



GOD'S LAW

SECTION I. INTRODUCTION

- A. What are laws and why do you think people have laws?
- B. What are some *laws* or *rules* in society in your country that talk about people's relationships with other people?
- C. How do we usually feel when we don't obey those rules? Why?

SECTION II. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and broke their wonderful relationship with Him. God sent them out of the Garden of Eden, but He still loved Adam and Eve. He showed His love by promising to send a Savior to redeem the people and restore the broken relationship between Him and humans. Read Deuteronomy 32:3-4.

- A. How is God described in these verses?
- B. How does the writer describe God's actions?

C. How does the writer seem to feel about God?

SECTION III. In spite of God's goodness and love, people continued to sin against Him. God decided to give people written laws so that they would understand how God wanted them to live. God gave us the Ten Commandments through a man named Moses. Later, during His life on earth, Jesus talked about the main ideas in the Ten Commandments as the two *Great Commandments*.

A. Read Matthew 22:35-40.

1. What is the greatest commandment in Moses' teachings?
2. What is the second greatest commandment?

B. Read Deuteronomy 6:24-25.

1. Why did God give the Israelites the Law?
2. If the Israelites obeyed all of the Law, what do the verses say would happen?
3. How do you think our lives would be different if people obeyed God's Law all the time?

C. Read Romans 2:12-13.

1. Are people who don't know God's Law excused from obeying the Law and being judged according to the Law?

2. Who will have God's approval?

SECTION IV. God gave the Israelites the Law so that they would know what God wanted. But knowing what God wanted was not enough.

A. Read Daniel 9:11.

1. According to Daniel, how did the Israelites treat God and God's Law?
2. What did God do? Why do you think He did that?
3. God gave humans the Law and He told us we must obey the Law. Read James 2:10-11.
 - a. How many laws must we keep perfectly in order to fully obey God's Law?
 - b. What happens if we break even part of one of them?

B. Read Romans 3:10-12.

1. How many people search for God? How many people do what is good and have God's approval?
2. Do we usually think that we can gain the approval of people and of God by doing good things?

3. Do you think that people's reaction to God's Law is any different today than it was when Jesus was alive? If it is different, how is it different?

SECTION V. All of this sounds very difficult. If God is great, loving, just and good, how can He expect us to obey His Law perfectly? He clearly shows us that we cannot do this. If it is impossible to fully obey the Law, why did God give us the Law?

A. Read Romans 3:19-20.

1. Can we obtain God's approval through obeying the Law?
2. What do the commandments (or Law) do for us?
3. How does knowing about your sin make you feel?
4. How do you feel when God tells you that you cannot receive His approval by doing good things?

B. Read John 1:16-17. The Law comes through Moses, but where does kindness and truth come from?

C. Read Romans 3:21-22. Since we cannot have God's approval by obeying the commandments and doing good, what can we do to have God's approval?

- D. God tells us that we cannot gain his approval by being *good* and He gives us the Law (the Ten Commandments) to show us that we cannot completely obey Him. But **THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE STORY!** In fact, the wonderful **GOOD NEWS** that we read in Romans 3:21-22 seems too good to be true. Please come next time to hear more about God's great gift to us.

NOTES