



Day 6: The Solution

Let's Start

ASK: Have you ever swapped in for someone (perhaps you said their lines in a play or took over for them on a sports team)? Have you ever swapped chores with someone or let someone do a job instead of you?

SAY: Today we are going to be thinking about swaps. But, before we come to today's true story, we need to remember two results of sin. Think back Adam and Eve. Firstly, their disobedience meant they would now die one day. And secondly, they were sent away and not allowed to be with God anymore.

Let's Listen to God

READ: selected verses from Leviticus 16

Aaron must kill the [first] goat of the sin offering for the people. He must bring this goat's blood into the room behind the curtain... He must sprinkle the goat's blood... Aaron will perform the acts to remove sins from himself and his family so they will belong to the Lord. Then he will remove the sins of all the people of Israel so they will belong to the Lord... Then he will bring the [second] goat alive to the Lord. He will put both his hands on the head of the living goat and confess all the sins and crimes of Israel over the goat. In this way Aaron will put the people's sins on the goat's head. Then he will send the goat into the desert... God finished his instructions by saying, "One the tenth day of the seventh month... You will do these things once a year."

ASK: What happened to one of the goats? Where did the other goat end up?

Whose sins were put onto each of the goats?

If the Israelites had to do the same swap for their sin every year, did they ever manage to stop being sinful?

Let's Learn

SAY: How could the God who is perfect live among the imperfect, sinful people? This was how: a goat swapped with them to pay the price for their sin. A goat swapped with them to take their sin away. But the problem was their sin was never completely gone, because they just kept sinning, so they had to keep doing the goat swap every single year.

We all still sin and disobey God and fail to love him as we should. But we don't need to swap goats anymore. God used the goat swapping to show the Israelites that we needed an even better solution: a forever, once-and-for-all solution to the problem of sin. And after hundreds of summers and winters, that forever solution was on his way...

Let's Pray

Say: Lord God, thank you for showing us your plan to make it possible for people to live with you by providing a swap, where something else takes out place and out punishment for sin. Please remind us of our need of a swap and make us excited as we start to think about the better, once-and-for-all swap that makes living with you possible for us. Amen.