

Lesson 5

God Shows What Is Right and Good

Lesson Overview

BIBLE LESSON: Psalm 119: 9-16

MEMORY VERSE: “O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides you I Chronicles 17: 20a

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. John 1:17

CATECHISM:

Introduction to the Ten Commandments:

I am the Lord thy God.

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

The student will:

- know God gave us the Ten Commandments because He loves us.
- believe God gave us the Ten Commandments to lead us to Christ Jesus the Savior
- understand the Ten Commandments teach us how to live as God’s people

MATERIALS: Bibles, Catechism, lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: The lesson uses the analogy of a puzzle or a rule book for a game. The Ten Commandments were given as a gift to God’s people like a rule book for a game or a picture to help one complete a puzzle so they could complete the puzzle accurately or play the game correctly. The scripture passage focuses on the importance of living lives that honor God. The lesson also makes clear that just like the Israelites, God’s people, did not keep God’s laws God never stopped loving them or forgiving them. The same is true for us today, the Ten Commandments are a gift to us as well and teach us how to love God and love others.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: Why did God give the Ten Commandments to His people? God’s people failed to keep God’s laws, how did God respond to their failure? Are God’s laws important for us? What do they help us do?

ACTIVITY 1: Sentence completion with words displayed as puzzle pieces, 1 piece is used twice.

ACTIVITY 2: Identify statements as honoring God by drawing a heart around them or sinning against God by drawing a cross over the statement.

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

Pray that God will lead you to accurately teach the balance between God's law, a wonderful gift to the Christian and God's grace and forgiveness found in Jesus Christ as we fail daily to walk in His ways.

Prayer Preparation

- Ask God to help you understand clearly the purpose for God's laws
- Thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class
- Thank God for this great gift God gave us, help us to pray like that Psalmist

Bible Background

Psalm 119: 9-16

"The book of psalms has been and still is the irreplaceable devotional guide, prayer book and hymnal of God" (W. W. Wiersbe). The psalms make up a book of poetry with some designed to be sung by the temple choirs (Psalm 40 "For the choir director".) Some psalms are still sung as part of a worship service, and they are always a great source for devotional reading.

Psalm 119 is truly a monumental expression of David's "delight...in the law of the Lord." This is not limited to what we might call "the Law" as seen in the Ten Commandments. His theme is love of God's Word, but he uses eight different terms for that Word, each offering a different perspective, and it is useful to keep that in mind to have a richer understanding of the psalm.

Law: This is the primary word which means "teach" and includes the whole revelation of God's Law which is meant to be obeyed.

Testimonies: Israel was to place the book of the Law inside the ark of the covenant as a testimony to them of God's Word which is dependable and faithful and true. (Dt 31:26).

Precepts: This word is part of the language of an officer or overseer, a man who is responsible to look closely at a situation and take action.

Statutes: This word speaks of the binding force and permanent nature of Scripture, as laws "engraved" or inscribed forever.

Commandments: This word emphasizes the authority of what is said to give orders.

Ordinances: These are better known in the Old Testament as "judgments" the decisions of an all-wise judge.

Word: This is the most general term of all, embracing God's truth in any form stated, promised or commanded.

Promise: This is similar to "word" and often translated as such.

The Bible is not merely one long story or narrative, but is made up of different literary forms, such as poetry. Hebrew poetry does not rhyme, nor rely on rhyme. The lines the poem (2,3,4, or more) are intended to express some particular thought by matching or echoing one thought with another. This type of poetry actually works best in the process of translations (it's hard to translate rhymes).

Another feature of Psalm 119 is that it is an acrostic based on the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Most Bibles give that letter at the head of each section such as *Aleph, Beth, Gimel*, etc, and the first word in each couplet of the section begins with that letter. The psalm is noted for its high praise of God's Word, but that respect for the Word is enhanced even more by the time given to this thoughtful literary structure.

In Psalm 119:1 David states what should be obvious: "How blessed are those whose way is blameless." And in spite of his many faults and failures, he wanted to keep his way pure before the Lord (v.9).

But how is that even possible? His answer is "By keeping it according to your word" (v.9). The Holy Spirit sanctifies us and teaches us according to God's Word and so enables us to walk in it. One Bible teacher warned against being "man taught" instead of "God taught." This is a crucial point as we teach in our homes and churches. There are many materials that can be used when teaching God's Word, but we must carefully discern by which of them we are "God taught."

There are so many thoughts and ideas that want to claim our hearts today and we must be careful about what we "store up in our hearts." What we delight in, however, tends to stick. Storing up the Word in our hearts means regular attention to it in reading, studying and of course, memorizing. Much of what we memorize as children will be recalled late in life (when it is more difficult to memorize).

