

Day One – Recap of Ten Commandments: Lesson 12

Understanding the law is tough (WOW what an understatement!). We often reduce the law/Law to a convenient little statement as a defense mechanism for this “toughness,” but that’s not really helpful, whether it’s God’s law or the law of our country. Well...it may be helpful for your sleep schedule, but it’s lazy and leaves our discernment impotent. We’re really not able to handle tough questions because we reject the inherent nuances and tensions and themes and hard issues in favor of dogma and rhetoric and propaganda and slogans (and whatever else...I just went with four for symmetry’s sake).

SO DON’T BE LAZY. God’s law is a “tutor” that drives us to the cross, as I’m sure you’ve gathered; God’s law is also a reminder that God blessed people who act like Him. Law can certainly be set against grace, but it is also true that the law is a *means* of grace. God’s law (both in the Old and New Testament) was to be a blessing for God’s children. We often think of the Law in terms of restraint and oppression, and that’s true in a certain way; think of how “restrained” you feel when you enter a parking lot and see parking spaces clearly delineated or how “oppressed” you feel by the presence of police officers patrolling your neighborhood. The truth is that there is a fine line between too much law and too little law, and all of us seem to want one or the other. The fact remains, however, that law is a very, very good thing.

Day Two – Read Galatians 2:16

What does “justified” mean?

This passage tells us how a person IS NOT justified and how a person IS justified? What does it say?

Why does it say this two times?

What does the last phrase say?

What point is Paul making?

Day Three – Read John 8:1-12

What commandment did the woman in this passage break?

What was Jesus' answer to the scribes and Pharisees?

What was Jesus saying about the scribes and Pharisees?

Why did everyone but Jesus leave?

Who could have thrown the first stone? What does verse 11 tell you about Jesus?

Did Jesus think that the woman's sin wasn't very important, or that her sin wasn't such a bad thing? How do you know that?

What does Jesus say about Himself in the last verse? What does "darkness" mean in this verse? What does this verse mean?

Day Four – Read Romans 7:12-25

What is Paul's struggle? Explain verse 18.

What is Paul saying when he says that "evil lies close at hand"? (Help your child to see that the evil in our hearts is very present—it is very strong and quick to rise up.)

What does the word “captive” mean? How does this show that sin is like slavery?

What is the good news in this passage? (What will Jesus do?)

Does your struggle with sin end when you become a Christian?

Day Five – Read Ephesians 2:1-10

What does Paul mean when he says “you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked”?

What does Paul mean when he says the Ephesian Christians are “by nature children of wrath”?

What does it mean that God is “rich and mercy”?

When did Christ die for us? (What was our condition when He died for us?)

Is there anything that the Christian has done to earn God’s grace?

Why can’t anyone boast?

What does “created in Christ Jesus for good works” mean?

What is an evidence that a person is saved? (Make sure that your child understands that good works is an EVIDENCE of a changed heart, but not a means of salvation.)

Day Six – Read 1 John 2:1-6

What does John tell Christians in verse 1?

Does John think that a Christian will never sin again? How do you know this?

What is an advocate? Verse 2 tells us that Jesus paid the penalty for sin. Jesus asks the Father to forgive our sin, based on His payment for our sin. Jesus paid our penalty for us—He took the punishment for our sin. Jesus paid our penalty for us—He took the punishment for our sin. So when Jesus asks the Father to forgive the sins of those who believe in Him, He is saying, “Father, forgive these sins that I died on the cross for.” (Jesus died for past, present, and future sins.)

What is the evidence to the Christian that he has a changed heart?

Do verses 4-6 mean that after a person becomes a Christian he never sins? (Help your child to understand the difference between “sinning” and making a “practice of sinning”; between “sin” and “habitual sin.”)