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# Ignite

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*"Heavenly Father, thank You for Your perfect plan of redemption through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ - Who died and rose again so that we might be forgiven of our sin and receive a new, resurrected life, in Him. Thank You for the clear picture of redemption which threads its way through Old Testament scriptures and brings us to an understanding that we are all sinners in need of a saviour - for without the shedding of Christ's blood there is no life - for life is in the blood. Thank You that just as the life of mortal man is in the blood, so that life of forgiven sinners comes through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit and that one day we will receive a new, resurrected body - like unto Christ's resurrected body. We praise Your Holy Name for ever and ever, Amen."*





# SERMON SUMMARY

**Note to Word Facilitator:** The sermon notes below is a summary of the sermon. You may choose to further summarize it according to the needs and context of your CG members. The goal is not just to go through it “verbatim” but to prepare well, allowing members to recall and engage the message in the best possible way.

## Leviticus 4 - Pursuing Holiness:

## Day of Atonement: Once for all

**Pastor Mike Ngui**

### **Leviticus 16:1-10**

The Lord spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron who died when they approached the Lord. The Lord said to Moses: “Tell your brother Aaron that he is not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die. For I will appear in the cloud over the atonement cover. “This is how Aaron is to enter the Most Holy Place: he must first bring a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. He is to put on the sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments next to his body; he is to tie the linen sash round him and put on the linen turban. These are sacred garments; so he must bathe himself with water before he puts them on. From the Israelite community he is to take two male goats for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. “Aaron is to offer the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household. Then he is to take the two goats and present them before the Lord at the entrance to the tent of meeting. He is to cast lots for the two goats - one lot for the Lord and the other for the scapegoat. Aaron shall bring the goat whose lot falls to the Lord and sacrifice it for a sin offering. But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the Lord to be used for making atonement by sending it into the wilderness as a scapegoat.”

## Introduction

Since ancient times, the Jewish people would wait in anticipation for a yearly celebration. One that is still celebrated or observed today. It is called the Day of Atonement, also known as Yom Kippur.

### **I The Once-A -Year ritual for all Israel** *Lev 16:11-14 , Lev 16:15-19, Lev 16:20-22*

The ritual is primarily performed by the High Priest. On that special day, he would not dress as usual as a priest would, but rather he would first cleanse himself and dress plainly, in preparation of getting blood-soaked after slaughtering the animals for the sin offerings.

The High Priest would need to bring his own sin offering (a bull) to account for his own sin first as well as burn incense to veil himself partially from God. On that day, he was as ordinary as any other. A vulnerable sinner.

There were two goats in the ritual - one that died and one that lived. The one that had to die, was sacrificed for all the sins of the people. The bull and the goat's blood was sprinkled all over to make an atonement for all the spaces and people of God. Blood offered to God is a way of restoring a relationship with God that is tainted by the violation against His laws. It was 'death by substitute'.

It was God's way in providing a means to humanity to relate back to Him and for Him to journey with them in their lives. He is sovereign. A provider and defender. A shield. He was present among His people.

The other goat that lived was the scapegoat (live goat). It was the practice of the High Priest to place both his hands on the goat on the Day of Atonement only (usually he would place only one hand on the animal). Him doing that was to represent a transfer of all the people's sin unto the poor goat. The goat is then sent far away from the camp and pushed off a stiff cliff, never to return.

All this tells us that someone or something else had to be sacrificed to take away the people's sin and thereafter removed from the presence of God.

### **II Once for all humanity, by One Man** *Heb 9:23-26 , Col 2:17, Heb 10:11-14, Isaiah 53:6 , 2 Cor 5:21, Heb 10:17-18, Ps 103:12*

The Day of Atonement gives an outline (or a shadow as Apostle Paul put it) of the reality that is in Christ Jesus. Jesus took the role of atoning for our sins, for all time and for all of us. He is the only mediator worthy enough to stand between God the Father and humanity.

Jesus is our perfect high priest, our perfect sin offering and our perfect freedom.

We don't need any other examples in life because Jesus alone is the perfect one. No one else can take His place of our unguarded devotion.

When Jesus died on the cross for our sins, the curtains at The Holy of Holies were torn into two, signifying that our access to God has been permanently accomplished. Since then, there was no longer a need to perform animal sacrifices nor do we require a human priest to atone for our sins.

Jesus was also a scapegoat, that carried off our sins. In taking our sins away, we are now free.

