

# COGWA Youth Instruction

## Day of Atonement Instruction Lesson

Objective: To teach that the Day of Atonement depicts the binding and removal of Satan the devil and his influence on the earth.

*“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while” (Revelation 20:1-3).*

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**Note to Parents:** We encourage you to read through this material with your children to provide an overview of the meaning of the Day of Atonement and what it pictures. Then choose appropriate materials from the supplemental pages that you feel will be helpful in teaching and reinforcing the meaning of the day.

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### Day of Atonement

The fifth annual holy day, the Day of Atonement, reveals Satan’s fate in God’s master plan. This holy day symbolizes the removal of the instigator of all sin—Satan the devil. The removal of Satan is something to celebrate! It is a day to celebrate because all of humanity will finally be able to be at one with God the Father through Christ’s sacrifice.

Satan, who is called the god of this present world, constantly tries to influence people to disobey God and His law (2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2). Masquerading as an angel of light, Satan has been able to masterfully deceive the whole world (2 Corinthians 11:14; Revelation 12:9). God and humans can never be fully at one until Satan is completely banished and the whole world has repented.

Jesus has already overcome Satan and qualified to replace him as ruler of the earth (Matthew 4:10; John 16:33). Jesus Christ will return soon as King of Kings and Lord of Lords to oust Satan and rule the earth. Satan will be bound and no longer able to deceive the nations all during the Millennium of 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-3).



As we observe the Day of Atonement, God gives us a special command not just to rest and observe a Sabbath, but also to fast for 24 hours from sunset to sunset on the 10th day of the seventh month (Leviticus 23:27, 32). To fast means to go without food or drink as a way to draw close to God. The Bible sometimes uses the words “afflict your souls” when it instructs us to fast (Numbers 29:7). Fasting on this holy day, the Day of Atonement, can teach us many important lessons.

Fasting humbles us, because going without food and drink makes us weak. Fasting reminds us that we are made of flesh and blood. We are not powerful spirit like God. We would die without food and water to keep us alive. Fasting reminds us how much we need God and how we are totally dependent upon Him for life (Acts 17:28).

Fasting should also teach us humility. By humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God, we lessen our focus on “self” and grow in God’s favor (1 Peter 5:6). Fasting demonstrates to God our earnest desire to seek Him and turn from our sinful ways. Through fasting, God can give us the spiritual strength necessary to resist Satan and his influence. No wonder God asks us to fast on the Day of Atonement! It helps us realize that the only way we can overcome the evil influence of Satan is to draw close to God (James 4:7-8). So, while fasting can be hard, the spiritual benefits make it very worthwhile.

In Leviticus 16 God provided instruction to the Levitical priesthood about a special ceremony for the Day of Atonement. Two goats were chosen from the herd, and the high priest brought them both before God. Through the casting of lots, as described in Leviticus 16:8, the Lord showed that one goat would be “for the LORD” and the other for “Azazel” (the Hebrew word translated “scapegoat” in the New King James Version).

The goat “for the LORD” represented Jesus Christ and was put to death, symbolizing His merciful and generous payment for our sins. The goat for “Azazel” represented Satan and was rejected. Satan’s guilt in influencing others to disobey God and sin was placed back on his head. This goat was then taken to the wilderness and removed from being around people ever again. This event looked forward to the time when God will place the original blame and guilt of sin where it belongs—on Satan’s head—and then banish him.

Upon Satan’s removal, the whole earth will enjoy a restoration of God’s way. No longer will the evil influence of Satan entice people to disobey God. Christ will rule the earth; Satan will be removed; and man’s nature will be refashioned, reshaped, remolded until it becomes at one with God (Acts 3:19-21). The Day of Atonement truly is a time of rejoicing for the picture it provides of things to come—the time ahead that will be free from Satan’s evil influence!

