

## **Tazria** Leviticus - Vayikra (12.1-13.59)

God has brought the Hebrews out of bondage in Egypt to be a holy people to God. There are new responsibilities as God's people. Individuals are to bring offerings to God's Sanctuary, observe God's festivals and eat only what is kosher and permitted by God.

Then God said to Moses, "Tell My people the rules that must be followed after the birth of a baby. After a birth, the mother is considered ritually unclean which means she is not to touch anything holy or enter God's Tent of Appointed Meeting. For a boy, the mother is ritually unclean for seven days, and on his eighth day of life, the flesh of her son's foreskin is to be circumcised. After more time for the mom's body to heal and a time of cleansing, the mother is go to the entrance of God's Meeting Tent with offerings to confirm her purity."

God then said to Moses and Aaron, "When a person has a swelling, rash, burn, or any other strangeness of the skin, it shall be reported to Aaron the High priest or to his sons. The priest shall examine the skin for a very contagious skin disease and pronounce the person clean or unclean."

"If the person is sick, the person is to tear his or her clothes and call out, 'Unclean, Unclean!'. The rest of the person's clothes must be examined by the priest and declared clean or unclean. Anything unclean must be burned in fire. The person with the contagious skin disease must then move outside the camp to live until healed."

**Questions:** 1) When do you feel unclean and clean? 2) Describe how cleanliness and holiness relate to each other. 3) How does a sense of being unclean or clean apply to the mind or emotions?

**Illustration Ideas:** the birth of a baby boy/girl...the priest looking at a person's skin for leprosy... a person with leprosy...burning unclean clothes in a fire... a person with leprosy living outside the camp