



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families: For the week of November 5, 2017

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a “worship discussion” guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

Numbers 8 “Lamps & Levites”

- What is your “signature” defense, your favorite way of trying to cover up your own sin? Why does it not work?

Read Numbers 8:1-4

- The lampstand in the tabernacle certainly served a practical purpose in providing light for worship. They also signified spiritual provision. They do not illuminate the worshippers, but rather the provision of God. Name several things that the Lord has provided that He mercifully “shines His light” on when we participate in worship.
- Share a recent time recently when the Holy Spirit opened your eyes to see Jesus & His provision more clearly.

Read Numbers 8:5-22

- What is “atonement”?
- Why did atonement need to be made for everyone—including the Levites (12)?
- Christians believe that Jesus has provided a final & full atonement. Why was His atonement final & full?

Read Numbers 8:23-26

- What were the Levite’s retirement options at age 50? Why was that provision a mercy to the Levites and the community?
- Retired Levites continued to have a spiritual witness to God’s people. What was their witness?
- When you think about your older years (Lord willing), what ministry do you hope to have?
- This past Sunday, the church participated in the Lord’s Supper. We believe that God is present with His people in a powerful way in the sacrament, and we remember...
 - Seeing Jesus in the sacrament shines a light on the Cross (like a lamp).
 - The bread and the cup declare that only Jesus Christ’s perfect atoning sacrifice can finally cover our sin (full atonement)
 - Coming to the Table assures us of our promised eternal rest in glory (retirement)
 - As you reflect on Sunday’s communion service, how did Jesus lead you to remember His kindness and mercy?
- Have you been tempted to believe that you still must atone for your sin? Take time to pray together, confess your sins and trusting the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ to make you clean and give you rest. Read this past week’s [Words of Encouragement](#) from [1 John 1:5-7](#) as a guide to prayer.

Questions about this week’s study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org
To hear sermons and access past study guides visit www.wepc.org/archivedsermons

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [Numbers 8](#).

Today's Passage is Divided into Three Sections

- vv. 1-4 the lampstand
- vv. 5-22 atonement
- vv. 23-26 retirement for really old Levites
- This whole passage is all about the kindness and mercy of God to His people.

The Lampstand (1-4)

- The Lampstand-made out of gold its light is directed in a particular direction. What was in front of the lampstand? Not the worshiper but the things of God: the most particularly the table of shew bread.
- The lamps do not light the way but illuminate the Guide.

Atonement (5-22)

- The Levites are being substituted for the first-born Israelites. Remember the Passover.
- Even the Levites and priests must have atonement made for them

Retirement (23-26)

- A merciful gift from God.