

Lesson 10

Don't Go There

Teacher's One Sheet

BIBLE LESSON: Psalm 119:9-11

MEMORY VERSE: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "YOU SHALL NOT COVET." Romans 7:7

CATECHISM:

Luther's Small Catechism Question 16: Of what benefit, then, is the Law?

1. It points out to us our sins and the wrath of God toward sin. (Romans 3:20b For through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.)
2. It makes us anxious to seek Christ. (Galatians 3:24a The Law has become our tutor *to lead* us to Christ.)
3. It points out to the believer what fruits his faith must bear. (Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.)

LESSON OBJECTIVES: The student will know:

- The Law acts as a curb and protects us from sin.
- The Law shows us our sin, but Jesus died to save us from our sin.

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: This lesson teaches the first use of the Law. The Law is like a curb. A curb keeps us from going where we should not go. Curbs helps bicycles and cars stay on the roads. The curb is a line we should not cross. The Law is a line like that too. The Law stops us from dishonoring God or hurting other people. When your bicycle tire bumps against the curb, it is a warning that you are about to go somewhere you are not supposed to go. It would be dangerous if drivers drove wherever they wanted. Just like a curb helps cars stay away from people on the sidewalk or children playing in the park, God's Law protects us and the people around us from sin. The bump from hitting the curb warns you to pay attention and stay where you should. The curb keeps you and the people around you safe.

It's important to know when you are heading the wrong way or doing the wrong thing. Without God's Law we wouldn't know when we do something wrong. God's Law *tells us* what is right or wrong. When we do something wrong, we break God's Laws. We need to know that, so we can be sorry, repent, and confess. When we confess our sin to God, He promises to forgive us. God will help us follow and obey His commandments.

- POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: How can we know what is right and what is wrong? Why is it important to know when we have sinned? What will God do when we confess our sins?

ACTIVITY 1: red: b, b, a, b, b, a, b, a. green: a, a, b, a, a, b, a, b.

ACTIVITY 2: Points, sins, God, sin, anxious, seek, points, believer, fruits, faith

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- Read the section on the uses of the Law in your Small Catechism or The Book of Concord.
- Bring a copy of the Small Catechism for each child to handle and see.

Prepare Materials

- ☐ Activity sheets
- ☐ Lessons
- ☐ Have memory verse(s) written on the board

Hymns and Songs

FILL IN HERE

Prayer Preparation

- Pray for wisdom to teach this lesson in a way that helps your students understand why we need God's Law.
- Pray that God will help you to be an example for your students.

Bible Background

Psalms 119:9-11

The psalm begins with the universal theme: "Blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the Law of the LORD" (119:1). There was only one way of safety and peace for an Israelite, and that was "the law of the Lord (Yahweh)." Walking in "the law of the Lord" would bring God's protection and blessing; any other way would not. God's way and God's law have limits or "edges" within which we must walk. In that sense the Law would act like a "curb" on the street to keep us from going off the road. The words here would apply especially to young men with their youthful inclinations, who need Godly instruction to restrain their natural tendencies.

Many parents have asked this question concerning their children: "How can they (or we) keep their ways pure?" Even for non-Christians, this attitude reflects the law written in the heart so they try to raise their children to be good, but even God's own people have children who stray from the path of life. Samuel appointed his sons as judges over Israel, but they "did not walk in his ways but turned aside after dishonest gain, and they took bribes and perverted justice" (1 Sam 8:3). David could have asked this question regarding his own dysfunctional family. His son Amnon showed an alarming lack of self-control and great selfishness. Absalom tried to take over the kingdom from his father, yet David instructed his generals to "deal gently" with Absalom in spite of his treason (2 Sam 18:5).

"How...?" (vs9). The Hebrew suggests "with what" or "by what means" can he keep his way pure? The answer points to one way: "according to Your word." The deeper question is: How shall a young man cleanse his way? Or, how may I live a pure and righteous life? Where will I find true purity when I am so sinful and evil? Is there forgiveness for past sins, for evil thoughts, words, and deeds? These questions (raised by the law) should point us to the One Who is pure, to Jesus Christ and His blood that cleanses from all sin.

The words "Do not let me wander..." (vs10b), are similar to "Lead me not into temptation, but deliver me from evil." The psalmist is asking God not to withdraw His grace or take His Holy Spirit from him because they are the means that keep him from wandering off the way. The words

also indicate a lack of trust in self. These are the words of a heart that is conscious of its own weakness and its inclination to stray, even though it desired to do right (Rom 7:15-20).

Our intentions might be good, but intentions do not lead us in the way of righteousness because we are distracted and misled by our sinful nature. Only a new heart, by the “washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5) can give direction in God’s way and the power to walk it. If a pilot is flying in a dense fog, he must trust his instruments to be the means of reaching his destination. If he goes by is “gut feeling” he is very likely to fly into the ground.

“Therefore I have treasured your word in my heart” (vs11). The Old Testament word for “heart” is much broader than our modern understanding which limits it to being the seat of love, affection, or emotion. In the Old Testament the “heart” is the vital center or core of a person’s entire being. When the Psalmist says he has “hid Your word within my heart,” he means “I have buried it deep in the very core of my being and put it down at the very roots of myself where it can be incorporated with the very substance of my soul.” Only then can God’s word have full influence on our thoughts, words and deeds and produce fruit in the Christian life.

