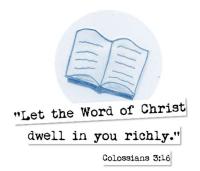
## Exodus-Deuteronomy Saved &

Set Apart

## Lesson Eight

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל Hear, O Israel יהוָה אֶלהֵינוּ the LORD our God יְהוָה אֶחָד the LORD is one

וְאָהָבְלָאָ אָת and you shall love יְהְוֶה אֶלֹהֶלְק Yahweh your God קַכָל לְבָבְךָ with all your heart זְבְכָל נְפִשְיָן with all your soul וְבְכָל מְאָדֶך אֹלָרָק





## ...Welcome...

Grace Group and Teaching Time will cover Lesson Seven - Leviticus 1-22



#### ...Grace Group ...

→ Open with prayer then recite the "Shema."

DAY	PAGE	Thinking Back to Lesson Seven
l	174	Share something you learned, loved, or were encouraged by from the previous message and/or Grace Group time.
2	177-178	Share any observations you wrote from this "flyover" day
3	179-180	#'s 2, 4, 5
4	181-182	#'s 2, 7, 8
5	183-184	#'s 2 and 8 - also share any other responses or questions you had on this day
6	185-186	#'s 2, 4, 7
7	187-188	#'s 1, 5, 7
8	189-190	#'s 2, 5, 6
9	191-192	#'s 3 and 7 - also share any other responses or questions you had on this day
10	193	Create & Share

There's a lot going on in your life and your heart this week. Please let us come alongside and lift you up in prayer.

Share in the group prayer journal, with your Grace Group leader

Pastor Jennifer is available to meet with you for pastoral care and prayer time as well. Contact: 562.755.4964 / jennifergrichmond@gmail.com

You are loved and prayed for!

## ...My Heart to Yours...

#### ...Teaching Time ...

Watch or listen to this teaching session on the Dwelling Richly podcast (iTunes, Spotify, any podcast app) or on <u>YouTube.com/c/JenniferRichmond</u>





## Lesson Eight 2 Day One

## ... Day by Day ...

Did you know that you could use the "Day by Day" guide as your entire study?

$\checkmark$	My Dates	<u>Day</u>	<u>Content</u>	
	February 13	1	Grace Groups & Tead	ching
			<u>READ</u>	<u>WRITE</u>
		2	Leviticus 16; 23-27	
		3	Leviticus 16 and 23	Psalm 19:1-2
		4	Days 3-5 will focus on	Psalm 19:3-4
		5	chapters 16 and 23.	Psalm 19:5-6
		6	Leviticus 24	Psalm 19:7-8
		7	Leviticus 25	Psalm 19:9-10
		8	Leviticus 26	Psalm 19:11-12
		9	Leviticus 27	Psalm 19:13-14
		10	Create & Share	

#### ...Memorize & Meditate ...

Psalm 19:7 Memorize from any translation. Write your verse in the box below. ...Write the Word... Psalm 19

"Write the Word" pages are available on the Saved & Set Apart page at JenniferGRichmond.com

also here...

www.jennifergrichmond.com/wp-content/uploads/Ex-Deut-Write-the-Word\_.pdf



## ... My Heart to Yours ...

In the 4<sup>th</sup> grade I cheated on a spelling test.

I was a straight-A student, loved studying, loved reading, did all my homework and was even tops in the school spelling bee - remember those?

You'd stand up in class, get a word to spell and if you got it right you remained standing until all but two of you were left up. Then, Mr. Sparrow - my absolute favorite teacher in elementary school - would bring up the last two standing and give us words as we stood there in front of the whole class. The athletic kids had been seated since round one, the math kids had flopped out several rounds after that, and the



word nerd, spelling geeks like me and my best friend, Jeanna Champion, would remain. (Yes, that actually was her last name, "Champion.")

It was the Friday before our big all-school spelling bee at Thousand Oaks Christian School and I had been practicing from the official ACSI Spelling Bee handbook for weeks. I knew every long, weird word and every short oddly difficult word backwards and forwards along with their Greek and Latin roots and how to use each in a sentence. I. Was. Ready. Bring on the Bee!

