

# Bible Discussion 13: Offerings and Freedom

**Text:** Leviticus 1:3-6; 2:1-2; 3:1-5; 4:1-4; 5:1-5

**Purpose:** To understand the five major offerings in Leviticus and how they bring us closer to God.

**Opening Question:** *What has been the best Christmas present you have ever given someone?*

**Read and Discuss:** Leviticus 1:3-6

The Burnt Offering, actually means to “ascend”, literally to “go up in smoke”. The smoke from the sacrifice ascended to God, “a soothing aroma to the Lord”. The whole animal was consumed, it’s a picture of how we are to surrender our whole life to God and as we do He gives us a wonderful life in Him.

1. *What might be some areas of your life that you would like to start giving over to God? (Maybe it’s your time to serve others, maybe it’s money to offer to God as worship, maybe it’s forgiveness, maybe it’s doubt, etc.)*

**Read and Discuss:** Leviticus 2:1-2

Giving a grain offering represented the Israelites complete dependence on God to provide for their needs each day. Every time they gave it reminded them of how God had provided for them in the past and will continue to provide for them in the future.

2. *What are some ways that you are thankful for how God has provided for you in the past? (Maybe He provided a job, a spouse, a child, friends, the church, etc.)*
3. *When you give an offering to God, what are some of the prayers you say or thoughts you have as you give? (God thank you for providing for me, God I trust you with all that I have, I believe you will provide and take care of me in the future, etc.)*

**Read and Discuss:** Leviticus 3:1-5

The Peace Offering, most sacrifices in the Old Testament were not eaten by worshipers, but the peace offering was meant to be eaten—only a portion of the animal or grain brought to the altar was burned, the rest was given back to the worshiper and to the poor and hungry. The picture here is of God’s provision for his people both physically and spiritually. God is not interested in taking from us—but giving to us. This offering was to help the Israelites not believe the lie that our good actions bring about God’s goodness and our sinful actions must be paid with a personal sacrifice. Only Jesus’ sacrifice creates favor with God and the Old Testament sacrifices were a picture of that future provision.

4. *Are there moments or thoughts in your life that you feel you need to make up for past sins, do better to win God’s favor?*

**Read and Discuss:** Leviticus 4:1-4

The focus of the Sin Offering, was on making amends for one’s broken relationship with God, caused either by unintentionally violating one of God’s commandments or by failing to do something that was required. By offering this to God the people were released from their guilt and the weight of sin. God intended this to be an event that created such great freedom for the people. This offering foreshadows the work of Jesus on the cross.

5. *Discuss the after effects of being forgiven by God? (Joy, Freedom, Thankfulness, Worship, etc.)*

**Read and Discuss:** Leviticus 5:1-5

A Guilt Offering was given when someone later realized they committed a sin and needed to make it right.

6. *When was a time you had to go back to someone because you said something or did something wrong? What was the result?*