



Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series: The Biblical Pattern (Week 2) – February 12, 2023

*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only." (James 1:22) **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

DISCUSSION STARTER

Share a time when someone in your family made a sacrifice for you? What does this say about their love for you? How does this sacrificial love remind you of Jesus? How can we express and share this love with others?

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Exodus 25:17-22. Ask, "What is atonement (verse 17), what does it mean? Discuss. Say, "atonement means to cover over, to reunite, to restore what was broken, to make something right again. Ask, "What is an atonement cover? What is the covenant of the law and what does it represent? One of the beautiful things about the building of the tabernacle was the imagery and meaning of God dwelling with His people." Ask, "What loss does the tabernacle restore?" Pastor Sam said, "God established an appointed time He met with His people and it was called the Day of Atonement (the day of covering). Ask, "what was it covering?" Say, "It was covering the sin of His people."

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Genesis 2:17, 3:22-23. Ask, "what are the consequences for humankind's rebellion and sin?" Say, "Sin causes death, so how did God show mercy and grace to Adam and Eve and to us (verse 3:22)?" Say, "in an act of mercy and Grace God allowed humanity to die, because death then releases us from a sinful body and allows us to receive a perfect eternal body so we can freely dwell with God again." Pastor Sam said, "If death is the penalty, then someone or something must pay the penalty." Ask, "what was the first sacrifice in Eden?" Say, "An innocent animal paid the penalty for Adam and Eve's sin. This established the Biblical pattern of an animal being sacrificed in place of human sin. This sacrifice is what covered their sin. God continues with this same pattern when He gives instructions to Moses to restore His relationship with His people. The covering of sin made it possible for God to dwell among us".

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Leviticus 16:6-10, 14-15. Say, "In these verses God gave instructions for the High Priest." Ask, "who does the High Priest represent?" Say, everything we see the High Priest do is representative of Christ, what the High Priest does is what Jesus is going to do." Pastor Sam said, "The High Priest on the Day of Atonement would take off his ornate robe full of jewels and put on a white linen robe." Ask, "what does this represent?" The High Priest brought a bull and two goats for sacrifice. What were these animal sacrifices for? Ask, "why did the High Priest wash himself in the laver/basin?" What did this symbolize? Say, "This symbolized our need to be washed clean or cleansed before we can enter a relationship with a pure and holy God. Before the High Priest could enter into the presence of God and present the sacrifice for sin he had to be cleansed. Jesus was perfectly sinless, perfectly pure so He could become the sacrifice for sin."

DOING THE WORD

In 1 Peter 2:9 and Revelation 5:10 we are called a royal priesthood and priests. As priests of the living God, we are all to give praise to the One who has given us the great gift of His Son's sacrifice on our behalf, and in response, to share this wonderful grace with others. Discuss how you can reach out to the unchurched and unsaved, those on the fringes of society to share God's grace with. Discuss how as a group you can be intentional to be constantly "looking-out" into your community and make disciples. Close by thanking Jesus for modeling His word for us and being our great example to follow and learn from. Then ask Him to help you be faithful and obedient to His commands.