

Lesson 12

Follow the Word

Teacher's One Sheet

BIBLE LESSON: Psalm 119:102-105

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

CHALLENGE MEMORY VERSE: Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Psalm 119:11

CATECHISM:

Luther's Small 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:

- learn that God's law points out the fruits our faith will produce. God will always keep His promises.
- learn that God's Word lights our path.
- Learn that God's Law teaches us how to love God and how to love our neighbor.

MATERIALS: Lessons, activity sheets

LESSON OVERVIEW: Have you ever been in a place so dark you could not see your hand in front of your face? Did you trip or bump into something? Or did you stay in one spot until a light came on? Maybe someone helped you. Maybe someone took you by the hand and led you to a place where there was some light. Sometimes the world seems like a dark place. There is sickness and sadness. Many people need our help. How do we know how to help them? How do we protect people and keep from hurting them? We do not have to figure this out on our own. God has given us a gift to help us. That gift is the Ten Commandments.

The First Table of the Law (the first three commandments) are about our relationship with God and the last seven commandments (The Second Table of the Law) are about how to treat other people both by helping them and by not hurting them. We need to know these things. The Law shows us how God wants us to lead our lives. The Ten Commandments are a guide to show us the way.

- POSSIBLE QUESTIONS: How do we know how to help people who need help? How can we keep from hurting other people? Does obeying the Ten Commandments make us Christians? What or Who does?

ACTIVITY 1: Drawing/writing activity- they will vary by student

ACTIVITY 2: Commandment order: 8, 4, 9, 7, 2, 10, 1, 6, 5, 3. Statement order: 3, 2, 9, 6, 1, 7, 4, 10, 8

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach

- ☐ Read the Bible passages and the Bible Background as early in the week as possible.

☐ Prepare Materials

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

Hymns and Songs

FILL IN HERE

Prayer Preparation

- Wait upon the Lord in silence for a while.
- Then, talk to God about your personal needs. Lay them out before Him.
- Finally, thank the Lord for each of the children He has placed in your class. Ask Him to bless each one, by name.

Bible Background

Psalm 119:102-105

When we travel to unknown and exotic places, it is often required that we have a guide, someone from that place who knows the way. There are many physical dangers found in nature all around us, but there are greater spiritual dangers that are not seen. If one drives off a new road in the dark, or steps into a small pit, some means of rescue might not be far away. But when stumbling blindly through the murky darkness of sin, there is greater danger—unless we have the “true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man” (Jn 1:9). God’s word is our light and our guide in the darkness.

The writer begins this section with a profound declaration: “O, how I love Your Law!” (119:97). Have you or anyone you know ever said that—with enthusiasm? His love for God’s word will guide him through the day, and all his ideas and decisions are considered in the light of God’s word, which is truth. The word of God enlightens him, making him wiser than his enemies (v.98). It is noted of David in 1 Samuel 18:14 that “David was successful in all his ways, for the LORD was with him.” As we grow and move on in life, schoolbooks and teachers are usually left behind for someone else to use, but through the scriptures we will become wiser than any of them (v.99). The Rabbinical writers disliked the idea of a scholar professing wisdom above his teachers, but God’s word has given him greater understanding and has restrained him (kept him) from evil ways (v.100,101).

God’s word keeps him pure for he has not turned away from the God who has taught him (v.102). He has not turned away from Godly wisdom which keeps him in check so that he does not fall into temptation and sin. A good example of this is Daniel who “made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king’s choice food or with the wine which he drank” (Dan 1:8). To the psalmist, all of God’s word becomes “sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Ps 119:103).

“From Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way” (v.104). The more we meditate on God’s truth, the more clearly we can identify and define what is evil. The more we love the truth, the more we see the lie (of the devil). When we are surrounded by the moral and ethical corruption in our society, the more we hate it. We know God hates sin, therefore we must hate it. But the people who are being led into the darkness need to be loved and delivered through the gospel, the “power of God unto salvation” (Rom 1:16). That is done by God’s people walking in the light and the truth. Why should we not love Him and His word for that?

Through God’s precepts the writer gets understanding, a correct view of things. That would include a knowledge of God and of man and knowledge about the character of each, and knowledge of the destiny of man and of the way of salvation.

