



Sermon Discussion Guide “Priests and Presence” - Tim Knipp 10-15-2023

Introduction - Note to Small Group Leaders

Chapter 9 in Leviticus is bookended by the instructions for the elements of the tabernacle and sacrifices ordination of the priests and it precedes an example of the consequences of violating the rules around God's presence. Some key ideas from this passage are:

- God's burning desire to be with his people in the midst of his perfect Holiness and the Israelites' imperfection.
- The seriousness of the need for order and obedience to the instructions surrounding God's presence reveals His Perfection and sacredness.
- The participation of Moses and the Levitical priests for Israelites to experience God's presence highlights the need for Jesus as a perfect priest.

Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week?
- Share an awe-inspiring experience with one another. What is one story from an awe-inspiring, epic experience? Ex. incredible viewpoint, a birth, a thrilling adventure, a breathtaking painting or project
- Share any stories of situations you have been in where you had to be meticulous, detail oriented, and follow instructions carefully. Maybe a high stakes situation. Did anything go wrong? In retrospect was the situation actually as critical as it seemed at the time?

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*

Ask one small group member to read **Leviticus 9:1-24** out loud (emphasizing the punctuation) while the rest of the group listens and takes it in. Then have your group members read the text to themselves.

- What do you notice about the language in this passage? What does the way it is written indicate to you about the importance of the events described?



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- What were the priest’s responsibilities in order for the Lord to appear to the people?
- Notice in v. 7 Aaron is told to make an offering for himself before acting on behalf of the people. Now read **Hebrews 4:14-16**. How are the priests and Jesus similar or different from one another?
- As we go through Leviticus this Fall, how do you wrestle with our own ideas of who you think God is, versus how He reveals Himself in Scripture?

Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what’s wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
- What does the institution of the priests at the tabernacle reveal about God?
- How does it feel to know that God desires nearness with His people wherever they are?
- In v. 24, the people saw God’s revealed Himself and His acceptance of their sacrifices as a “consuming” fire. What do you think the purpose of the manifestation of God’s presence was?
- Is a physical manifestation of God’s presence necessary now? Have you ever experienced your own profound experience of the Holy? Or does it feel like you’ve heard testimonies of others experiences but not had your own?

Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
- Where do we get caught up in rules and requirements when God wants us to see His perfect holiness and his desire to be with us?
- How does closeness with God through Jesus impact our daily lives?
- What are ways that we see God working in our lives today?



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Time of Prayer