

Lesson 11

See the Truth

Teacher's One Sheet

BIBLE LESSON: James 1:23-25

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

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Therefore the Law has become our guardian to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. Galatians 3:24a

CATECHISM:

Q. #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 that the Law is meant to show us our sin and need for Christ.
- understand that we can never please God by keeping the Law.
- Learn that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.

MATERIALS: Lessons with activity sheets. Have the memory verse written on the blackboard.

LESSON OVERVIEW: The second use of the Law is to show us our sin. God uses His perfect Law like a mirror that shows us our sin. Without a mirror we may think we look good, but we may not know if our faces are dirty, or our hair is a tangled mess. It is easy to think that we are doing just fine if we don't see our sin. We won't be sorry for sin if we don't see it. Being sorry is important because being sorry leads us to repent. When we repent, we will be forgiven. We can't fix our sin problem by trying harder never to do anything wrong again. We are sinners and can't be perfect by trying harder.

God knew we couldn't help ourselves. We needed a Savior who is *not* a sinner, someone who never sinned even once. That's why God sent His perfect Son, Jesus, to be tempted to do wrong things, but never, ever sin.

Jesus did just that. He never sinned. Our sins deserved to be punished so Jesus took the punishment for our sins upon himself. Jesus loved us enough to give up His life to pay for our sin.

When we believe in Jesus, His obedience is counted as ours. Jesus died to pay for our sins. He cleaned up the mess we made. Jesus is the One who saves us.

- POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: Ask the students when they last looked at themselves in a mirror. Ask them if they were ever surprised by what they saw when they looked at their reflection? Have you ever made a mess that was too big for you to clean up by yourself? What shows us our sins so we will know we are sinners? What do we do when we see our sin?

ACTIVITY 1: 1.+ + - 2.- - + 3.+ - - 4.- + + 5.- + - 6.- + + 7.+ + - 8.+ + + +

ACTIVITY 2: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalms 119:105

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ☑ Pray that God will help you to be an example of someone who uses the Law as a mirror.
- ☑ Pray that you will trust in God's grace whenever you're tempted to think your good works affect how you appear to God and other people.

Prepare Materials

- ☑ Activity sheets
- ☑ Lessons
- ☑ A mirror hung or placed at a height appropriate for the children.
- ☑ Write memory verse(s) on the board

Hymns and Songs

FILL IN HERE

Prayer Preparation

- Talk to God about your personal needs.
- Ask him to show you yourself as if in a mirror. Take a good, honest look at your thought life and your actions. Repent and/or ask for help as needed.
- Thank the Lord for each of the children in your class by name. Ask God to help you be sensitive to each one's needs and to be used by God to help meet those needs.

Bible Background

James 1:23-25

We normally look in a mirror to see if we are "presentable." Maybe we want to cover some spots or smooth out some wrinkles to touch up our appearance. A mirror will only tell us what is on the outside—or how we appear to ourselves and the world. If that outward appearance is all we see, we haven't seen anything of lasting value. But mirrors do tell the truth, whether we like it or not.

James uses a common mirror to describe how God's word reveals our true nature. The scripture describes how a child of God should act and live, and the commandments were given to show the people how a righteous person should live, or how he should appear to the world. Some people look at the Law or other descriptions of Christian character and try to change their behavior to appear more Christlike, loving, kind, virtuous, holy, or whatever they think God wants to see. But the scripture first describes the deceit and evil of the human heart, things we cannot change. The Law must expose our "inward parts" so we can confront our sin and ask God to give us a new heart and a right spirit.

We often miss what we should see because first, we see our "natural" face. The Law reflects who we are and it is not pretty. We can't add make-up to cover the blemishes of our sinful nature or change the evil within the heart. When we only glance into the scripture we don't see all that we should see, or we see ourselves in a superficial way. We can glance through the scripture and think we look fine on the surface and don't need to make any major changes.

Second, we look away and are distracted. We can sit through a Bible lesson, then go out to work or play and forget what we've heard. A quick glance at the newspaper can tell us what is going on in our world, but we move on and forget what we read a minute ago. With God's word, a quick glance just will not do. If we are going to see our real selves there, we must take a good, hard, long look. A quick daily reading might satisfy our conscience and we might let it go at that. We need to

approach Scripture with the intent of seeing ourselves and our sin so that we also see the savior and God's grace for the sinner. It is the difference between looking at a picture versus an X-ray.

Third, we forget what we see. The less we think on a topic, the more easily we forget it. That is why we must keep God's word always before us. This is why we want to memorize scripture as a way of storing it up in our hearts so it is there to warn us when tempted or straying off the way of life. Even if we forget the words sometimes along the way, they are there when needed to be a light to our path. We tend to substitute reading for doing, and even talking for doing. When we are an active doer, James says, then we will be blessed.

People who are hearers only will deceive themselves, and self-deceit will lead to a bitter end. Looking at ourselves in God's word will set before us the corruption of our nature, the disorders of our hearts and lives; it will tell us plainly what we are. God's Law reveals the spots of our sins; the Gospel shows us that Christ's blood washes away and cleanses us of all sin.

