



## CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture: **Leviticus 11** Title: **Nourished by God's Word**

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Introduction/Summary of Chapter: Chapter 11 opens a new section of the book of Leviticus. Chapters 11–15 deal with various kinds of ceremonial uncleanness for the Israelites. These chapters help to explain what is meant by uncleanness and serve to prepare the way for the great day of atonement when they could be cleansed through the ceremonies so that they could come before the presence of the holy God. Chapter 11 talks about the laws on clean and unclean food. They showed the Israelites what they could or could not eat.

### Key Verse(s) NLT **How does it speak to me?**

*45*“I am the Lord who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God; you must therefore be holy, for I am holy”.

There were several possible reasons for this, according to the Life Application Study Bible: (1) *To ensure the health of the nation. The forbidden foods were usually scavenging animals that fed on dead animals; thus disease could be transmitted through them.* (2) *To visibly distinguish Israel from other nations. The pig, for example, was a common sacrifice of pagan religions.* Even through their diet, they needed to be completely distinct from all other pagan nations. Yahweh is holy, pure and complete and as God’s chosen people, they too must be different and be His representatives to the other nations and draw them back to the One true living God (Deut. 4:6–8; 28:9–10). What do these food laws teach us? In the New Testament, no food is considered unclean and food is no longer an external sign that we are set apart. It is our inner life and Christian character that is a sign that we are set apart for Christ. Jesus Himself points out that we must be clean in our hearts because it is not what goes into us that defiles us but what comes out of our hearts like, sexual immorality, slander, greed and so on. (Mark 7:20-22). He also says in Matt 4:4, *People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.* Just as we should eat the right kinds of physical food for our physical health, our inner person needs to be sustained by the right spiritual food, the Word of God. If we do not nourish our inner person but feed ourselves with unwholesome inputs in whatever form, our spiritual life will get weaker every day. Today, let us be nourished by the right spiritual food. Read His Word diligently. Meditate on what the Bible tells us. Then what comes out from us will be “clean” and we will be able to represent our Holy God. His Word nourishes and nurtures us, and transforms us when we apply and obey His principles. Let’s watch our heart and what we feed it. Let God’s Word be written on our heart by the Spirit and let it hold up a mirror to our thoughts, words and deeds.

### APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult: What do you notice is coming out recently in your thoughts, actions, or speech? Has God been saying something about you through your daily Bible reading? Journal those thoughts down and share with a prayer partner on how you would respond to them.

Youth: What are you feeding your mind constantly (e.g. social media, video, games) and how is it affecting you? Allow God’s Word to renew your mind daily.

Child: The Bible is like our daily spiritual food that we need to eat every day. Set a fixed time every day to read it with your parents to grow in your relationship with God.

### PRAYER

Praying Scripture: Dear heavenly Father, we are honored that we are called to represent You, the holy One. We are not able to do that in our own strength. We need your Word and Spirit to teach and nourish us daily. Through what comes out of us, let others be drawn back to Your Kingdom and let You be King of their lives as well. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Thanksgiving: I/We thank You for \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer answered)

Intercession: I/We want to pray for \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. healing, family, work or study, leaders, nation, etc).

Salvation Prayer: I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones \_\_\_\_\_ (add one name per day). In Jesus’ Name I/we pray. Amen.