It was no coincidence that Jesus had to be taken outside the city to be crucified. In the olden Day of Atonement, the scapegoat was taken away from the camp. To be cut off and separated from the people, taking our sins far, far away. Whenever we may feel that sin is bogging us down, take heart and remember that our sins have long been forgiven.

**BIG IDEA: Jesus Christ restored us to God, once for all, for all of us.**

### **III Once and for all by Jesus for you *Heb 10:22-25***

There are implications when Jesus died on the cross and restored our relationship to God. Three of which would be that we can draw near to God, we can hold fast to hope and we can encourage one another.

We now have unlimited and unrestricted access to God for all time, as Jesus has paid for our eternal 'subscription' to God. We have 'authorised' entry to approach God in Jesus' name. We should draw near to God especially in our times of need, with a sincere repentant heart. No one can draw us near to God on our behalf. Rather, we need to do so ourselves.

The devil will bombard us with thoughts to disqualify us, that we are not good enough. These are lies. The one sacrifice of Jesus is enough. Instead of trusting in men, we should trust in Jesus.

That brings us to the second point. We don't have to do enough to be saved. Cling on to the biblical truth that Christ is more than enough. It is the glorious truth of the Good News of the Kingdom - that salvation is for all, including those who have come to the end of the road knowing that they have nothing to offer except brokenness. God did not wait until we were good enough to initiate the great rescue operation, which culminated in Jesus' coming and dying for us and being resurrected from the dead. It has always been His desire for us to live in the freedom of His righteousness by His strength, and His grace.

Last but not least, we are not strong by ourselves. Well, God has ordained that we live as people, not merely as individuals but as a family. This family is where the grace of God is to be experienced and encountered. God has given us this community to walk alongside us in our difficult seasons. People we can cry with, extend a listening ear, or just be present in our midst. It is important to have such people in our lives. We can find them in the cell groups that we are in or the spiritual friends around us. In a family, as we encourage others, we could at times need others to encourage us too and we have to humbly allow that to happen.

## **Conclusion**

Jesus is our perfect High Priest who advocates and intercedes for us. He is our perfect sacrifice who perfectly restores our relationship with God, and also our perfect freedom, having taken away our guilt and setting us free to live rightly.

Based on these, we are exhorted then to draw near to God and not run away from Him, to hold fast to the truth that Christ is more than enough and as we journey in life that we can lend strength to one another, encouraging one another to hang on and hold fast tenaciously to God.

God does not set out to condemn, scold nor mock us for our repeated failures. He is here to save us from all that. We can trust in Him who came to save us all.

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# SERMON REFLECTION

During this season of Lent (Feb.17 - Apr.3) , we are called to reflect on the journey of our lives in the past year, to repent of our sins and to renew our walk with God. It resonates with me especially as our nation had started the Movement Control Order (MCO) on 18th March 2020. It has been almost a year. Many changes have taken place especially in the area where we would have to refrain from meeting up in big groups.

The most visible change for me is not being able to gather as the body of Christ physically, to worship Him. Our physical contact has been limited. I especially miss a warm hug, a strong grip and the soothing laughter and chatter of the congregation as we meet before and after Church Celebrations.

Life has changed indeed. I received messages of businesses and livelihood being affected by this great change. At times when I ask God, "How long will this be and will we be able to be free from this fear of the virus which has caused these changes?" , I am left wondering. Have I drifted away from Him in the new busyness of cyber activities?

Pastor Mike's sermon reminded me that Jesus has restored us to God and I need to draw near to Him more so especially during this season of Lent. Hebrews 10:22 tells me that if I come to Him with a sincere heart, He will cleanse my guilty conscience. Yes, truly I am blessed as I still can hold fast to the Hope that I have in Him.



Photo by Priscilla Du Preez on Unsplash

I am also blessed to hear from a church friend who is grateful to me for sending her encouragement messages. I thank God for His promptings to me to send her the messages during this season so that she can also hold fast to His promises for her. Yes, even in this season where we cannot gather, we still have the freedom and means to continue encouraging others.

Apart from that, in this Lent season, I am reminded that in devoting our time to His Kingdom, we should also continue to pray for our nation and the leadership in the government and as well as the church.