A person can be looking at the perfect law of freedom and even have faith in Christ as savior, but cannot find assurance of salvation. He will continue to dwell on his spots and blemishes and impurities and be weighed down by guilt instead of receiving the true peace of forgiveness and resting in Christ alone. The Law will do its work to point out or sin, but it will also point us to Christ who has made atonement for all our sins so that we can live as a forgiven sinner because "having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we also have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we celebrate in hope of the glory of God" (Rom 5:1,2; see also Eph 2:8).

Learn the New Words

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

guardian: a person who helps teach and/or protect someone who is in their charge

justified: Jesus paid for our sins since we could not. He took the punishment we deserved so we could be made right with God.

wrath: God's anger at sin

anxious: concerned or worried about something that is happening or might happen.

tutor: A teacher who usually helps one or a few people understand what they need to know. A guide.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive.
Open the class with prayer.

SHARING: Ask the students when they last looked at themselves in a mirror. Ask them if they were ever surprised by what they saw when they looked at their reflection. You can give an example of your own if they don't have anything to share yet.

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. Last week we learned about the Law being like something we see

every day. See if anyone remembers what that “something” was. (Answer: a curb). Ask them how God’s Law, the Ten Commandments, is like a curb.

TEACHING TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

For fun, put a fake dirty spot on your face before the students arrive. Act normal as you greet the children. If any of the children comment on the dirty spot on your face, say, “Oh, I don’t think so!”, as if they are kidding or playing a trick on you. Use your judgment about how long to keep protesting that your face is clean—“I washed my face this morning” and “I’m sure I look just fine” are two possible responses. At some point say, “Maybe I should check to see if my face looks the way it should.” Use the mirror to see the spot and use a wipe or wet finger to clean it away.

Then, begin the lesson.

Read the Lesson

Read the opening paragraph. You can call back to your dirty face that you could deny until you saw it in the mirror.

Ask a student to volunteer to read the second paragraph.

God knows the truth about our sin, even when we don’t. We might think we are living a great life. Feeling good about ourselves does NOT mean we are doing well and obeying God. God’s Law shows us we are not good people living good lives. Trying to do better *does not* make us perfect. God said ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (paraphrased from Romans 3:23).

Read the third paragraph. **ASK:** Have you ever made a mess that was too big for you to clean up by yourself? **Say:** I know I have.

Say: God didn’t show us our sin so that we could clean up our lives. He knew we couldn’t clean up our lives. God showed us our sin so

we would turn to Jesus for forgiveness. Jesus is the one who washes away our sin. Jesus did what we could never do. **ASK:** Why? (because He loves us.)

Jesus has never sinned. He kept the Law perfectly. The Bible says when we believe in Jesus, His perfect obedience counts as our own.

ASK: What shows us our sins so we will know we are sinners? (The Law, The Ten Commandments, God’s Law). **ASK:** What do we do when we see our sin? (Ask Jesus to forgive us.) We can rejoice because Jesus forgives us. Jesus came to save sinners.

SAY: Let’s look at God’s Word says about that. Help the students find 1 Timothy 1:15 and ask if there is a volunteer to read it. “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among I am foremost of all.” Luke 19:10 says, “...the Son of Man (that’s Jesus) has come to seek and to save that which was lost. That was us. Sinners that God loves.

Let the Law show you your sin, so you can repent and be forgiven. Jesus wants to forgive.

Repeat the Memory Verses

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

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

Add (+) or Subtract (-)

Activity 1

Add the correct ending to each sentence. Put a + by correct endings and – by wrong ones. Some sentences may have more than one correct answer.

Activity 1
ADD (+) OR SUBTRACT (-)

Add the correct endings to each sentence. Put a + in front of the phrases that correctly complete the sentences. Subtract or take away the answers that are not correct by crossing them out. Some sentences may have more than one correct answer.

1. God's Law is like a
 curb.
 mirror.
 game.

2. God's Law helps us
 blame others when we do something wrong.
 obey God perfectly.
 see ourselves as we really are.

3. We break God's Law
 every day.
 about once a week.
 only once a year.

4. God's Law shows us
 we are good people.
 we do not need Jesus to save us.
 we are sinners.

5. I sin with my mouth when I
 praise God.
 make fun of a classmate.
 say kind things about others.

6. I sin with my actions when I
 help with chores at home.
 steal something that does not belong to me.
 hit someone when I am mad.

7. I sin with my mind when I
 hate someone and want to hurt him or her.
 feel jealous and want to steal a friend's toy.
 am thankful for God's gifts.

8. Worst of all, we all
 sin with our actions.
 sin with our minds.
 sin with our mouths.
 have sinful hearts.

Turn the Light On!

Activity 2

Follow the directions to decode the message and write it on the line.

Activity 2
TURN THE LIGHT ON!

Follow the instructions to discover a message from the Bible.

- Change each q to o.
- Change each x to m.
- Change each z to a.
- Change each k to t.
- Write the correct message on the lines.

Y q u r w q r d i s z

Your word is a _____

l z x p k q x y f e e k z n d

lamp to my feet and _____

z l i g h t k q x y p z k h.

a light to my path _____

P s a l m 1 1 9 : 1 0 5

Psalms 119:105

What is the light that teaches and guides us? _____

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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.