

Lesson Eight

Part One: Rules and laws

Rule - an official instruction about what you must or must not do

Law - the system of official rules in a country, a rule made by the government

Your teacher may ask you these questions:

- What are some rules you have had to follow at work or school?
- Which rules do you not like to follow?
- Do you have any rules for yourself? Give examples.
- What rules do you have for your children? (if applicable)
Why do children need rules?
- Give an example of a law in your country. Why does your country have that law?
- What would your country be like if there were no laws?
- If you could create one new law, what would it be?
- Are there any laws that you would like to get rid of? Why?

Part Two: Idioms

“By the book” = strictly according to the rules

“Bend the rules” = to not be strict or exact about following a rule

“Above the law” = not having to obey the law or rules

“Break the law” = to disobey the law

Part Three: God's Law and Sin's Penalty

Review: We've talked about Adam and Eve's sin and its consequences. They were forced to leave the Garden, would have troubles in life, and would eventually die. They also passed on their sinfulness to all people.

God's law - The Bible tells us that "the law of the Lord is perfect" (Psalm 19:7) and that "the laws of the Lord are true. They are right and fair." (Psalm 19:9)

Discuss: **How do we know God's law?** (How do we know right and wrong?)

- First, the Bible says God's law is written on our hearts.
- Second, we do find God's law clearly stated in the Bible. Jesus summarized all of God's law in **Matthew 22:37-39**

"Jesus replied ..., 'You should love the Lord your God completely: Love him with all your mind. Love him with all that you are. Love him in all that you think. This is the greatest rule and the most important of all God's Laws. The second rule is also important, like the first one. You should love other people as much as you love yourself.'"

Another verse that tells us what God requires is **Matthew 5:48** - **"You must therefore be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."**

Many people think that if they try their best to be good, then God will not hold their sin against them. But the Bible tells us:

"Even if you fail to obey only one rule in God's Law, it means that you are guilty. It is the same as if you fail to obey all God's Law." (James 2:10)

Romans 3:10-12 - "There is nobody who is right with God. There is not even one person who is like that. There is nobody who understands what is true. There is nobody who wants to worship God. Everyone has turned away from God."

Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Because of our sin, we are all guilty.

Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death."

The Bible teaches us that if we continue going our own way, rejecting God, then we will suffer a terrible punishment. That punishment is death and hell.

This punishment is described in **2 Thessalonians 1:9 - "Their punishment will continue for ever, as God destroys them. He will keep them away from the Lord. They will never see the Lord, or his great power."**

Conclusion: Our willful sin has terrible consequences for us. It has separated us from God and earned us a horrible punishment.

BUT – Because of His great love, God made a way for us to be right with Him! It is through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. In the next lesson, we will talk about Jesus and how He made it possible for us to be right with God.

Homework (to be completed after this lesson): Write five sentences about the laws in your country and five sentences about God's law.