

A T O N E D



# LEVITICUS 11 & 20:22-26

CLEAN &amp; UNCLEAN

MARCH 8, 2026

## OPENING

### Ice Breaker – 5 minutes

Choose one:

- Have you ever experienced a rule that seemed unnecessary at first – but later you understood its purpose?
- When you hear “Be holy,” does it feel encouraging, intimidating, or confusing?

Leviticus 11 describes dietary laws that may seem strange today. But these laws were meant to teach Israel something deeper about God and their identity as His people.

### Read the Text Together – Leviticus 11:1–8, 11:44–47, 20:22–26

Listen for: what makes something clean or unclean and the reason God gives for these laws

## SUMMARY

The dietary laws in Leviticus were never primarily about food safety or nutrition. They served as a daily object lesson reminding Israel that God had set them apart from the surrounding nations.

“Clean” and “unclean” did not mean “sinful” and “not sinful.” Instead, these categories reflected whether something aligned with the order of God’s creation or with the disorder introduced by the fall. Through everyday choices – even food – Israel was reminded that they were called to live distinctly different lives in a world filled with chaos and corruption.

By the time of Jesus, however, these laws had been misunderstood. Instead of pointing to holiness and mission, they had become barriers that kept outsiders away from God’s grace. Jesus restored the deeper meaning: holiness is not about food but about the heart.

Even though Christians are no longer bound by dietary laws, the principle remains:

God’s redeemed people are called to live uncommon lives that reflect His holiness.



## DISCUSSION

### Observation Questions

- What instructions does God give Israel about clean and unclean animals in Leviticus 11?
- According to 11:44–45, what reason does God give for these commands?
- What does Leviticus 20:24–26 say about how God has treated Israel differently from other nations?
- What phrase about God's character is repeated in these passages?

### Interpretation & Theological Reflection

- Nick explained that “unclean” does not equal “sinful.” Why is that distinction important?
- How did the dietary laws function as a daily reminder that Israel was different from the surrounding cultures? Why did being different matter?
- Why do you think God chose something as ordinary as food to teach His people about holiness?
- How did Jesus correct the way people misunderstood these laws (see Mt. 15:10–11)?

### Application Questions

- Nick repeatedly said: “In a world where disorder is common, live an uncommon life.” What might that look like for Christians today?
- Why do we sometimes resist the idea that God cares about the everyday details of our lives?
- What areas of life most test your willingness to live differently from the culture?
- How can we pursue holiness without becoming judgmental or self-righteous?

### Closing Prayer

- Praise God for His holiness and wisdom in shaping His people.
- Confess areas where you resist God's authority or prefer your own order.
- Thank God for redeeming us and setting us apart through Christ.
- Ask God to help you live faithfully and distinctly in everyday life.



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: Please feel empowered to use only the questions that are helpful for the context of your group.



- Pray for courage to represent Christ well in a disordered world.
- Ask God to shape your heart so that holiness flows from love for Him.

### Optional Take-Home Reflection

- What is one area of your life where you can intentionally reflect God's holy and distinct character this week?



**PREPARE FOR  
NEXT WEEK:**

Leviticus 12-14; 19-20