#### Except one thing...l. Was. Nervous.

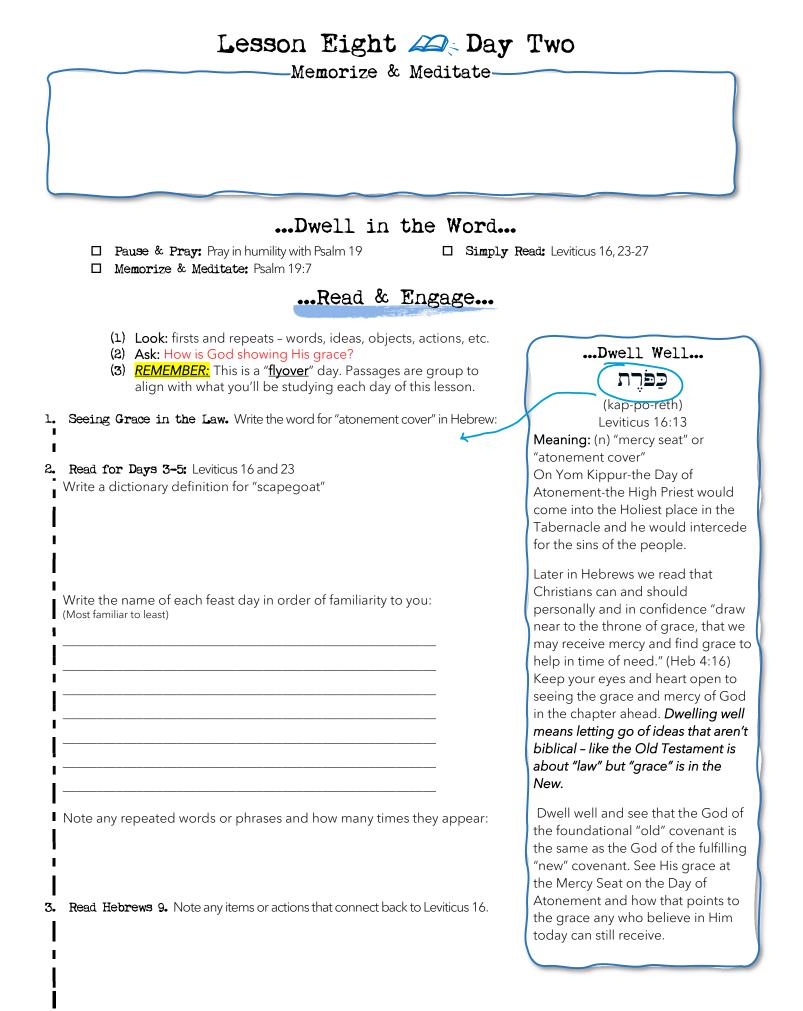
I had to pass the Friday Spelling test with a 100% in order to compete. No problem. I never missed any on those regular class tests - never. But, I was really nervous and the "what ifs" consumed me.

Jeanna and I were truly kindred spirits. We both loved reading, writing, spelling and all things word. She lived in the same neighborhood and we spent hours at each other's homes after school and on overnights and at the park down the hill which was the middle meeting spot between our houses. But Jeanna was a true genius - like Mensa level. We both loved all the same subjects, but she was brilliant and next-level word-nerdy for a young 4<sup>th</sup> grader - and, like her surname, she was a champion in all subjects - even math!

So, as the big Bee approached I got a bad case of the What If's - what if I missed one? What if I didn't make the Bee? What if I forgot if "i" came before or after the "e?" So, infected by "Whatifitis" I decided to inoculate myself against a fail and keep a small list of the spelling words for the weekly test just under my desk. A brilliant plan - with the cheat sheet at my feet I could hunch over and look like I was writing with focus and intensity while I was actually double checking each word against my cheat sheet.

My plan would have totally worked if it weren't for one thing: Eric Charles Langner III. Eric was the cutest boy in our class, probably the whole school. He was one of the guys who would sit down early-on in the spelling bee not because he was dumb but because he'd rather be out on the field playing soccer at recess than nerding-out with us Bee Kids. He was athletic and fun and outgoing and if a 4<sup>th</sup> grade boy can be charming – he was a prince! Eric sat one seat behind and to my left and guess what his charming blue eyes spotted?

Well, around word number 19 out of 20 of the spelling test I heard the shifting chair legs scooting across our carpeted classroom floor, and Eric Charles Langer the 3<sup>rd</sup> walking slowly up to the front of the classroom, past my desk, past the two in front of me and up to Mr. Sparrow seated at his desk reading off the spelling test words. As Eric passed by I looked up just in time to see him glance slightly back at me and I knew what was going to happen next. I was about to die of a heart attack at the ripe young age of 9 in front of all my classmates, my BFF Jeanna the Champion, the hottest 4<sup>th</sup> grade boy on the earth, and my favorite teacher in the whole world. Eric Charles Langer III placed his hands on Mr. Sparrow's desk, leaned in and down, and as he whispered, I could see two brown eyes raising up and looking over Eric's hunched shoulders right. at. me.... stay tuned for Part 2, with Day 6



