CARING FOR OTHERS

Leviticus 2 reveals another value God holds dear: caring for others. To paraphrase M. L. Andreasen, a well-known theologian, the burnt offering declares all we are to be the Lord’s while the grain offering (also called the meat or meal offering) declares all we have to be His (The Sanctuary Service [Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1937], p. 108). The two sacrifices were offered together, and both were to be used for God's glory and for the good of others. Although the grain offering did not require any blood, it represented another kind of sacrifice: giving up something of value for others' benefit.

A small portion of the grain offering was burned on the altar, but the remainder went to the priests for food (Lev. 2:1–3) in the form of baked loaves or cooked or grilled grain. Caring for others is a major theme in Leviticus. Another example is found in Leviticus 23, where landowners were commanded not to overharvest their grain and to instead leave some for the “poor” and “foreigner” to harvest (v. 22).

God wants us to give because He gave to us first (see also John 4:19). All the care we pour into others' lives should flow from a heart of gratitude for all the care we have received from our heavenly Father. Leviticus 19:33, 34 makes this very clear: “And if a stranger dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him. The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” Our experience of God's care should be reciprocated and passed on to others.
Write out Leviticus 2 and 7:9–14 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Leviticus 2:11–13. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

What does it mean to care for “the least of these” in this day and age? What does that look like in modern life?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw03-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying Leviticus 2? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Jesus identified Himself as the “bread of God” and the “bread of life” (John 6:33, 35), both of which identified Him in the grain offering. What significance does this have for us today?

Jesus is the grain offering, which was not designed to atone for sin. What implications does this have for our relationship with Him?
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What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

1 Corinthians 9:13, 14
Colossians 4:6
Hebrews 13:15, 16
James 2:15–17
1 John 3:16–18

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Leviticus 2?

Review your memorized verse from Leviticus 2.
What is Jesus saying to you through the main text?

What implications does the story of David going to the Holy Place for the showbread have for our spiritual lives? What message should we take away from it?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer Response:

Meditate on Leviticus 2 again and look for where Jesus is.

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw03-6
inSight

Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week's study of Leviticus 2, what are some personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/stw03-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

In what ways does the grain offering represent Jesus?

What makes the grain offering unique from all the other offerings?

Whom did the grain offering provide for?


How does faithfulness in tithes and offerings express care for others?

If giving to others is equivalent to giving to God, in what ways are you giving to God today?

What can you do every day to make sure you get spiritually fed on Sabbath?

How can you and your local church give in Jesus’ name to your church and community?