There is hardly a word more beautiful in all of Scripture than “atonement.” It is without question one of God’s major values in the book of Leviticus (it appears nearly fifty times!), and that should make us overjoyed.

Being atoned for means you are not only forgiven for a wrong you have committed against another, but your sin is completely covered and your relationship restored with no lingering guilt or shame. The New Living Translation brings this meaning out the best: “Lay your hand on the animal’s head, and the Lord will accept its death in your place to purify you, making you right with him” (Lev. 1:4). Atonement means at least three things: you are purified, forgiven (Lev. 4:20), and made right with God.

Have you ever forgiven someone for harming you but never really trusted them again? In other words, you gave forgiveness, but real friendship was no longer an option? This is not atonement! Atonement brings two parties that were divided back together as one, as if they were never parted in the first place. In other words, it includes forgiveness but offers much more: a restored friendship with God.

The Hebrew word for atonement means “to appease, pacify, cover, and cleanse,” so atonement is having your sins cleansed and covered so perfectly that your once broken relationship with God is restored completely (Sidney Greidanus, Preaching Christ From Leviticus: Foundations for Expository Sermons [William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2011], p. 49). Jesus died so we could receive these gifts of eternal life, forgiveness, purity, and restored relationship with God.
Write out Leviticus 16:1–28 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Leviticus 16:16. 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 does the Day of Atonement mean in your life?

What emotions do you think were the Israelites going through on the morning of the Day of Atonement?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw10-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

Why is it so important to keep our spiritual leaders in prayer? What should we pray for them?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/stw10-4
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What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Romans 3:25
Romans 5:11, 19
1 John 1:9; 2:1, 2
1 John 4:10
Revelation 20

What other verses come to mind in connection with Leviticus 16:1–28?

Meditate on Leviticus 16:1–28 again and look for where Jesus is.

What is He saying to you personally through these texts?

How does the knowledge that we live under the new covenant affect your walk with God?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

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

After this week’s study of the passage, what must be changed in your life in light of the Day of Atonement personally?

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

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/stw10-7
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 should the knowledge that your relationship with God has been completely restored influence your daily life?

What does it mean to be not only God’s creation but His friend as well?

What sins do you need to lay at Jesus’ feet today? What sins have you been holding on to, perhaps out of guilt or shame?

What can we do if we no longer recognize our consciences’ prod-dings when we sin? What steps can we take to begin hearing the proverbial alarm again?

How much should we rely on the Holy Spirit to convict us when we're sinning? Can we rely on Him alone, or are there other steps we should take to recognize sin?

What would you do if someone you trust tried to convict you of a sin you’re not guilty of?

Why is it so important to confess our specific sins?