## Lesson Eight 22 Day Two

4. Read for Day 6: Leviticus 24 - Note questions about these passages:

1

5. Read for Day 7: Leviticus 25 - Note repeated words or phrases – especially the theme of redemption.

6. Read for Day 8: Leviticus 26 - Note repeated words or phrases:

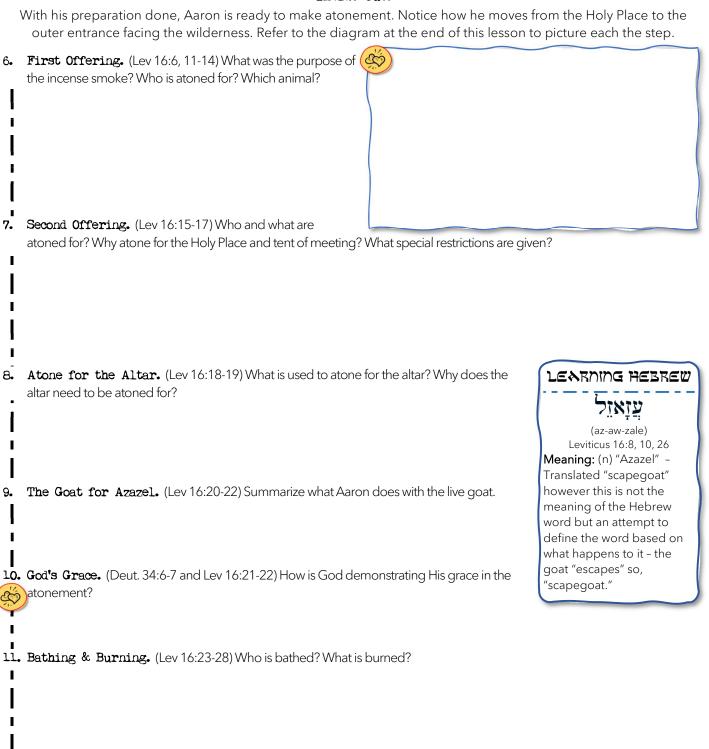
7. Read for Day 9: Leviticus 27 - Look for the theme of "redemption" in this final chapter.



	•	E & Meditate
	-	n the Word
-	Pray for your Grace Group di <b>tate:</b> Psalm 19:7	<ul> <li>Simply Read: Leviticus 16</li> <li>Write the Word: Psalm 19:1-2</li> </ul>
	Read	& Engage
Thinking Back. Whate	event does God review in Levitic	rus 16:1?
\A/batiatha magazara th	beart of VHIMH behind th	ne preparations & regulations?
what is the message - th	ie neart of thivth - benind tr	repreparations & regulations?
Just so we're all clea	<b>r:</b> (Lev 16:2) What clarifying inst	trustions do as the LOPD toll Massa?
		itructions does the LORD tell Moses?
(HINT: it's Exactly What	NOT to Do)	inuctions does the LORD tell Moses?
Exactly Where to Go: 1)_		
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## Lesson Eight 22 Day Three

#### Inside Out.



12. A Solemn Sabbath. (Lev 16:29-34) When will God's people observe this day? How are the people to conduct themselves on this day? Who is required to observe? How long will they continue to observe this day? Do we observe this day now? Why or why not? Consider your reading from Hebrews chapter 9 as you answer.

### Lesson Eight 2 Days Four & Five

-Memorize & Meditate-

#### ...Dwell in the Word ...

Pause & Pray: Pray for your Grace Group leaders
 Memorize & Meditate: Psalm 19:7

Simply Read: Leviticus 23
Write the Word: Psalm 19:3-4

**NOTE:** Days 4 & 5 are combined on the next 4 pages . The chart on pages 206-207 is meant to lay open so you can get an overview of the LORD's days. The complete chart is available to download on the Saved & Set Apart Bible study page.

#### ...Read & Engage ....

In Lesson Two of this study we read Exodus 12. On Day Seven (pg 56) you created a calendar noting the days and the instructions God gave His people the night of their deliverance – the very first Passover. This moment signaled the beginning of a new nation of God's chosen people. God not only saved His people, He set them apart and the very first thing He did (in a sense) was to give them a...\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.\* (I do hope at this point in our study you knew that answer!) God didn't give His people a \*calendar so they could track dates and appointments, He gave them a calendar that would be forever tied to their identity: who they were, who they were becoming, who they would ultimately be – all anchored in Him. God's calendar contained the "moadim" – appointed times - set to the rhythm of the seasons, tracking the waxing and waning of the moon, and sighting the stars. His calendar, as I pray you'll see, gave more than their identity - it gave their future and hope because every observance trained His people to anticipate their ultimate Deliverer - Yeshua Hamashiac – Jesus the Messiah. This next portion of our lesson will open for you, I pray, an exciting and awe-inspiring understanding of God's incredible plan to *save and set apart* a people for Himself.

1. Back to the Beginning. (Genesis 1:14-18) What did God create?

-	
What was God's plan for these? 1) v. 14b	מוֹעֵר
	(mo-ade)
2) v. 14c forand *	Genesis 1:14; Leviticus. 23:2
3) v. 14d forand	Meaning: (n) appointed time,
	place, or meeting; season.
4) v. 15	Look at the Hebrew letters and
5) v. 18a	see two more words inside:
	—— (y'd) target, goal,
6) v. 18b	destination
	 ער (ayd) means "witness"
Think of 2-3 ways your life is impacted by what God provided in the sun, moon, and stars.	

2. Mine to Give, Yours to Proclaim. (Lev 23:1-2) How does YHWH describe feasts? Whose are they? What are the people to do?

See pg 208 - directions for Appointed Times chart.

