When the book *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* came out in 1852, it sold more copies than any other book on the planet except the Bible. The book’s primary purpose was to inspire an end to the atrocities of slavery, but it was also about forgiveness. The protagonist is a Christian slave named Uncle Tom who lived under several different slave masters and who secretly helped his fellow slaves escape through the Underground Railroad. Inspired by Jesus’ teachings, he also prayed for his enemies, the worst of whom was Simon Legree, his final and cruelest slave master. Legree hated Black folk and Christianity, making Uncle Tom the target of horrific abuse. Tragically, Legree and several other slaves beat Uncle Tom to death, but shortly before he died he said his own version of Jesus’ plea when He hung dying on the cross: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34). At the end of the day, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* is a call to forgive even your worst enemies.

Forgiveness isn’t always easy. It’s one thing when someone wrongs you in a minor way, but it’s entirely different when they cause you harm in a destructive and painful way. No, forgiveness is not always easy! But when we forgive, we display one of the beautiful attributes of God Himself (Luke 23:34). Unsurprisingly, forgiveness is yet another value in Leviticus.

If we miss God’s promise and desire to forgive in Leviticus, the book is completely misunderstood. While Exodus gives us ten commandments, Leviticus gives us ten promises of forgiveness (Lev. 4:20, 26, 31, 35; 5:10, 13, 16, 18; 6:7; 19:22). The Ten Commandments in Exodus convict the sinner, but the blood of the lamb in Leviticus frees the sinner.
Write out Leviticus 4:27–31 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out verse 31. 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 with memorization.

What do we learn about forgiveness from the sin offering?

What feelings of guilt and shame do you need to lay at Jesus’ feet today?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw05-3
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 4:27–31? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How can we help those who are trapped in their guilt and shame escape those bonds?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw05-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

1 John 1:9  
Matthew 6:14, 15  
Luke 11:4  
Luke 7:36–50  
Luke 23:34  
Psalms 103:12

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with Leviticus 4:27–31?

Meditate on Leviticus 4:27–31 again and look for where Jesus is.

What is He saying to you through these texts?

If we find it particularly difficult to forgive a certain person or a certain sin, how can we work toward forgiveness?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer Response:

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw05-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the passage, how is God speaking to you?

How is God speaking to you to deal with others?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/stw05-7
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.

What are some examples of intentional versus unintentional sins?

According to Leviticus 4, what is sin? What is needed to have it forgiven?

Describe the kind of forgiveness you’ve given others or received from others.

The saying goes, “Forgive and forget,” but is forgetting always required?

Why is it so important to forgive others, not just from the standpoint of wanting God’s forgiveness for our own sins?

Do you have deep regrets or guilt for past sins? What can Christ’s blood do for you? How can you accept His forgiveness and move on, leaving the guilt and regret behind?

How does forgiveness bring freedom?