

## A Holy God & A Holy People

### Reflect

1. Do you think you need to get right with God? Why or why not.
2. What does it mean to you to “get right with God”?
3. How do you go about getting right with God?

### Read Your Bible

- Leviticus 16:1-34
- John 3:16 -18

### Apply God’s Word to Your Life

1. What stands out to you about all the requirements for Aaron the high priest to stand before God?
2. What do all these requirements say about the holiness of God to you?
3. In your own words describe what the purpose of the scapegoat is. See Lev. 16: 20-22
4. In what ways is the day of atonement celebrated on Yom Kippur by Jewish people closely linked to Christian confession that is a part of our worship services.
5. Synonyms for atonement include compensation, amends, punishment, and penitence. In what ways does Jesus’ act of atonement on the cross replace the need for a scapegoat?
6. In what ways does His act of atonement go beyond the atonement of a scapegoat?
7. See John 3:16-18. Do you think you are holy in God’s eyes and what makes you holy?
8. What does living a holy life mean to you? Hint: Focus on the cross.

God is a holy God. The holiness of God is not to be trifled with which means we, ourselves, must be made holy if we are to have a relationship with God. The big question is: Can you do that on your own as a broken, sinful human being? Too many people think that if they simply live a good life, they are holy in God’s eyes. But they compare goodness to other human beings and not to the goodness of God. Therein is the problem for all human beings. As the Bible states, “All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” See Romans 3:23. Can we ever be good enough for God by our own efforts? Can I ever reach a level of holiness that is acceptable to God? Thank God we don’t have to solve the holiness problem through our own efforts. Jesus took on the role of the scapegoat to atone for the sins of people like you and me once and for all. The cross is the symbol of both our victory over sin through Christ, and the claim we have as a holy people before God. God in the cross of Christ makes us holy! Forgiven people are holy people. So, lift high the cross before you and surrender your life daily to His work in you.

### Pray

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. In the name of Jesus who makes us holy. Amen.