LEARNING HEBREW

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An easy to read, printable of this 11x17" chart is available to Download here:

https://www.jennifergrichmond.com/saved-set-apart-study/



	• •	5	SUMMER
			Wheat Harvest
Sabeath	PASSOVER UNLEAVENED BREAD	בדזטאדןדצאזדן	DEERS "Pentecost"
		Sunday after Passover	
Leviticus 20:8-10	Ex 12, Lev 23:4-5 Lev 23:6-8	Leviticus 23:9-14 Wave a sheaf of firstfruits from your harvest, offer a burnt, grain, food, drink offering	Leviticus 23:15-22 Deut 16:9-10
Gen 2:1-3, Ex 16:23 Leviticus 23:3	Exodus 12:1-32; 43-51 13:1-22; 34:18-20 Death of the firstborn, Salvation through the blood of the lamb Israel removed from Egypt	Exodus 14:1-15:21;	Exodus 19-20, 34:22 Ruth 2:2-3
Matthew 12:8 Mark 2:28, Luke 6:5 Jesus is the LORD of the Sabbath	Luke 22:7-15; Luke 3:23; John 19:28-42 Jesus is	John 20 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 Jesus is	Acts 2:1-13 Jesus sends
Hebrews 4:9-10	John 1:29; 1 Pet. 1:19; 1 Cor. 5:7; Rev. 13:8	James 1:18; Col. 2:12-14	Ephesians 1:13; John 14:16-17
	Leviticus 20:8-10 Gen 2:1-3, Ex 16:23 Leviticus 23:3 Matthew 12:8 Mark 2:28, Luke 6:5 Jesus is the LORD of the Sabbath	Barley HarvestSABBATHPASSOVER UNLENVENED BRENDLeviticus 20:8-10Ex 12, Lev 23:4-5 Lev 23:6-8Gen 2:1-3, Ex 16:23 Leviticus 23:3Exodus 12:1-32; 43-51 13:1-22; 34:18-20 Death of the firstborn, Salvation through the blood of the lamb Israel removed from EgyptMatthew 12:8 Mark 2:28, Luke 6:5 Jesus is the LORD of the SabbathLuke 22:7-15; Luke 3:23; Jesus isHebrews 4:9-10John 1:29; 1 Pet. 1:19; 1 Cor. 5:7; Rev. 13:8	SNBBNTHPNSSDVER UNLENVERED BRENDFIRSTJERUITSLeviticus 20:8-10Ex 12, Lev 23:4-5 Lev 23:6-8Sunday after PassoverLeviticus 20:8-10Ex 12, Lev 23:4-5 Lev 23:6-8Leviticus 23:9-14 Wave a sheaf of firstfruits from your harvest, offer a burnt, grain, food, drink offeringGen 2:1-3, Ex 16:23 Leviticus 23:3Exodus 12:1-32; 43-51 13:1-22; 34:18-20 Death of the firstborn, Salvation through the blood of the lamb Israel removed from EgyptExodus 14:1-15:21; I continhians 15:20-23 Jesus is the LORD of the SabbathMatthew 12:8 Low 24:9-10Luke 22:7-15; Luke 3:23; John 19:28-42 Jesus isJohn 20 1 Continhians 15:20-23 Jesus isHebrews 4:9-10John 1:29; 1 Pet. 1:19; 1 Cor. 5:7; Rev. 13:8James 1:18; Col. 2:12-14

# ....the reality, however, is found in Christ." colossians 2:17

## FALL FEASTS

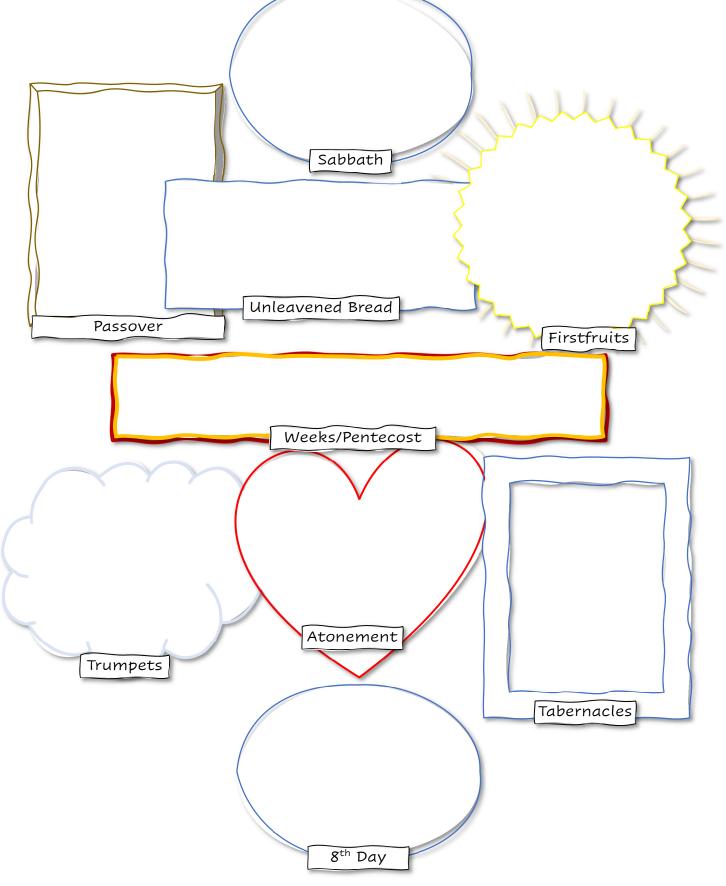
	Grape and Olive Harvest						
Ŷ	TRUMPETS Yom Teruah / "Rosh Hashana"	ATONEMENT Yom Kippur	TABERNACLES Sukkot / "Chag Ha'asif"	8 <sup>th</sup> Day Shemini Atzeret			
Ŷ				22 <sup>nd</sup> Day of 7 <sup>th</sup> Month			
SILENCE <>	Leviticus 23:23-25 Numbers 29:1-6	Leviticus 16, 23:26-32 Numbers 29:7	Lev. 23:33-43; Deut 16:13-14	Lev. 23:36 Num 29:35			
<><><><><><><><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><>><	Psalm 81:3; Joel 2:1 A call to repentance the day of the LORD is coming	Exodus 32:32-33; 34:29-35 Leviticus 17:11	Ex. 29:44-45; 1 Kings 8:2; 12:32 1 Cor. 15:24-25, Psalm 27:5-6	Isalah 65:17			
× × × × × ×	Matthew 24:31 1 Cor 15:51-52; 1 Thess 4:16-17 Jesus will	Hebrews 2:17; 4:14-15; 6:20; 8:12; 9:11; 10:21 Jesus is and will be our High Priest	John 1:14; 2 Timothy 4:1 Revelation 19:15 Jesus will	Isalah 66:22 2 Peter 3:13 Jesus will create a new heaven and new earth			
Galatians 5:5 2 Peter 3:11-13	Revelation 17:14 1 Timothy 6:14-15	Hebrews 9:22; Revelation 20:4	Hebrews 4:16; Revelation 20:4-6	Rev. 21:1-5			