Remember the writer is referring to God’s written word itself (Bible). No literature will ever take the place of the Book. No religious literature, sermons, magazines or other print and periodicals, will do what the Bible (Word alone) will do for us. It is a serious mistake to read only what other people think and say about Scripture. They are helpful and insightful, but they are not meant to replace Scripture itself. Only Scripture points us to Jesus (Jn 5:39) to know that “He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach” (Col 1:22), or “pure.”

Learn the New Words

It is okay to explain the new words in the beginning or as you encounter them.

catechism: Luther’s Small Catechism and Explanation contains the Ten Commandments, The Apostles’ Creed, The Lord’s Prayer, Sacraments, with Explanation.

benefit: something good that results or happens

tutor: a teacher or student’s helper

dishonoring: to not treat someone (God, in this case) with respect or honor

astray: going astray is wandering away from where one should be

confess: admit what we did wrong

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive.
Open the class with prayer, praying for each child by name, if you like.

SHARING: Ask the students if they’ve ever bumped into the curb while riding a bike.

Read the Memory Verse

Remember the appendix of ways to teach memorization of the verse. Read it clearly, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. *Psalm 119:105.*” Be sure to read it

together aloud. Remind the children you'll repeat the verse again at the end.

Review the Recent Lessons

Remember we have been learning about the Ten Commandments, with the last three lessons being about the Tenth Commandment: Thou

shalt not covet. See if the students can remember something from the stories in the last three lessons (King Ahab coveting his neighbor's vineyard, being content because God gives us what we need, and looking out for the interests of other people, like Jonathan did for David.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

Show the students the Small Catechism

Read the Lesson

Teacher read the opening paragraph. If in the sharing time you have talked about running into curbs with their bicycles, ask them what a curb is meant to do.

Move on to the next paragraph, either reading it or having a volunteer do so. Just like a curb draws a line to keep drivers in the road and not driving past the boundary of the curb, the Law draws a line or limit on our behavior (and to a certain extent, on society's behavior), helping us and the people around us safer.

Read the third paragraph. The Law acts like a curb by reminding us to stop doing wrong things or hurting other people. Knowing the difference between right and wrong can give us a chance to do the right thing instead of the wrong thing. We can find out what is right or wrong by what the Bible says. Ask a volunteer to read the fourth paragraph.

ASK: How can we know what is right and what is wrong? The students may answer that their parents tell them or that their teacher does. Lead the conversation back to how those authorities who God has placed over them know right from wrong because of the Law God gave people—first the Ten Commandments to Moses for the people of Israel, but also that God's law is written in the Bible for all people. The apostle Paul said he wouldn't have known he was a sinner without

the law. Knowing that we are sinners is a very important thing for all of us to know.

We know what is right or wrong because God's Word tells us, just like a curb tells drivers they are going where they shouldn't.

Read the fifth paragraph. **ASK:** Why is that so important for us all to know when we have sinned? Because when we know that we have broken God's Law, we can be sorry and repent. We can confess our sins and God promises to forgive us because Jesus died to save us from our sins.

Repeat the Memory Verses

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

The activity worksheets for this section are printed in the student books.


Red No, Green Go









Activity 1

Color the stoplight green if the statement is true and red if the statement is false.

Activity 1
RED NO, GREEN GO

Color the stoplight green if the statement is true and red if it is not true.



-  a. God's commandments are like a curb.
b. God's commandments are like a car.
-  a. God's commandment or Law tells us to help people around us.
b. God's commandment or Law tells us to hurt people around us.
-  a. Like a curb, the Law keeps us from doing what we should do.
b. Like a curb, the Law keeps us from doing what we should not do.
-  a. God's Word teaches us what is right and wrong.
b. God's Word does not teach us what is right and wrong.
-  a. When we do what we want instead of what God's Word teaches, we are like drivers not obeying the rules.
b. When we do what God's Word teaches instead of what we want, we are like drivers not obeying the rules.
-  a. When we break God's Law, we should avoid talking to God.
b. When we break God's Law, we can confess our sins.
-  a. God promises to forgive us if we confess our sins.
b. God does not promise to forgive us if we confess our sins.
-  a. God will not help us follow and obey His commandments.
b. God will help us follow and obey His commandments.

The Law is Good

Activity 2


Fill in the missing words in the boxes using the words at the bottom of the page.

Activity 2
THE LAW IS GOOD

The Bible and our catechism tell about three ways the Law benefits us. Review these three ways by filling in the blanks.

Hint: Counting the blank boxes will help you discover the correct words. One of the words will be used two times.

- The Law **P O I N T S** out to us our **S I N S** and the wrath of **G O D** toward **S I N N**. (Romans 3:20b)
- The Law makes us **A N X I O U S** to **S E E K** Christ. (Galatians 3:24a)
- The Law **P O I N T S** out to the **B E L I E V E R** what **F R U I T S** his **F A I T H** must bear. (Psalm 119:105)



God's commandments are His instructions to us in the Bible. They teach us to understand right and wrong. When we sin by breaking God's commandments, we can ask Him to forgive us, and He will! We obey God's commandments because we love Him and want to honor Him.

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CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Closing Prayer

Ask about prayer requests. Allow students to pray out loud if they choose. Tell them they can pray silently if they need to confess a sin. Remind God will hear these prayers and forgive. Encourage students to bow their heads and close their eyes.