



Discussion Guide

Section # 13: GOD'S PERFECT LAW

Group Question:

- 1 The Israelites were in the wilderness (desert) for 40 years. In what ways did God provide for them during this time?

Leader Information: He provided for their needs - water and manna. You may decide to mention that the Bible gives many more details about God's provision during this forty-year time such as:

In spite of the miracles and rescue from Egypt, the Jews continually doubted God. Because of this God said the adults who left Egypt would not be allowed to go into the promised land of Israel, but the next generation would enter their home land. God caused the nation to wander in a desert area for forty years until all the doubters had died.

Still we see God's mercy. That desert place gets only one or two inches of rain yearly, yet God continually supplied food and water for a group numbering in the millions, demonstrating His power and love. He even showed His love for the people by not allowing their clothes and shoes to wear out during the whole forty years.

Read to the Group: While they were in the wilderness, God gave Moses many guidelines for the people of Israel to follow. The most important of these rules shows in a very short list, the high standards of God. They are called The Ten Commandments.

Group Questions:

1. Do you think the standards God had many years ago might still be important today?
2. How difficult do you think it would be to obey all ten laws perfectly?
3. Let's try to remember the list. How many can we remember together?



Show the Following Segment from the *God's Story* video:

“But soon after” (Moses and people watching seas close over Pharaoh’s army)... through... “A covering for your sin and I will forgive you” (People bowing down before a fire on altar) 2 minutes, 7 seconds



Leader Information: Hold your copy (*Handout #1*) of the list and check off each commandment as the group mentions them. After they have named all they can remember, hand them copies of Handout #1 that lists the Ten Commandments. Then read the whole list aloud. (Perhaps instead of you reading it, you can ask one or several in class to read the list aloud. Make certain you only call on members who you KNOW will not be embarrassed to read out loud in front of others!)

Group Questions:

1. In your town, how many laws would a person have to break to be called a “law-breaker?”
2. Have you ever broken any of God's laws?
3. Do you think that when you break God's laws that He is surprised?
4. Why not?
5. What happens to us when we break God's laws?
6. How can we wipe the slate clean?

Read to the Group: (*Use the two papers you used before in section #5 to illustrate sin. Hold up the one with black marks.*) Remember this illustration? Even if you only break one of God's laws, you are guilty. Your page is not perfectly white and clean and you deserve judgement from God. Remember how when a person trusts in Jesus' sacrifice that His perfect life covers your sins? (*Cover the page with the black marks by the pure white page with no marks.*)

God knew that it would be impossible for people to perfectly follow the Ten Commandments, but He wanted the people to see and admit their helplessness to do so. Because God knew they could never keep them perfectly He told them what to do when they broke the commandments. He also told them about His plan to bring a Savior into the world to cover their sins. They were still required to bring an animal sacrifice to demonstrate admission of guilt and faith in God's provision of forgiveness. By believing in God's instructions, their sins were covered.



We have the privilege of living in an age when we know the name of the Savior that the sacrifices represented. The Savior, Jesus Christ, God born as a human being, came 2,000 years ago. Now today we no longer are asked by God to bring an animal sacrifice to cover our sins. We can do as the Bible says and simply pray to God, admit our sinfulness, and ask for Jesus to be our Savior.

Read this Scripture to the Group:

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).

Leader Information, Scripture:

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Romans 10:9).

“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5).