Saved & Set Apart

## Lesson Eight 2 Days Four & Five



Complete the "Appointed Times of YHWH" chart (pg 206-207) by reading the Scriptures in each section. Then draw a simple figure or symbol to represent the big idea of each Moadim (appointed time).



	nt 22 Day Si e & Meditate	
Dwell i	n the Word	
<ul> <li>Pause &amp; Pray: Pray Psalm 19:7</li> <li>Memorize &amp; Meditate: Psalm 19:7</li> </ul>	□ Simply Read: Lev □ Write the Word:	
Read &	& Engage	
With the moedim (appointed times) explained, the LC times, places, people, and name. Review your answers Be sure to note " <b>LE&amp;RNING HEBREW</b> "- especially to poin	to questions 1 & 2 on page 20	)5 also Lesson Three/Day Nine
<b>Sacred Light.</b> (Lev 24:1-4; Exodus 27:20-21, 37:17-24, 4 What is the Hebrew word for lampstand? (Lesson 5/E What was it made of? How much did it and all the ute	Day 4) Write in Hebrew:	
Where was the lampstand located in the tabernacle?	(Ex. 40:24)	עבאדא בחזמאד בָּתָית
How often were the lamps to be kept burning?		(ka-tit) Ex. 27:20; Lev 24:2 <b>Meaning:</b> (adj) beaten
What fueled the lamps? Note the specific instructions extracted from the olives.	s on <u>how the oil</u> was to be	from the root: עָּתַת meaning to <b>beat</b> or crush by beating. How oil was extracted from olives for the Menorah.
Sacred Bread. (Lev 24:5-9; Ex. 25:23-30) Draw or describ tabernacle. Think about the materials for the table and the made from? How many loaves? What else was on the table loaves for? What stands out to you in these instructions?	bread on it. What was the bread	(khal-lah) Ex. 29:2; Lev 24:5 <b>Meaning:</b> (n) bread (Challah) used in offerings from the root: ל <u>ל</u> meaning to <b>pierce</b> .
<b>Sacred Time.</b> Review Leviticus 24:1-9. Highlight your Bib specific times, days, etc.) There are at least 10 in this passage where the menorah and the table are located in relation to	ge! What do you think the LORD i	s that indicate "time" (frequency, s emphasizing? Keep in mind

## Lesson Eight 2 Day Six

4.	Sacred Name-Cursing in the Camp. (Lev 24:10-11) Describe the conflict that occurs in this p those involved and details about each person.	passage. give the names of
	Who: What:	HWHY
i l i	Complete this simple family tree to help visualize the connections: Why do you think the tribe, family (father), and woman were named in this account?	ISRAEL EGYPT
5.	<b>Custody</b> and <b>Clarification.</b> (Lev 24:12) Why did the people put the son in custody? Why not just take care of the incident themselves?	(family/father) (Israelite woman) Egyptian Man
6. 1	<b>Commandments and the Congregation.</b> (Lev 24:11-16) Which of the Ten "Commandments" is at issue in this passage? (Ex. 20:1-17)	Israel/Egyptian Son
	What did God command Moses to do about the blasphemer?	נבאדחותם אבשהבש ויקב
	What did God command Moses to speak to Israel about this?	(way-yiq-qob) Lev 24:11 <b>Meaning:</b> (v) blasphemed from the root: נקב (na-qab) meaning "to <b>puncture</b> "
7. () () () () () () () () () () () () ()	<b>Capital Consequence.</b> (Lev 24:13 What was the LORD's command concerning the man who blasphemed His Name? How is this consequence an incredible reminder of God's Holiness as well as His Grace, yes, GRACE! (HINT: Think of the family tree, #4)	(ha-shem) (et) Ex. 27:20; Lev 24:2 Meaning: (N) the Name.
8. 8.	<b>Killing and Constraints.</b> (Lev 24:17-22) Under what circumstances can a life be taken? NOTE: We will cover capital punishment more in Lesson 11	Consider the connection between the "Learning Hebrew" focus words in today's lesson.

