

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. V	Vhat things do	you set up rem	ninders for today?	?
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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	vou have alread	v been made	perfect in Jesus	s change the way v	vou 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?

Day 4

Today's Theme: Forgiven and Forgotten

Read Hebrews 10:15-18

"We've all been taught the importance of forgiving other people but that never makes it easier. Forgiving people is a difficult thing to do. As great as the ideal of "forgive and forget" is, the reality is that we struggle to truly forget what other people have done to us. Basically, what we mean when we say "forget" is that we are choosing to not bring it up again or hold their wrong over their head. But the sad thing is we take that same mentality into our relationship with God.

Oftentimes we kind of think that when God forgives our sin, the record remains but just gets placed in the background somewhere or stuffed away in storage. But the important truth of the new covenant is seen when God says, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." Have you ever thought about the fact that an omniscient (all-knowing) God has forgotten your sins? He doesn't just stuff them away. He removes them "as far as the east is from the west."

This is why we no longer have to make sacrifices over and over as a reminder of our sins. Because in Jesus our sins have been removed, we have been cleansed by the blood of Christ.

11. Even though all of our sins—past, present, and future—have been forgiven in Christ, we are still "convicted" when we sin. How would you explain the difference between being convicted and living in the guilt of your sins?

12. What things were necessary to secure your forgiveness? How does the forgiveness you have in Christ influence how you ought to forgive others?

13. While you no longer need to make ritual sacrifices for sin today, Romans 12:1 calls you to a new kind of sacrifice. What does it mean to offer your body as a living sacrifice to God? How are you currently doing that? Are there any new or greater ways God may be calling you to offer yourself as a living sacrifice to Him as your act of worship?

This study was compiled, and questions were written, by Pastors Mario Arindaeng and Jeremy Anderson and Mitch Friestad. www.villagebible.church/students