

# Sacrifice

To make a 'sacrifice' means to give up freely something that means a lot to you. If a billionaire gives £10 to charity and you give £10 to the same charity, who has given more?

You might say we've both given the same - £10. But £10 means more to you than the to the billionaire. You have made a bigger sacrifice. You have given the same, but you have given *up* more.

Read the story of the little boy beside. Is giving blood a sacrifice? Does it make a difference that the boy thought that giving blood would kill him?

## What makes a sacrifice precious?

- What you give
- What it means to you
- How generously you give it

## The sacrifice of animals

For over a 1000 years leading up to the time of Jesus, the people of Israel offered sacrifice to God in the Temple in Jerusalem. Lambs, and other animals, were sacrificed on the altar.

By offering something precious, the people wished to say sorry to God for their sins. They also wished to come closer to God. This is called **atonement**. The word can be split to 'at-one-ment'. It means 'to bring together by making up for what caused the break in friendship'.



## What made this sacrifice more special?

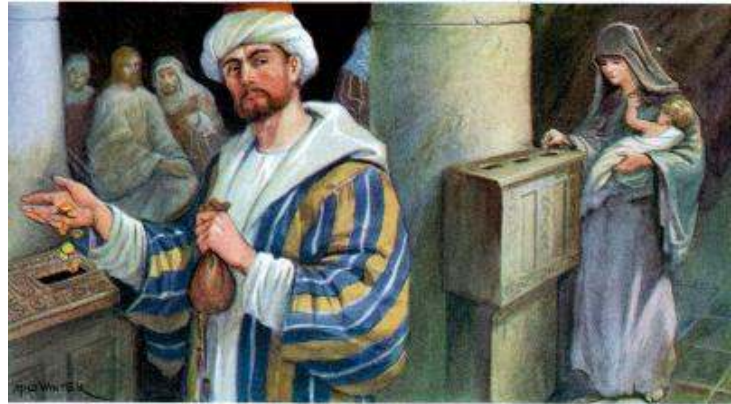
- What you give – is the lamb perfect?
- What it means to you – is it special to you? Did it cost you a great deal?
- How generously you give it? Do you offer the sacrifice with a good heart? Or do you secretly *not* want to give up the offering?

**There was once a little boy who used to quarrel with his sister. One day, his sister fell seriously ill. She needed a blood transfusion. She had a very rare blood group, and so would need blood from someone who had the same rare blood group. Her little brother was a perfect match. When his parents asked him to give his blood for his sister, he said, 'Yes'. The parents were delighted, and the little boy was brought to hospital. He went to see his sister and chatted happily with her. Then, the nurses sat him back on a couch, fixed a needle to his arm and the blood began to flow though the tube into a blood bag. His parents sat with him as the bag begin to fill. After a while, the little boy said to his mother, 'When will I die?'**

## Activities

1 There is a story in the Gospels about a poor widow who gave some money to the Temple collection box.

- Write down in a simple way what happened. (clue: Mark 12:41-44).
- Why did Jesus praise this widow?



2 Carlos, Jenna, Gurjit and Seema have all agreed to help raise money for a primary school in Mozambique. They will each run a different stall at the Parish Fête. Carlos is running a soft drinks stall, Jenna a cake stall, Gurjit a computer games stall, and Seema a book stall. They all agree to buy or supply what they need to sell.

Carlos bought all the soft drinks from birthday money (£25). He sold some drinks, but he had to reduce the price of other drinks to get them sold. He made less money than the money he used to buy the drinks. He's still glad that he tried to raise some money.

Since her parents run a bakery, Jenna was able to get all her cakes free of charge. She sold them all and made £80 altogether. Thinking she had made the most money, Jenna is unhappy to learn that Gurjit's stall made more. She goes home a little jealous.

Gurjit is a computer games fanatic. He has loads of games. He decides to sell some of his latest games with the older games. His stall is a great success – taking £95. Although he was sad to see some games go, he is delighted to raise so much money for a good cause.

Seema loves reading and has many books she has bought with her pocket money. She chooses the books she enjoyed most of all to sell on her stall. Unfortunately, she doesn't get to run her stall because of a car breakdown. She is heartbroken not to be able to help out.

- Did all four children make a sacrifice? Explain why or why not.
- Who in your opinion made the biggest sacrifice? Try to explain why.

## Extension

**It is possible to give without loving. It is impossible to love without giving.**  
Explain in 50 words what you think this means. Use the word 'sacrifice' in your answer.