Having Godly wisdom, knowledge and understanding, he can say “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (v.105). Here “light” is another synonym for God’s word. Christians know where they are going and how to get there because God has shown them the way (see John 14:6). The “lost” are lost because they do not know the way and do not have the Light. They need God’s word to bring them out of darkness into light. Our study and meditation on God’s word are what keep us in the light, so we do not stray. As a lamp, it gives light to our feet, to each step. As a light it shines brighter and farther down the path so we can see where we are going. Even under grace, the Law shows us how to live and what fruit should be seen in our life. This becomes evident through the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law” (Gal 5:22,23). This is possible only because only “those who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Gal 5:24).

When the psalmist speaks of light for our path, it is not meant as merely convenient guidance for one’s career or direction of life. It speaks of God’s word, of truth and light, as the basis for our moral choices when faced with evil and darkness. The classic example of light from Scripture being used in a place of such choices is Jesus’ temptation (Mt 4) where He meets and defeats the devil using only the light and truth of God’s word.

Learn the New Words

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

anxious: worried. To be uneasy or maybe a little bit scared about something

fruits: the outcome or results of someone’s work or actions

First Table of the Law: the first three Commandments, that are about our relationship with God.

Second Table of the Law: the last seven Commandments, which are about our relationships with other people

rightly: correctly, properly, justly

trusting: relying on, believing in, or placing our confidence in someone—in this case, God.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Greet the children as they arrive. Ask them to think about any trip they may have taken.

Open the class with prayer.

SHARING: Ask what the children's families do when the power goes out.

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 uses of the Law, the previous 2 lessons have focused on The Law as a Curb and The Law as a Mirror. See if the students can remember two things The Law is compared to and why.

TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Introduce the Lesson

ASK: Have you ever been in a place so dark you could not see your hand in front of your face? Did you trip or bump into something? Or did you stay in one spot until a light came on? Maybe someone helped you. Maybe someone took you by the hand and led you to a place where there was some light.

Read the Lesson

Begin by reflecting on the stories the children may have shared about the power going out or the very dark place they were in.

ASK: How do we protect people and keep from hurting them? Listen to the children's thoughts/ideas about this. Then, read the first paragraph.

The Ten Commandments can be thought about in two parts. The parts are called Tables and the Commandments stand on one of the two tables.

Read the second paragraph, or have a volunteer read it. **SAY:** The First Table of the Law is made up of the first three Commandments. All three of them tell us how we should relate to God. The Second Table of the Law is made up of the fourth through the tenth Commandments. These Commandments show us how to help people. We can help people by doing good and kind things for

them. We can also help people by not doing mean and hurtful things to them. **ASK:** How do we know how to help people who need help? Can you think of some of the kind things we can do for others? How about some of the bad things we should not do to other people? What could those things be?

Here's a question to think about—does keeping the Law/the Ten Commandments make us Christians?

Read the third paragraph. Being good, nice, and helpful is important. Your family is doing well to teach you how to behave, but no matter how hard we try, we can't be perfect. We are not saved by trying very hard to be good. We are saved because Jesus died to pay for our sins. We are saved by trusting in Jesus for our salvation. The Holy Spirit helps us follow Jesus and obey the Ten Commandments.

Read the last paragraph. We aren't lost and stumbling around in the dark. Jesus, our loving Savior, is the Light of the world. God's Word is a light unto our path. God loves us. He gave us the Ten Commandments so we could know right from wrong and He gave us the Holy Spirit to help us live a life that pleases Him.

Let's bow our heads and thank God for these wonderful gifts.

Repeat the Memory Verses

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Do the Activities Together

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

Word Web

Activity 1

Write or draw in each box what the Ten Commandments teach us.

Activity 1
WORD WEB

The Ten Commandments are a gift from God to teach us His will. Write words or draw pictures in the shapes around the center that describe what the Ten Commandments teach us.

God's Gift of the Ten Commandments

Ten Commandments Review

Activity 2

Number the commandments in the correct order, and draw a line to match each commandment with the best statement.

Activity 2
TEN COMMANDMENTS REVIEW

The Ten Commandments are all mixed up. Number them in the correct order. Draw a line to match each commandment with the best statement at the right.

8	Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.	Go to church and hear God's Word.
4	Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.	Respect God's name.
9	Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house.	Be content and thankful for what God has given you, including your home.
7	Thou shalt not steal.	Husband and wife love and honor each other.
2	Thou shalt not take the Name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain.	There is no one like the LORD our God.
10	Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.	Do not harm your neighbor, but help and befriend him.
1	Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.	Protect your friends and remember God will provide what you need.
6	Thou shalt not commit adultery.	Obey your parents and do not talk back to them.
5	Thou shalt not kill.	Do not take what belongs to others. Help your neighbors keep what belongs to them.
3	Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.	Tell the truth and speak well of your neighbor.

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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.