MORE THAN AN APOLOGY

I’ll never forget the day my Siberian husky got loose from her kennel and slaughtered all eight of our neighbor’s sheep. I learned what she had done when a police officer took me to the farmer’s house, where I looked in horror at the dead sheep scattered around the field.

I expected the farmer to order the officer to shoot my dog or charge me a fortune for her actions, but instead, he simply asked what happened. I explained that she had broken free from her kennel and that I was deeply sorry. The man looked at me and said, “I understand. Please make sure she’s tied up in the future.” And that was it! Even the officer was shocked by the farmer’s response. I was so moved that I volunteered to clean his stalls and mow his lawn for as long as it took to make up for the money he had lost from the attack. I worked for him all summer, doing my best to make up for something he had already forgiven me for. This, my friends, is restitution, and it is something God values.

God wants more than just apologies for our sins; He wants us to make things right with those we have wronged. This is almost forgotten virtue in Christianity today, but Leviticus 5 and 6 reveals that it’s required of God’s people. Jesus affirmed this, too (Matt. 5:23, 24). Leviticus 5:14–6:7 includes unfaithfulness in tithes and offerings (“holy things” of Lev. 5:16), deceiving, extortion, stealing, cheating, bearing false witness in a court of law, and silence regarding a sin you witnessed as some of the sins we need to make restitution for.

This week we will look at the guilt offering, which deals with the sin one has committed against God and the sins we have committed against those around us.
Write out Leviticus 5:14—6:7 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Leviticus 5:14–19. 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.

How can we move past the uncomfortable feelings that accompany making restitution with those we have wronged?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw06-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying Leviticus 5:14—6:7? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Should we still offer a sacrifice of some kind as part of the process of gaining forgiveness?

What are the negative results of thinking about God’s forgiveness as something we have only to ask for instead of what it truly is: a process by which we show how deeply sorry we are?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw06-4
inspect

What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Luke 19:1–10
Matthew 5:23–25
Numbers 5:6–8
Romans 12:17–21

What other verses/promises come to mind with Leviticus 5:14—6:7?

Meditate on Leviticus 5:14—6:7 again and look for where Jesus is.

What is He saying to you personally through these texts?

What are some ways we can make restitution when our wrongs don’t involve money? (For example, cheating, lying, violence, neglect.)

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer Response:
inSight

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

After this week’s study of Leviticus 5:14—6:7, what needs to be changed in you?

What needs to be changed around you?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/stw06-7
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.

How does the guilt offering symbolically point to Jesus?

What specific sins does Leviticus 5 and 6 require restitution for?

According to Leviticus, what was a person to do if he or she had wronged another?

How is this guilt offering applicable today?

What does the guilt offering teach us about the consequences of sin?

When is guilt good, and when is it bad?

What can we learn about forgiveness and restitution from the story of Zacchaeus? (Luke 19:1–10.)

How do Jesus’ blood and restitution set a person free from guilt?