



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 11: Separation

Suggested Week of Use: February 9, 2025

Core Passage: Leviticus 9:15–10:3

News Story Summary

English actress Sophie Winkleman recently shared that she took royal etiquette lessons from the historical advisor of *Downton Abbey* to prepare for her role as a duchess in the British show *Belgravia*. The interesting thing is, Winkleman felt like she needed the royal “crash course” even though she is a member of the British royal family. Since 2009, Winkleman has been married to Lord Frederick Windsor, a cousin of King Charles.

Along with defining a character, Winkleman also may have been looking to avoid repeating a 2018 flap involving a supposed breach of protocol. Meghan Markle, the then-new bride of Prince Harry, was getting into a car with Queen Elizabeth. Etiquette dictated that the Sovereign should enter first. However, the queen instructed Markle to get in ahead of her. Even though the duchess was honoring the queen’s wishes, the British press initially interpreted her actions as an example of an uncultured, presumptuous American not knowing her place.

For more information on this story, search “Why Meghan Markle broke protocol” and “Sophie Winkleman hires etiquette coach.”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, summarize the news story about royal etiquette and protocol. Acknowledge that most Americans don’t often think about the rules for interacting with royalty, but it’s a big deal for people in other countries. Encourage adults to take that idea a step farther and consider why it was a big deal for the ancient Israelites to approach God properly. Remind the group that at the beginning of Leviticus, God spoke to Moses *from* the tent of meeting, while at the beginning of Numbers, God spoke to him *in* the tent of meeting. Ask: *What made the difference?* Share that this is the first session from Leviticus, a book that established the “rules” for how sinful Israelites could stand before holy God.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, refer back to the news story about royal etiquette. Ask: *How nervous would you be if you were meeting the King of England or some other important leader?* Emphasize that entering the presence of God Almighty is of infinitely greater consequence. Direct a volunteer to read Hebrews 4:14-16. Ask: *Why can we approach God in complete confidence? What makes that possible? (Our relationship with Jesus)* Close in prayer, asking God to help adults approach Him reverently, but boldly, in the coming days.