*Contributed by Michelle Chuah and the Ignite Team*





# APPLICATION

## **Note to Word facilitator:**

*As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficiently. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.*

## **Suggested Icebreaker Questions**

- Do you declutter and clean your homes and offices once a year only (eg. spring cleaning before the Lunar New Year)? Or do you do it more often, like say, every 3 or 6 months?
- Have you ever slaughtered a chicken or a cow? Or watched someone do it before? Describe what you remember of the scene.

## **Suggested Word Introductory Questions**

- On the Day of Atonement, the Jewish people had to fast. In this Lent season, many are called to fast as well. Why is fasting important? If you have fasted before, describe your experience briefly.

## **Suggested Questions linked to the Sermon:**

### **The Once-A -Year ritual for all Israel**

- If someone were to ask you the reason why God couldn't or wouldn't *just forgive* our sins (without the need of sacrifices), what would your answer be?
- Have you ever considered the cost of the animal sacrifice to atone for your sins? How much did you have to sacrifice for your Christian faith?

### **Once for all humanity, by One Man**

- In the ancient Day of Atonement, the high priest needed two goats as part of the ritual of atoning the sins of the Jewish people. Explain why two goats were needed? How did Jesus fulfil these two roles at the cross?



- Jesus is our perfect high priest, perfect sin offering and perfect freedom. How much does this statement mean to you personally? How would you appropriate these truths in the face of temptations and struggles in your life?
- Hebrews 10:14 reads, *“For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.”* So, are you holy already or not yet? How is it that we are being made holy?

### **Once and for all by Jesus for you**

- What are some of the things or circumstances that have stopped you from drawing near to God? How have you drawn near to God in the good and the bad times?
- Other than Jesus, where have you placed your hope on? Describe how some of these "hopes" might have *overtaken* Christ in you the hope of glory (eg. persons, job, children, a lucky charm, vaccines, etc).
- Share an occasion where others have shown kindness or encouraged you? How did that make you feel? Would you pay-it-forward?

### **Question Bank** *(Extra questions you can use to bring discussion further as you see fit):*

- Through His death on the cross, Jesus restored our relationship with God. Is He near or far from you? If you are far, wouldn't you want to draw near to Him? If you are near, how would you help those who are afar?
  - Share an experience of how God's Word was a source of encouragement to you. Or perhaps, that you used His Word to encourage others.
  - What are some ways that you can intentionally do to help others, even when you are facing difficulties of your own?
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# PRAYER



Photo by Timothy Eberly on Unsplash

**Note to CGL:** You (or someone you assign this portion to), may lead by praying OR reading these prayers together as a CG during worship.

## **AWEMA, Arab Countries**

The Arab World Evangelical Ministers' Association "AWEMA" is working to equip and encourage indigenous believers in Arab countries to have a united and effective Christian presence.

Pray for:

- The Lord to send His workers to His harvest, and provide financial resources to cover ministry needs.
- Christ's light to prevail in the region in order to overcome the powers of darkness.
- God's peace to be spread throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

Season of Lent (Feb 17 - Apr 3)

Pray that the people of God will

- Draw near to Him in sincere repentance, trusting not in our sense of right living but throwing ourselves upon His mercy revealed in Christ Jesus.
- Pursue personal and corporate holiness, holding each other accountable, walking in humility before the Lord.
- Make time for quiet self-examination and confession.
- Love one another and do good to each other in creative ways, even online.



## OTHER RESOURCES

*Below are some links to resources for you. Do **CLICK** on the images below!*

### FEATURED

*In view of our current changing landscape that affects us individually and corporately, here are some featured resources for you this month!*



### Our Bodies are Icons of God's Grace

[seedbed.com](https://seedbed.com)

God fashioned our bodies to be the perfect means for rec...

Timothy Tennent

Christian Living

Article



### The Sacredness of Ordinary Trasks

[seedbed.com](https://seedbed.com)

All work is sacred when it is seen through our status as im...

Timothy Tennent

Vocation Christian Living

Article



### Walking with God Through Grief

[voice.dts.edu](https://voice.dts.edu)

Mom lingered in a coma for a few days. The stroke had c...

Michael Ward

Counselling Suffering

Article



### Theology of Stewardship

45 minutes (Transcript provided)

[voice.dts.edu](https://voice.dts.edu)

In this episode, Dr. Darrell Bock and Scott Talbot discuss ...

Darrell Bock Scott Talbot

Vocation Work

Podcast

## OTHER RESOURCES

*Discover a host of other resources curated for you here!*



## **DUMC STORIES**

*Be blessed by a compilation of inspiring DUMC Stories that you can share with others!*

