

Grade 8

Unit 1, Lesson 4

AIM: To understand the moral standards that God wants us to follow in our daily life



Theme: God's Moral Standard for Life

God's law for His people



Teacher's Preparation

The Ten Commandments given by God can be split into three parts.

1. Preface verses 1 and 2
2. Godliness – Commandments that reflect the relationship between God and Man verses 3 to 11
3. Honesty – Commandments that reflect the relationship between Man and Man verses 12 – 17

Both Godliness and Honesty should go together in our daily lives. (Luke 1.27)

Study the relevance of the law at present time. The Ten Commandments, given by God to the people, through Moses are a set of commonsense rule that is relevant always. God Himself wrote the words with His own finger. (ref. Heb. 12; 19-21)

Exodus 20: 1-17 (NRSV)

1 Then God spoke all these words:

2 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; **3** you shall have no other gods before me.

4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. **5** You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, **6** but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation [b] of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

8 Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.

9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

10 But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.

11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it.

12 Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

13 You shall not murder.

14 You shall not commit adultery.

15 You shall not steal.

16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

17 you shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Teacher's Preparation

Introduce the lesson by telling stories of the home rules ,traffic rules and other rules of conduct. Ask the students to share a rule in their home.

God set a moral standard that expresses His Character. Let the students share their views on the Ten Commandments and the relevance of them today. Ask the students about the rules that they had at home when they were little. Let them share their experience about the rules and the breaking incidents of the rules and what happened when they broke those rules at home.

Student Introduction

What does the rule tell about their parents?

Which class room rule do you like most in your school?

Explain what happens when a driver fails to stop for school children?

How do you like the traffic rules?

BIBLE exploration

In the book of Exodus we read the story of God's chosen people and their deliverance from the slavery of the Pharaoh of Egypt by the leadership of Moses. Today we are going to learn more about the standards of God. Once the rescue took place, God revealed that His people's new identity would involve living under a new standard of conduct. God was about to "lay down the law", revealing to his people a distinguishing aspects of His own identity as well as aspects of their new identity as His people.

Like Israel, we have been rescued from the bondage of Satan and our slavery to sin.

*God has set a moral standard that expresses His character. (ex. 20; 1-2) Here God communicating (through Moses) to His people about His expectations on them. These are the words of God; they carry the authority and importance of the Author. (God).

*God's law teaches us how to relate to God and others. (Ex.20.3-17).

*The first four commandments focus on our relationship to God. (Ex.20:3-11)

*The last six commandments focus on our relationship to others. (Ex. 20:12-17)

The Ten Commandments of Moses are a set of commonsense rules that are important and relevant for everyone yesterday, today and tomorrow. They are not just prohibitions and regulations, but a grand plan of life in this universe to live properly and happily. They carry the authority of God Himself.

Let us now discuss the commandments one by one.

1. No other God. "You shall have no other God before me". There is only one God, one source and one creator. Put God first in our life. We all are the children of God, in a broader sense, the brothers and sisters. (NT Mat.4.10)

2. The Right God, the Right Way. "You shall not make any graven-". Do not worship any other idols, images or objects either in earth or heaven. (Let the children or the teacher name some gods or objects people worship now days, ex. Money, education, power, position...) (N.T. 1st John 5:21)

3. Name above all. "You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God". Do not use God's name for selfish greed or need, or in any other purpose which is not intended to be used. (N.T. Tit2:5)

4. Work and Leisure." Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy "This is the day for God, His worship, mercy and rest. It is a day for ceasing from work, a day for relaxation and recuperation, to relax and rediscover God's grace and mercy. (Heb.4.4)



The first four commandments teach us to love God, the last six teach us to love our neighbors (fellow humans). (All these commandments have very extensive meaning given by our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ref. these from the New Testament for further discussion) Mathew 5:17.

5. Respect of authority. "Honor your father and mother-----God is giving you." The heart of the fifth commandment is receiving the gift of life by respecting our parents in the faith. Respect and honor our parents as well as all the legitimate authority. (Math.19:19, Eph. 6.2)
6. To live and let live. "You shall not murder". The goal is preservation of life. Life is precious and it is given by God in His own image. (Mat.19:18, Rom.13.9)
7. The Joy of Married Life. "You shall not commit adultery". This commandment protect and respect the marriage life. It forbids any kind of sexual immorality that violates the covenantal relationship of marriage. Every act of sexual immorality is an offensive act against God and our relationship with Him. Lust is also a sin. (Math. 19:18, Rom: 13:9)
8. What is mine is God's. "You shall not steal". A Godly attitude towards property and the livelihood of others. What I have is given by God or the gift of God, and I will share it with His people. We are obliged to tithe for the extension of His kingdom. (Malachi 3.8-10) N.T. Mathew 19.18, Rom. 13.9)
9. Tell the truth. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." Every one condemns lying. There can be no justice without truth. God forbids every kind of falsehood, including half-truths, flatteries, fibs, intentional omissions, deletions, exaggerations, misinterpretations, rumors etc. Our communication should be grounded in the character of God. (Mat.19.18, rom. 13.9)
10. Being Content." You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor." God wants us to be on guard against covetousness. One's life does not count or consist on the abundance of his possessions. (Luke.12:15, Rom.13:9, rom.7:7)

We are not content; we crave, because of our sinful desire. Coveting is wanting something that someone else has, something that is not rightfully ours. It is impossible to keep all the laws by the way God wants. We are sinners by nature. This is why the law leads us to the gospel, the gospel of grace received.

Faith in Action

Let us worship and praise the savior, Lord Jesus Christ. Let us express the nature of our God by loving and caring for others. We can be more zealous and steady our relationship with God and our fellow beings.

We can be contented with what we have. We can share our resources with others. We can be thankful to our parents, elders, teachers and other people who are instrumental for the growth of our life.

Memory Verse

- 1 Then God spoke all these words:
- 2 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery;
- 3 you shall have no other gods before me.

Exodus 20:1-3

activities



Questions for Discussion:

Q: Why do many people have a deep aversion to the Ten Commandments?

Q: How can we demonstrate that God's moral standard is rooted in love?

Q: In what ways does understanding God's intention behind the law help us in our desire to be obedient?

Q: How does this keeps us from reducing the law to just rules and regulations?

Q: How has disobedience in one area of your life lead to disobedience in other areas?

Q: What freedoms are given through the Ten Commandments?

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

lesson review

1. What are the two Major tabs of the Ten Commandments? How do they relate to each other?

2. What is the fifth commandment? Explain briefly.

3. What is the last commandment? How can it be applicable to our present day life?

4. How can we apply these commandment at the present context in our lives?

prayer

Lord, our heavenly father, thanks for your Law that is given to us through your servant Moses. Enable and strengthen us to follow and apply these laws in our everyday life by the help of your Holy Spirit. Lord help us to strengthen our relationship with you and our fellow beings. Thanks for your son Jesus Christ and the grace that we are experiencing in our day to day life. In Jesus name we ask. Amen.



Thought for the Day

“The Law is like a set of railroad tracks, the track provide no power for the train but the train must stay on the tracks in order to function. The law never gives any power to what it commands, only the gospel has power, as it were to move the train.”

Quote by Tullian Tchividjian