

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Open your group with a prayer. Use this sheet as a guide; select the points you want to discuss.

GETTING STARTED

1. In your experience, do people more often own their mistakes or point the finger at others? Why?

DIGGING DEEPER

2. Read Lev 16:1-2. What is the point of beginning instructions about the Day of Atonement with a reminder of something so obviously painful to Aaron?
3. Where and what was the purpose of the Most Holy Place?
4. Describe Aaron's attire (v.4). Why does a uniform matter when doing a job? What did his Day of Atonement suit indicate?
5. Why did Aaron have to sacrifice for himself and his household first (v.6)?
6. What did the scapegoat represent for Israel?
7. How is Jesus like the scapegoat of Lev 16? How is Jesus superior to it?

LIVING IT OUT

8. Why do you think God designed the scapegoat ceremony as an *annual* festival for Israel?
9. How can meditating on the purpose of each goat help a Christian?
10. Why might God choose such a dramatic way to communicate atonement? How would children interpret it? Non-Hebrew speaking observers?
11. What does Lev 16 teach about the sinfulness of people? ...the sinfulness of priests? ...the holiness of God? ...the forgiveness of God? ...the love and mercy of God?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a remote place; and the man shall release it in the wilderness."
-Leviticus 16:22 NIV

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