

God provides forgiveness



“If any of the common people sin by violating one of the Lord’s commands, but they don’t realize it, they are still guilty. When they become aware of their sin, they must bring as an offering for their sin a female goat with no defects. They must lay a hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter it at the place where burnt offerings are slaughtered. Then the priest will dip his finger in the blood and put it on the horns of the altar for burnt offerings. He will pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. Then he must remove all the goat’s fat, just as he does with the fat of the peace offering. He will burn the fat on the altar, and it will be a pleasing aroma to the Lord. Through this process, the priest will purify the people, making them right with the Lord, and they will be forgiven.”

“If the people bring a sheep as their sin offering, it must be a female with no defects. They must lay a hand on the head of the sin offering and slaughter it at the place where burnt offerings are slaughtered. Then the priest will dip his finger in the blood of the sin offering and put it on the horns of the altar for burnt offerings. He will pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. ³⁵ Then he must remove all the sheep’s fat, just as he does with the fat of a sheep presented as a peace offering. He will burn the fat on the altar on top of the special gifts presented to the Lord. Through this process, the priest will purify the people from their sin, making them right with the Lord, and they will be forgiven.”

~ Leviticus 4:27-34 (NLT) ~

Every single one of us have the same big problem, each of us sins – that is each of us think, say, and do things that go against God and his ways of living. And because of our sin, each of us is separated from God, and can’t be part of God’s forever family.

However, God loves each and every one of us, and God wants us to be part of his family, so God provides a way for us to be forgiven, that is to have all our sin forgotten and being brought back into his forever family.

The thing is, though, we can't do anything to make God forgive us. Our sin is serious. In the Leviticus God gave his people then a way to show that they were sorry and were forgiven. Every time someone had done something against God and his way, they had to bring a lamb (or goat) and have it killed to show that the sin was paid, and they didn't have to be punished.

But when Jesus came, that all changed. Jesus came to be the ultimate lamb. Jesus came to die, once and for all, instead of us, to take the punishment for us, and if we trust that Jesus did that for us, we too can be forgiven and be part of God's forever family.

Some questions to think about:

1. What is the biggest problem everyone faces? Why is this such a big problem?
2. What can we do to fix this problem?
3. How did God fix this problem for his people in Leviticus?
4. How does Jesus fix this problem once and for all?
5. How do you feel about God providing forgiveness?

Prayer

Dear God,

Sorry that we all sin – think, say, and do things that go against you and your ways. We are sad that that means we can't be with or be part of your forever family. But thank you that you love us so much that you made a way for us to be forgiven. Thank for the sacrifices before Jesus, and thank you so much for Jesus, who died and came alive so we can be forgiven and part of your forever family. Please help us to trust Jesus with all our lives.

Amen.