

This midweek study will explore the doctrine of Christ as our substitute sacrifice. Use the following outline, activity, playlist, and video ideas to lead a midweek event for your students.

Essential Doctrine: Christ as Sacrifice

There are several signs, symbols, and pointers in the Old Testament that foreshadowed Christ as being the sacrificial Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. However, unlike the sacrificial system of the Old Testament, whose sacrifices were unable to take away sin (Heb. 10:4), Christ's sacrifice on the cross was able to permanently "once and for all" take away sins.

Scripture: *Psalm 51:16; Isaiah 53:3-6; Hebrews 2:17; 10:4; 1 John 2:2; 3:5*

1 The Old Testament foreshadows Christ as being the sacrificial Lamb of God (Isa. 53:3-6).

Jesus' sacrifice wasn't a last ditch effort on God's part to correct the system in the Old Testament. The sacrifice of Christ was God's plan from the very beginning. The Old Testament system was a way of foreshadowing and preparing God's people for the true sacrificial Lamb who would pay our debt once and for all.

2 The Old Testament sacrifices were unable to remove sin (Ps. 51:16; Heb. 10:4).

The Old Testament sacrifices simply appeased God's anger against sin. The Old Testament sacrifices were able to temporarily cover the sin of the people in God's eyes, but Jesus removed our sin by paying it in full.

3 Christ's sacrifice on the cross permanently removes our sin (Heb. 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 3:5).

Where the sacrifices in the Old Testament were temporary, in Christ, the sacrifice was permanent. The difference between the Old and New Testament sacrifices rests in the authority of the One being sacrificed. In contrast with an animal, Christ as God was the perfect sacrifice. Jesus took on the entire weight of humanity's sin and canceled the debt permanently based on His authority and power.

Opening Activity

Begin with an activity showing a credit card statement, or mock credit card statement. You can show some old credit cards as an example. Illustrate how someone may have an incredibly large bill of \$1,000 this month, but the credit card company only requires a payment of, for example, \$30 per month. At this rate, if you didn't buy anything else or accumulate any interest on your bill,

it would take almost 2 full years to pay off! But let's be honest, no interest and no purchases for two years is unrealistic. You can make the best effort to pay the minimum required, but \$30 a month is insufficient to fully pay the debt.

If you are broke, have no job, and can't afford to pay the bill, your only hope is for a generous person to cancel your debt, or pay your debt in full, and give you a clean slate. In the Old Testament, the sacrificial system was similar to paying a small payment on a debt which could never be repaid. The sacrifice was the minimum required, but couldn't cancel the debt. In Jesus, we find the generous One who permanently pays for and cancels our sin debt and starts us over with a clean slate.

Worship/Playlist Ideas

- ▶ "What A Savior" by Laura Story
(*Blessings*, INO Records, 2011)
- ▶ "The Lion and the Lamb" by Big Daddy Weave
(*Beautiful Offerings [Deluxe Edition]*, Word Entertainment, 2015)
- ▶ "Crowns" by Hillsong Worship
(*Let There Be Light [Deluxe Edition]*, Hillsong Music, 2016)
- ▶ "Forgiven" by Crowder
(*American Prodigal*, sixstepsrecords/Sparrow Records, 2016)

Video Idea(s)

- ▶ "He Was" *BluefishTV.com*
- ▶ "Impressions of Love" *Skitguys.com*

This midweek study will explore the doctrine of Christ as our substitute sacrifice. Use the following main points, Scriptures, teaching/discussion ideas, and questions to help students gain a better understanding of the essential doctrine for this session.

Essential Doctrine: Christ as Sacrifice

There are several signs, symbols, and pointers in the Old Testament that foreshadowed Christ as being the sacrificial Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. However, unlike the sacrificial system of the Old Testament, whose sacrifices were unable to take away sin (Heb. 10:4), Christ's sacrifice on the cross was able to permanently "once and for all" take away sins.

1 The Old Testament foreshadows Christ as being the sacrificial Lamb of God (Isa. 53:3-6).

Read Isaiah 53:3-6.

- ▶ *How does this passage foreshadow Christ and His sacrifice?*
God the Father was not only just to declare our righteousness in Christ, but Jesus also paid an incredible price to purchase it.
- ▶ *What would those living during Isaiah's time understand the Messiah to do when He finally came?*
Christ would live the life we could not, and He would pay the sin debt we were unable to pay.
- ▶ *Why would this cause such a great anticipation for the Messiah in the Old Testament?*
- ▶ *Ultimately, what was God promising His people through foreshadowing the Messiah in the Old Testament?*

2 The Old Testament sacrifices were unable to remove sin (Ps. 51:16; Heb. 10:4).

Option: Show a white canvas to the class. Place a large stroke of paint across the canvas. Ask a student to remove the paint using things like window cleaner, soap, towels, or even painting over the color. Regardless of their attempts, the stain is too deep and permanent to be removed—the canvas needs to be replaced. The Old Testament sacrificial system is similar to attempting to remove paint on a canvas by painting over it. It's not permanent, nor does it remove the stain; at best, it simply covers it up.

- ▶ *Why did the Old Testament sacrifices fail to remove sin permanently?*
While God instructed His people to make sacrifices, it was only a temporary solution that needed to be repeated.

Read Psalm 51:16 and Hebrews 10:4.

- ▶ *According to these verses, why is Jesus' sacrifice superior to the Old Testament animal sacrifices?*
- ▶ *In what ways do these verses provide a glimpse into what God really wants and desires from us?*
- ▶ *Why is it important to know that the Old Testament sacrifices were unable to remove sin?*

3 Christ's sacrifice on the cross permanently removes our sin (Heb. 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 3:5).

While the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament were temporary, Jesus' sacrifice permanently removes our sin because it is God who made the sacrifice.

- ▶ *What difference does it make when God Himself is our sacrifice instead of an animal?*
Jesus' authority as God's Son gave Him the ability and power to die in our place and to forgive our sin.
- ▶ *How does Jesus' authority and power change how we approach Him?*
- ▶ *How does God providing the sacrifice make Jesus' sacrifice permanent as opposed to the Old Testament sacrifices?*

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ *How does the fact that Jesus has permanently removed your sin change how you live?*
- ▶ *How does Christ as our sacrifice cause us to reflect on the way we sometimes attempt to earn our salvation?*
Challenge students to be aware that the Old Testament foreshadows Christ so believers can know that the entirety of Scripture points to Jesus. Challenge them to know that while the Old Testament sacrifices were unable to remove sin, Christ's sacrifice on the cross is sufficient to remove our sin permanently.