Whatever delights us will capture our attention and we will think about it and meditate on it. Loving the Word and meditating on it are bound together. Then we will delight in God's Word and will not forget it (v.16).

Learn the New Words

instructions: words explaining how to do something; directions

manual: a small book, which usually gives instructions

bles: show favor and goodness towards someone

honors: thinks highly of someone; treats with great respect

respects: shows proper behavior and manners towards someone

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive. Let's begin with prayer to thank the Lord for this special day!

SHARING: Encourage the students to share a favorite game they enjoy playing. Do they enjoy putting together puzzles?

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly,

"O Lord, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides you." I Chronicles 17: 20a

Since the lesson talks about puzzles possibly you might print the verse on a sheet of paper and make it into a puzzle the student can put together.

Review the Recent Lessons

Where did God lead the Israelites? How did God make the people know He was there? What

did God call Moses and Aaron to do? What did God give to them to take to the people?

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Today we are going to continue to talk about the Ten Commandments that God wrote on the tablets of Stone. Let's read again Exodus 20:1-17 aloud.

Read the Lesson

Read the first paragraph, allowing students to read if they volunteer. Talk about some things that come with instructions, rules or pictures.

Read the second paragraph. Emphasize that the Ten Commandments were only given to God's people, not to any other nation or people around them.

Read the next paragraph. Again draw attention to the word gift, gifts are good. Most times people give gifts to people they love, people they care about. Underline the words "treasured possession" and make clear to students how special God thought the people were. The writer of our scripture text for this lesson clearly understood the value of the gift God gave His people, the gift of the Ten Commandments. Assist the students to find the scripture in their Bible and read the text aloud. For us God desires us to value this gift the same way today, each and every day of our lives.

Read the next paragraph. **How did God's people treat God's laws? Did God stop loving them? How did God show that He loved them when they did not keep His laws?**

Read the next paragraph. God's commandments are a gift for us too. **Do you think we can keep these commandments all the time?** *Sometimes we disobey God's commandments too. This is because we are born in sin in our hearts and we cannot perfectly keep the Ten Commandments. When we break God's laws we sin against God. But Jesus died on the cross for our sins so we can be forgiven. Jesus is our Savior. When you*

disobey God's commandments, confess your sin to God. He will be glad to forgive you. He will help you follow and obey His Commandments. Pray that God would help you love His Word and seek to keep His Laws to bring honor to God, that others may see that we love Jesus.

Read the Catechism: Introduction to the Ten Commandments

I am the Lord thy God. AFLC Luther's Small Catechism page 3

Repeat the Memory Verse

"O LORD, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides you I Chronicles 17: 20a

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

Are You Puzzled?

Activity 1

Sentence completion with words displayed as puzzle pieces, 1 piece is used twice.

Activity 1
ARE YOU PUZZLED?

Find the correct words in the puzzle pieces to write in the boxes. One word will be used two times.

ACTIVITY CENTER

- The Ten Commandments were a **G I F T** to God's people.
- They showed God's people
 - they were His treasured possession.
 - how to **H O N O R** the LORD.
- God promised to **B L E S S** His people if they obeyed His commandments.
- God's people **D I S O B E Y E D** and did not keep God's commandments.
- But God loved and **F O R G A V E** them.
- The Ten Commandments show us
 - what is good and right.
 - how to **H O N O R** the LORD.
 - how to **R E S P E C T** our neighbors.
- God gave the Ten Commandments because He loves and **C A R E S** for us.

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God's Commandments Show Us Our Sin

Activity 2

Identify statements as honoring God by drawing a heart around them or sinning against God by drawing a cross over the statement.

Activity 2
GOD'S COMMANDMENTS SHOW US OUR SIN

Do you always obey God's commandments? No, none of us do. Because we are born with sin in our hearts, we cannot perfectly keep them. When we break God's commandments, we sin against God. But Jesus died on the cross for our sin so that we can be forgiven.

Draw a heart around the ways we can honor God or serve our neighbor.
Draw a cross on the sins we need to confess to God.

- Be kind.
- Cheat on a test.
- Read my Bible.
- Share my toys.
- Disobey my parents.
- Pray to God.
- Hit my classmate.
- Tell a lie.
- Help with chores.
- Sing praises to God.

Do you believe Jesus is your Savior? When you disobey God's commandments, confess your sin to God. He will be happy to forgive you. God will help you follow and obey His commandments.

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray if they choose. Allow time for silent prayer. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.

Additional Teaching Options

Hymns and Songs:

One song that came to my mind as I was working on this lesson is “Thy Word is a lamp unto my Feet”

Additional activities for a multi-age class: