you'll address this battle with sin?