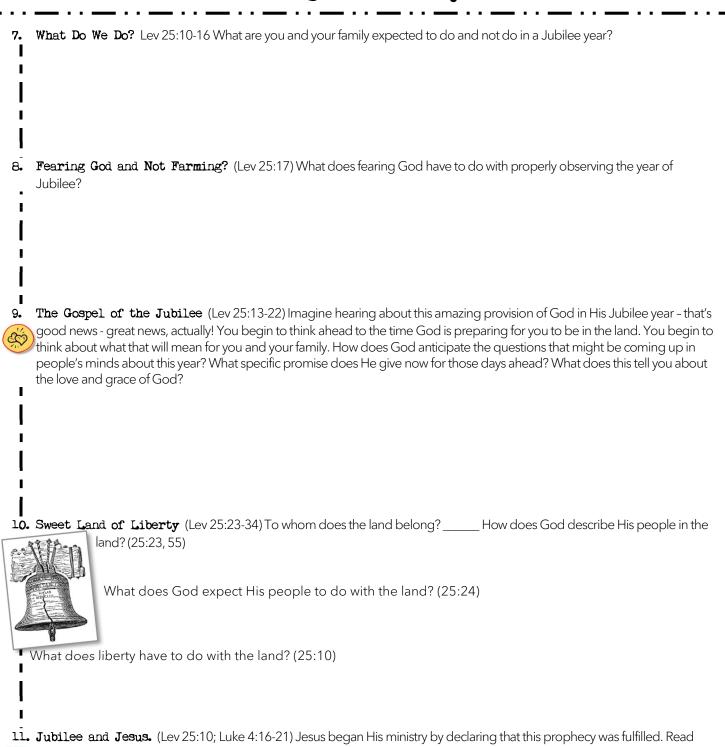
Sacred People - Saved & Set Apart. In a passage as dark as this, is there any light? Do you see any reminders of God's grace or mercy? Think about the blasphemer in contrast with the opening of today's chapter! Think. Think. Think...and always remember: no verses were placed casually. This passage is one unit beginning with the moedim (ch. 23) then the lamps and bread (24:1-9) and sandwiched between what comes next (ch. 25, Sabbath) is this portion about the Name and consequences for cursing. How is God showing you the blessing of being Saved AND Set Apart? How does this point to Jesus?

I

	Lesson Eight 📿 Day Seven
5	Memorize & Meditate
	Dwell in the Word
	□ Pause & Pray: Pray for the land and people of Israel □ Simply Read: Leviticus 25
	Meditate: Psalm 19:7 Write the Word: Psalm 19:7-10
	Read & Engage
1.	Where You've BeenWhere You're Going. Review Leviticus 18:3-28. What was the land
	they left? The land they're going to?
I	
	What was God's warning to them about the land they left and the land He's preparing
I	for them? (Lev 18:3; 20:22-24)
2.	Seventh Year Sabbath. (Lev 22:1-7) Illustrate YHWH's command about the Land Sabbath.
3.	What does it mean to:
	sow -
I	prune –
I	harvest -
I	What is the purpose of each of these?
1	
I	Instead of doing any of this, what is the LORD telling the people to do in a Sabbath
1	year?
i	
ļ	
4.	Manna & Minding the Sabbath. Do you remember the first time the LORD commanded a
	Sabbath? Read Exodus 16:22-30. How was that manna miracle a training/testing/trusting
	moment for land Sabbath time to come?
I	
I	
I	
<b>1</b> 5.	The Big One! Illustrate YHWH's command about the Year of Jubilee.
э. 6.	Sound the Shofar! (Lev 25:8-12) Which Moadim (Appointed Day) begins the celebration
à	of the Jubilee year? See also, Leviticus 16 and 23:26-32. Why do you think this is particularly
St.	significant to connect Jubilee with this Moadim?
1	

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### Lesson Eight 2 Day Seven



