

GOD GIVES HIS RIGHTEOUS LAW

Scripture: Exodus-Ruth

Materials Needed:

Visuals for story/pp
Pieces of paper for survey
Mirror/Soap
Worksheets

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—God brought the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt by a great Passover sacrifice, and He gave them His righteous and absolute Law at Mt. Sinai as a treaty based on their obedience. Even though they enthusiastically agreed to keep God's law, four hundred years demonstrated a total failure and inability to live up to their agreement.

To Realize—God's people must be bought with a great sacrifice because God's laws are righteous and unbendable and even if one enthusiastically agrees to keep them, it is impossible for sinful people to live up to their agreement.

To Respond by—confessing their need for God's great sacrifice because of their inability to keep God's law and by having a deeper desire to live by God's law of love in every area of life.

Setting up the Story:

Pass out small pieces of paper/pencils.

We are going to start our class time today with a simple six-question survey. Do NOT put your name on the paper, because I want this to be anonymous, but DO be as honest as you can in answering the questions. Ready?

1. Yes/No. Has there ever been a time in your life that you have felt God's love for you more than you do now?
2. Yes/No. Has there ever been a time in your life that you have loved God more than you do now?
3. On a scale of 1-10, to what degree do your actions demonstrate your love for God?
4. On a scale of 1-10, to what degree do your words demonstrate your love for God?
5. On a scale of 1-10, to what degree do your attitudes demonstrate your love for God?
6. On a scale of 1-10, overall, how much would you say you currently love God?

You remember last week, we looked at Abraham, and God tested his love with the greatest test: what was it? (review offering Isaac) And at that point, what score did Abraham get in his love for God? More than anything else, he loved God completely!

Telling the story:

- I. God Brings the Israelites out of Slavery
 - A. Promise to Abraham
 - B. 400 Years
 - C. In Egypt
 - 1. Many gods
 - 2. Separate people but culturally influenced
 - D. Passover
 - 1. Wants them to be free to worship
 - 2. Tenth plague
 - 3. Lamb killed
 - 4. 14th Nisan
 - 5. Son spared from death
- II. God Gives His Righteous Law
 - A. In Wilderness: Mt. Sinai
 - B. 10 Commandments
 - C. Greatest Two
 - 1. Love God with all your heart
 - 2. Love your neighbor as yourself

As you tell the story:

God made an agreement with Abraham that he would have descendants like the stars of heaven. And he told Abraham what was going to happen—
Genesis 15:13-14

Have the last phrase read from each verse:
Exodus 7:16, 8:1, 8:20, 9:1, 9:13, 10:3

Why did God want His people to be free? Just so they would feel better? No! So they could WORSHIP Him! This was His desire from the very beginning!
When?
What?
Who?
Why?
Exodus 12

(show on map how direct it is from Egypt to Canaan, and how God took them to Mt. Sinai)
He drew them there—this terrible Wilderness: not milk and honey! Rocks and sand and heat and tents and traveling and more traveling following a cloud, and picking up little bits of manna.
WHY?
You know the answer: so they could worship Him.
Ex. 19:18-19
Ex. 20:1-17

Deut. 6:5

Lev. 19:18

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D. Given as Treaty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hittites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> suzerain- vassal treaty 2. Conditional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on their obedience | Deut. 7:6-11 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> III. Israelites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enthusiastically Agree <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Afraid B. At Moses' Death C. At Joshua's Death | <p>Deut. 28:1,15</p> <p>Ex. 24:7-8</p> <p>Deut. 30:15-18</p> <p>Joshua 24:21-24</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IV. Israelites Demonstrate Failure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Golden Calf while Moses was on mountain | <p>Storytell about Moses being gone for so long on the mountain; they make golden calf.</p> <p>Do you know what God was telling Moses at the very time the people were breaking His law? He was giving Moses the instructions for building a tent so that He could live in the midst of His people!</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B. "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." | <p>Why were they breaking God's law so quickly? Because God's law was on tablets of stone and idolatry was in their hearts.</p> <p>After Moses and Joshua dies, the people continued in a pattern of idolatry for 400 years: in and out.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> C. 400 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Idolatry 2. Immorality 3. Like other nations | <p>So if God knew that His people couldn't keep His law, why did He even give it? Doesn't that seem cruel?</p> <p>(example of having Sofi-dog jump for a treat: try harder! Try harder! But her legs are too short.)</p> <p>"Here's My law: try harder! Try harder!" and all along you know the person can't keep the whole law?</p> |

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| <p>V. Why Would God Give a Law His People Couldn't Keep?</p> | <p>I think there are three reasons why God gave His law, and I would like to tell 3 stories to illustrate why:</p> |
| <p>A. Show absolute righteousness of law: all are guilty</p> | <p>Cliff story—three people fall off cliff; one intentional; one is pushed; one meanders off. Which one dies at the bottom? All do because they all broke the law. It doesn't matter what the INTENTION of the person is; the result is the same.</p> |
| <p>B. Show man's inability to get to him on own: man's helplessness</p> | <p>Three Ladders: 10 steps, 5 steps, do it yourself kit=doesn't matter to paralyzed man. He can't climb the ladder. He needs God to climb down the ladder to him.</p> |
| <p>C. Show man's need for cleansing</p> | <p>Mirror: can show dirt but can't wash it off. What good is that?! It can't "fix" the dirt problem—but it can let you know that you need soap! God's law shows us that we need His Soap...His Cleansing for the sin we have.</p> |

Concluding the Story:

At the beginning of the class we took a survey about our love for God. Let's find out how we scored. (read the answers to questions if a small group. For a larger group, have someone tally the answers during the class.) Most answers are between 5-7. What does God command your love for Him to be? 10. How far short do we fall? If you were to give your very best and concentrate every day, would you make a 10?

We need God's perfect sacrifice. And the Good News is that God has provided a perfect sacrifice for us!

God also wants us to be free so that we can worship Him. He wants our love for Him to grow. What are the things in your life that are keeping your love for God at a 5 or 6? Those are the idols we hang on to. Those are the things God wants us to be free from.

Let's pray.