SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON
WEEK 31

God requires holy living

Leviticus 19:1–37

DAY 1

Be holy by treating the LORD as holy • Leviticus 19:1–8

READ

Leviticus 19:1–8

EXPLAIN

The truth of Leviticus 19:1–8

The reason for being holy is to reflect God's own character (Lev 19:2). The world likes to create its own standards of right and wrong but God's character is the standard. Since God is holy, God's people are to be holy. ***Holy*** means pure and separate, so God's people are to be pure and separate from the world around them in order to reflect God's own character. Holiness starts at home. The first command is to honor one's father and mother (19:3). When children do not honor their parents, they are not likely to honor God or any other authority. Next, the Sabbath command is an important spiritual duty (19:3). God's people must look to Him for rest and provision (Isa 30:15), and they must remember what all their work is for (Col 3:23–24). Holy worship must also be free from idolatry (Lev 19:4). Finally, to treat God as holy a person must be pure in presenting his offerings to God (19:5–8). Therefore, in the home, at all times, and in all worship, God's people must be holy because He is holy.

ASK

1. Why are we supposed to be holy?
   We are to be holy because God is holy.
2. What does it mean to be "holy"?
   Holy means pure and separate, so God's people are to be pure and separate from the world around them in order to reflect God's own character.
3. How do you treat your parents in order to be holy?
   Holiness means obeying and honoring parents.

DISCUSS

1. Discuss what it means to "reflect" God's character.
2. List specific ways children can reflect God's character by honoring and obeying their parents.

DAY 2 *Be holy by loving your neighbor as yourself • Leviticus 19:9–18*

READ

Leviticus 19:9–18

EXPLAIN

The truth of Leviticus19:9–18

Holiness is not just about how a person relates to God; it is also about how people relate to each other. God cares for the poor (Ps 146:7), so to be holy like God, His people must also care for the poor (Lev 19:9–10). By leaving grain or other produce in the field, the Israelites provided food for the poor. This allowed the poor to survive by their own labor. Holiness means keeping all of God's commands as an act of love towards others (Lev 19:11–16). The Israelites were to fulfill the second greatest command: love your neighbor as yourself (19:18). This command is repeated many times in the New Testament, because it sums up every law about how people are to act towards each other (Matt 19:19; 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27; Rom 13:9; Gal 5:14; Jas 2:8). Some try to twist "love" to make it mean that we must show tolerance for everything our neighbor does. But, between the command not to hate and the command to love comes the command to rebuke those who do wrong. Whoever fails to correct wrongdoing also fails to love.

ASK

1. How did the Israelites provide food for the poor?
   By leaving grain or other produce in the field, allowing the poor to survive by their own labor.
2. What is the second greatest command?
   To love your neighbor as yourself (19:18).
3. What are some bad things that you shouldn't do to other people?
   We should not steal, lie, cheat, or hurt other people.

DISCUSS

1. Discuss what it means to love your neighbor as yourself.
2. List ways your family can care for the poor in your neighborhood.

DAY 3 *Be holy by being different from the world • Leviticus 19:19–31*

READ

Leviticus 19:19–31

EXPLAIN

The truth of Leviticus 19:19–31

The nation of Israel was to keep God's commands in order to be holy, distinct from the nations surrounding them (Lev 19:19). They were not to mix animals in breeding, seeds in sowing, or material in clothing (19:19). Unlike the nations around them, they were to be pure in marriage (19:20–22). Israel was also to be distinct by patiently waiting upon God. After planting trees, an Israelite was to let it mature for three years, then he was to give God the fruit of the fourth year, waiting one more year before enjoying its fruit himself (19:23–25). Israel was distinct in the way they related to death and the spiritual world. Unlike their neighbors, they were not to eat flesh with blood in it (19:26). They were also to trust God to reveal the future if He saw fit, unlike their neighbors (19:26). As God's people, they were to hope in Him for life after death, rather than harm their bodies in mourning for the dead (19:27–28). They were to keep their land holy by avoiding the immoral worship practices of their neighbors (19:29–31).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK

1. List some ways Israel was supposed to be different from the nations around them?
   See examples in "Explain the truth" paragraph.
2. How were the Israelites to patiently wait upon God?
   After planting trees, they were to let them mature for three years, then they were to give God the fruit of the fourth year, waiting one more year before enjoying the fruit themselves (19:23–25).
3. What does it mean that Israel was to be "distinct" from the nations around them?
   Israel was to be different from the surrounding nations.

DISCUSS

1. Discuss how being different from the world glorifies God.
2. List specific ways your family can act differently than the world.

DAY 4

Be holy by respecting the weak and being fair to everyone • Leviticus 19:32–37

READ

Leviticus 19:32–37

EXPLAIN

The truth of Leviticus 19:32–37

The last set of commands also talks about being holy by loving one's neighbor. The Israelites were to honor the elderly as a way to honor God (Lev 19:32). The Israelites were also to love the foreigner who came to live in the land (19:33–34). This reflects the character of God, who loved Israel when they were strangers in Egypt. The final command is to be just and honest with measurements (19:35–36). The final verse is a conclusion to the whole chapter, urging Israel to observe God's commands and do them (19:37). Throughout the chapter, obedience is required based on the deliverance God had already accomplished. That is why the chapter repeats "I am the Lord your God" over and over again. Obedience was the fitting response to God's redemption. Leviticus gives many particular laws, but Micah summed them up in just three: do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God (Mic 6:8). Jesus summed them up in two: love God and love one another (Matt 22:37–40).

ASK

1. What is the final command given in Leviticus 19?
   To be just and honest with measurements (19:35–36).
2. Why does Leviticus 19 repeat "I am the Lord your God" over and over again?
   God redeemed Israel and because of that, obedience was the fitting response.
3. How did Jesus summarize the many commands given in Leviticus 19?
   Love God and love one another (Matt 22:37–40).

DISCUSS

1. Identify any families new to your area or church and list ways you can help them feel welcome.
2. Discuss why it is fitting for us to obey God (Ps 24:1).

DAY 5

By His holiness and love Jesus grants holiness and love to believers • 1 John 3:1–24

READ

1 John 3:1–24

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 John 3:1–24

Perfect holiness and love have not been displayed by any man except Jesus. However, through Jesus, the way is open for all who believe to be holy and loving. First, Jesus was perfectly holy, for He came in order to take away sins and to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:5, 8). Because Jesus lives in every person who has been born again, His holiness flows into their lives, so that they cannot go on sinning (3:9). They are people who obey Christ's commands (3:24). Second, Jesus was perfectly loving when He paid the ultimate price of His own life out of love for His brethren (3:16). As a result, those He died for are also characterized by sincere and practical love (3:16–17, 23). Jesus' life of holiness and love caused Him to be cut off from the world, so also those filled with Christ are distinct from the world and do not love the world's passing pleasures (2:15; 3:1, 13). Through Christ's holiness and love we also become holy and love one another.

ASK

1. Who is the only man who lived a perfectly holy life?
   Jesus was the only sinless man.
2. How did Jesus fulfill the command to love one's neighbor as oneself?
   Jesus died for sinners, giving up His life in the place of theirs.
3. Can a person belong to Jesus and also pursue all that the world offers?
   No. A Christian and the world pursue completely different desires.

DISCUSS

1. List practical ways your life can reflect the holiness and love of Christ.
2. Discuss how your life differs from that of the world.

NEXT WEEK

Israel rejects God's provisions

Numbers 11:1–12:16