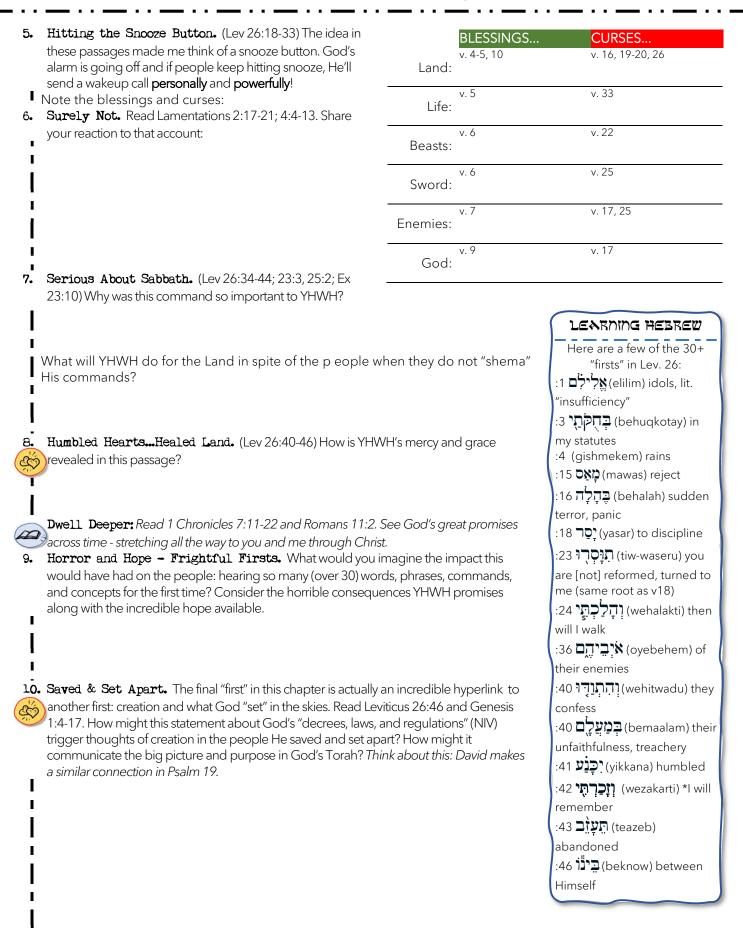
Jesus' words and the prophecy he's referring to (Isaiah 49:8). How is this the greatest news ever?

È

-	e & Meditate
Dwell i	n the Word
<ul> <li>Pause &amp; Pray:for your family.</li> <li>Memorize &amp; Meditate: Psalm 19:7</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Simply Read: Leviticus 26 - look for firsts!</li> <li>First words, ideas, concepts, etc.</li> <li>Write the Word: Psalm 19:11-12</li> </ul>
Read	& Engage
🔴 Wait!! Did you "Simply Read" today's passage	e? Be sure you do that <mark>BEFORE</mark> you " <b>Engage</b> " - so important!
The Basis for Blessing, (Lev 26:1-2) What does God You shall not 1) v. 1a	You shall
2) v. 1b	
3) v. 1c	
Why?: v.1d	Why?: v.2c
most concentrated "but if" statement/warnings since that God's "if" statements in Lev. 26. <i>No right or wrong answer</i>	the first "if" statement/warning in the Bible. Leviticus 26 records the moment. Make connections between the account with Cain and s, just make some personal observations and connections: now intent to bless and incredible power over nature? Note the thr scribe God's amazing promises!
I will: (draw or describe)	
You Won't? I will. (Lev 26:14-17; Ex. 24:1-8) What do instead spurn and abhor His commands?	es YHWH promise to do if they will not listen and do (shema), but

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## Lesson Eight 20 Day Eight



Lesson Eight Zas Day Nine	
Memorize & Meditate	
Dwell in the Word	
<ul> <li>Pause &amp; Pray:thank God for His Torah in Leviticus</li> <li>Memorize &amp; Meditate: Psalm 19:7</li> <li>Simply Read: Leviticus 27</li> <li>Write the Word: Psalm 19:13-14</li> </ul>	
Read & Engage	
<ul> <li>Financing the Tabernacle. (Lev 27:1-8) If you wanted to support the work of YHWH's house you could do so with a spectrum.</li> <li>Based on your age you would give that amount to the priests to support the tabernacle.</li> <li>How much would you give for yourself if you lived in this time?</li> </ul>	cial
How much would your dad give?	
What about your young cousin who hasn't even started walking yet?	
What if you were really poor, but you still wanted to support the Sanctuary?	
<ul> <li>2. Offering an Animal or a House. (Lev 27:9-15) Clean and unclean animals could be donated to the sanctuary, but what were some conditions about this kind of vow? What is similar in these vows?</li> </ul>	эt
<ol> <li>Land for the LORD. (Lev 27:16-25) How did the number of years remaining until a Jubilee year impact the value of land you wanted to give?</li> </ol>	
4. Special Nature of Firstborn and Tithes. (Lev 27:26-29) Why couldn't you make vow on a firstborn to the LORD? Consider also Ex. 13:2; 34:19-20. Why couldn't a tithe be offered in a vow?	

## Lesson Eight 2 Day Nine

5. These Three for Thee. (Lev 27:26-30) What were the three things that could not be offered in a vow because they already belonged to God?

**Under the Rod.** (Lev 27:32-33) As the lamb, cow, or goat passed through the shepherd would count and the 10th would be set aside. What if it was a good lamb? What if it was a poor quality lamb? What was God's law about someone selecting an animal to offer as a tithe? Draw or describe that law:

7. Serious About Vows. Read and summarize God's thoughts on making a vow: Deuteronomy 23:21-23

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

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8. Saved & Set Apart: A Picture of Possession. Read Jeremiah 33:12-16 and Ezekiel 20:33-37. Consider God's promises and the connection to the final words of Leviticus - especially the image in 27:32. How is God telegraphing his promise to continue to save and set His people apart?

## Lesson Eight 2 Day Ten

-Memorize & Meditate-

#### ...Dwell in the Word ...

Deriver Section 2012 Pause & Pray: Ask God for wisdom and humility

□ Memorize & Meditate: Write with your eyes closed

#### ...Create & Share ...

If you could had to teach a child from any book of the Bible where would you begin? Jews for thousands of years knew exactly where to begin...

