

# LIFE GROUP LESSON

People Can Change • Week of March 3

While grace is free for us – underserved, unmerited favor of God – grace cost Jesus His very life. Often we think the Old Testament is full of laws and thereby devoid of grace; that we don't find grace until we read the New Testament. But grace is all throughout the Old Testament if we look for it. Jesus said: "Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not even the smallest detail of God's law will disappear until its purpose is achieved" (Matthew 5:17-18). What is the purpose of the law?

The apostle Paul said, "God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were" (Romans 5:20a). To understand the New Testament, the new covenant, we must study it in light of the Old Covenant. Man (humankind) has a sin problem that distances us from God. To cover our sin, 'atonement' is required – the shedding of blood, life in exchange for life.

*"For the life of the body is in its blood. I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the LORD. It is the blood, given in exchange for a life that makes purification possible" (Leviticus 17:11, see also Ephesians 1:7).*

On the cross Jesus sacrificed His pure life-blood to atone for our sin. Ultimately, grace is a Person – the One who paid the price for our forgiveness. In Christ we can be free from sin.

Read Leviticus 16:3-17

Grace is not what we do but what God has already done. God's detailed instructions through Moses to Aaron and his sons, was to express the holiness of God and the seriousness of sin. In Adam (the old sinful nature) we all die, but through Christ (the new nature that desires connection with God) we can all be made alive (see 1 Corinthians 15:22). People can change.

1. If you have invited Jesus into your heart, you have received a new nature. How have you begun to notice a difference in your life?

Think about this: If the Lord can make a difference in you, do you believe He can make a difference in your family-member, your friend, your co-worker? Would you be willing to invite four people to church this month? (Ask your Life Group Leader/Facilitator to explain Christ Church's "Invite 4, Connect 1")

2. Read Psalm 14:1-3, Isaiah 53:1-6, and Romans 3:23-26. Write down one take-away from each reference.

Psalm 14:1-3

Isaiah 53:1-6

Romans 3:23-26

Because of sin, the mindset of this fallen world runs counter to the reality of heaven. Sin will not be allowed into heaven, the place of God's presence (Psalm 103:19, Isaiah 57:15, Revelation 21:7-8, 22:14-15). All sin will be dealt with in light of Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross, the pure and spotless Lamb of God. "Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow could cleanse people's bodies from ceremonial impurity. Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins" (Hebrews 9:13-14).

3. Have you accepted or scorned the message of the cross? In this 'enlightened' age, is your pride keeping you from seeing yourself in light of God's holiness?

If you know you stand in need for atonement, ask the Lord to cover you with His blood – just like the Hebrews covered the doorposts of their home with the paschal lamb at Passover. God will graciously accept the blood of His Christ and spare you from death. God will see the life of His Son given in exchange for your life. Pray now.

# PEOPLE CAN CHANGE

## Week One

Text: Leviticus 16:3-17

### PLAIN TRUTH:

\_\_\_\_\_ is what we \_\_\_\_\_ -  
\_\_\_\_\_ is what God has \_\_\_\_\_.

1. In Adam we all died—we have a sin problem.
2. The Priest led \_\_\_\_\_ for somebody has to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In Adam we \_\_\_\_\_, in Christ we come \_\_\_\_\_.

*“... according to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified with blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. That is why the Tabernacle and everything in it, which were copies of things in heaven, had to be purified by the blood of animals. But the real things in heaven had to be purified with far better sacrifices than the blood of animals. For Christ did not enter into a holy place made with human hands, which was a copy of the true one in heaven. He entered into heaven itself to appear now before God on our behalf.” Hebrews 9:22-24*

4. Many people live under the notion that ‘I am basically a good person.’ But the truth is, this world’s standard of ‘good enough’ is not good enough. We must align our lives with the eternal truth of God’s Word, “For our God is a devouring fire” (Hebrews 12:29). Perhaps you have lived under this notion. How would you explain the *real* truth about sin to a friend, loved-one, co-worker?

How is hope stirred in you when you think about our theme – that in Christ “People Can Change”? (Write down the names (or initials) of 4 people you want to invite to church)

#### One Year Bible Reading

Mar. 3: Leviticus 27:14-Numbers 1:54, Mark 11:1-26, Psalm 46:1-11, Prov. 10:23  
Mar. 4: Numbers 2:1-3:51, Mark 11:27-12:17, Psalm 47:1-9, Proverbs 10:24-25  
Mar. 5: Numbers 4:1-5:31, Mark 12:18-37, Psalm 48:1-14, Proverbs 10:26  
Mar. 6: Numbers 6:1-7:89, Mark 12:38-13:13, Psalm 49:1-20, Proverbs 10:27-28  
Mar. 7: Numbers 8:1-9:23, Mark 13:14-37, Psalm 50:1-23, Proverbs 10:29-30  
Mar. 8: Numbers 10:1-11:23, Mark 14:1-2, Psalm 51:1-19, Proverbs 10:31-32  
Mar. 9: Numbers 11:24-13:33, Mark 14:22-52, Psalm 52:1-9, Proverbs 11:1-3