## וּקָרָא

Vayikra! (Leviticus)

The first book of the Bible a child learns is the exact book you've just finished studying. Does that surprise you? With all the talk about body parts and bodily functions, sores and diseases, death and blood why start here when we have colorful stories with animals and rainbows and brave men and women like in Genesis or dramatic scenes of babies saved and a prince who runs away and then saves his people as a shepherd deliverer – locusts and flies and evil kings are certainly more engaging. Surely there are more appropriate and action-packed books to keep the attention of children, right?

But no, Leviticus is where it all begins when teaching a child.

Perhaps Psalm 19 has given you a hint at the power, beauty, and appropriateness of Leviticus and why our Jewish family returns to Vayikra as they teach their children. Like King David we see that it is

> perfect...refreshing...trustworthy... it brings joy and light and is tastier than honey...

#### תּוֹרָה

Torah.

How has God's Torah brought you closer to knowing Him? How have you seen Jesus more clearly in the pages of Vayikra? What is one aspect of God you know better now that you've dwelt within the Word of Leviticus?

Think about this as you page back through each chapter. Then re-read Psalm 19 with these questions in mind. Write your thoughts on the following page or create a picture illustrating what it has meant to you to dwell richly in Leviticus.



#### ... My Heart to Yours ...

(continued) My palms were sweating so much that I could see the wet outlines of each hand glistening on my desktop. Eric returned slowly to his desk with his head down avoiding eye-contact as Mr. Sparrow slide his big wooden teacher's chair out from behind his desk. My favorite teacher then stood up and came from around his desk and headed in no particular hurry straight toward mine. Past Mona Rolland in the front row, past the other Erik in row two and right up next to me. I couldn't look up. I was frozen.

Mr. Sparrow bent down, picked up the fateful list off the floor by my feet and looked it over, then looking at me he let out a little sigh and motioned with his eyes for me to follow him to the front of the class. By now the terror filling my heart was replaced somehow with tears. I know that no tear ducts connect the heart to the eyes, but somehow that's still what was happening and my eyes brimmed with warm salty tears and began to spill down my red face over my quivering lips.

I was filled with so much shame and sadness, so much disappointment in my own vain self. I knew what was next -Mrs. Fuller - the principal.

Still following Mr. Sparrow I matched his slow footsteps with my own sad shuffle on out of our 4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom into the hall where he paused, turned to me, and bent slightly over to look into my eyes, "You cheated? Why?" he asked calmly and simply. There was a sweet patient touch to his voice. No harsh tones. I could tell he was sad.

"I don't know." I whispered shakily without looking up.

"Stay here." He said as he walked back to Room 6. I waited against the wall between the door of our classroom and the door to Mrs. Fuller's office. Behind me was my class, my best friend, Eric Charles Langer III, and now Mr. Sparrow all finishing up that 20 word test. Ahead of me was Mrs. Fuller and The Paddle.

Our school paddled kids back in those days. In fact, it was well known that the expected punishment for cheating was a paddling. I suppose I should have mentioned that at the beginning of this story. The loom of the paddle hung there while I considered my ill-fatted cheating plan, but not heavy enough in my mind to keep me from cheating. And now I waited, knowing that my parents had already signed off on paddle permission (probably not what they called it, but it's how we kids talked about it.) I had only heard of bad kids who got that paddle, and that was now me.

I waited. I knew what was coming. I deserved it.

Mrs. Fuller was a long, slender woman, with short dark hair trimmed neatly above her ears. She motioned with a thin bony finger for me to come to her office. I trembled her direction, took a seat in a cold chair in front of her desk and waited as she sat down. The "Paddle" hung just up and over her left shoulder on the wall behind her waiting for me.

But, when she sat down she asked me the same question Mr. Sparrow had, "Why?" Why cheat? Why, when it was all but set that that I would go to the Bee and represent our school? I don't really remember exactly what I said, but she listened and I cried and she sent me back to class with a hug and a warning and a reminder about the wrongs of cheating...all while that Paddle hung unused on her wall.

Head hanging low, I made my way back to Room 6, row 3, past Mr. Sparrow and in front of an unusually quiet group of fellow 4<sup>th</sup> graders all minding their own business getting ready for lunch. Lunchtime came and went, followed by our reading time with Mr. Sparrow, then our last lessons of the day, and finally heading home. Mrs. Fuller had called my mom and dad and so, when I did get home I faced another terrifying layer of waiting for punishment, and again, my parents only asked, "Why?" Why when you have so much ability would you do that? By now I could put it into words, I was afraid.

You see, when we set ourselves up for perfection based on what we personally desire, fear of failing is overwhelming. Even the potential consequences of severe punishment can't overrule that fear. It's different when we live covered by the LORD's perfection. As severe as His Law is and devastating the punishments are, in Him we don't get what we deserve–*the weight of the law crushing us*–we get His grace and mercy instead. It's an incredible blessing and the pages of Leviticus have shown us, I pray, that Grace is exactly what awaits. The Law, as perfect and precious as it is could only remind us of our sin and failures. The law point us to Christ. Take His atonement as your covering. When we do, instead of sin and shame we are met with grace and mercy.