

Bible Stories for Adults

The Purpose of God's Law

Romans 5-7

Opening

Gathering: What are ways that Christians easily fall back to trusting the law for salvation?

Today's Focus: God gave His Law not as an effective means for people to be saved, but to show them their need for the only way to be saved – faith in Jesus Christ.

Key Verses: *I will put My Law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people.* Jeremiah 31:33

The Law is holy and the commandment is holy, righteous and good. Romans 7:12

Opening Prayer

Lesson

The Torah

The most common Hebrew word in the Bible for law is *torah*. Others are *dath*, *hoq*, *mitswah*, *mishpat*

The most common Greek word for law is *nomos*

In what ways are *torah* and *nomos* used in the Bible?

Proverbs 1:8

Isaiah 1:10

Leviticus 7:7

2 Samuel 7:19

1 Kings 2:3

Luke 16:16

John 10:34

Purpose of God's Law (*Psalms 119*)

How did the Psalm writer explain the value of God's Law?

Psalm 119:97-98, 103-105

How did Solomon add to this?

Proverbs 3:1-6

How did God first reveal this right relationship?

Genesis 2:8; 3:8a

God's Law Before Moses (*Romans 2:14-15*)

What is the first law recorded in the Bible?

Genesis 2:16-17

How did eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil further reveal God's Law?

Romans 2:14-15

How well did people follow the law God had put on their hearts?

Genesis 6:5-7a

How did God begin to reveal His Law more directly after the earth began to be replenished?

Genesis 17:1, 7

How was God's Law part of God's covenant relationship with Abraham?

Genesis 26:2-5

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Extending the Covenant Relationship (*Exodus 19*)

What did God do after Abraham's offspring had grown into a nation?

Exodus 3:8a, 12

Why was returning to this mountain an important part of extending God's covenant relationship to them?

Exodus 19:3-6

Were the people willing to receive these revelations and live under His covenant?

Exodus 19:7-8

How did God make it clear to these people that the revelations were His, not Moses'?

Exodus 19:9, 16, 19

Mediator of the Covenant (*Hebrews 9:11-22*)

How did the people respond to this revelation of God's presence?

Exodus 20:18-20

How did this mediator point out the atoning purpose of God's covenant Law?

Hebrews 9:19-22 (*Exodus 24:4-8*)

How was this a representation of God's eternal covenant relationship with all people?

Hebrews 9:12-15

Teach Your Children Well (*Deuteronomy 4:1-14*)

How did Moses begin to tell the Israelites how God wanted them to live as His people?

Deuteronomy 4:1-2

How would God use these laws to reveal Himself to the world through these people?

Deuteronomy 4:5-8

Were these laws only for this nation at this point of its history?

Deuteronomy 4:9

What did the Israelites memorize and recite to remember the importance of these laws?

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Types of God's Law (*Exodus*)

What three types of law did God give this new nation on Mount Sinai?

Exodus 22:1

Exodus 29:38-41

Exodus 20:3-4, 7-8, 12-17

Applying God's Laws Today (*Matthew 5:18*)

Do God's civil laws from Sinai still apply to us today?

Romans 13:1-2

Do God's ceremonial laws from Sinai still apply to us today?

Hebrews 10:1-4, 8-10, 19-22

Do God's moral laws from Sinai still apply to us today?

Matthew 5:17-18

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Jesus' Summary (*Matthew 22:35-40*)

How did Jesus summarize God's Moral Law?

Matthew 22:35-38

Matthew 22:39-40

Promises and Curses of God's Law (*Deuteronomy 6-8*)

What promises did God give to those who obey all of His Laws?

Deuteronomy 6:24-25

What curses did God give to those who disobey His Laws?

Deuteronomy 8:19-20

The Cursed and The Blessed (*Romans 3; Galatians 3*)

What percentage of God's people are able to obey His Laws?

Romans 3:10-12

Does this mean that no one has been able to receive the promises of God's Law?

Galatians 3:10-12

Is God's Law, therefore, opposed to His promises?

Galatians 3:21-25

So, how are we found righteous if not by the Law?

Romans 3:21-24

Applying God's Law Today (*Jeremiah 31:31-34*)

Since all fall short of being saved by obedience, how does God's Law apply to us?

1 Timothy 1:9-10

Romans 3:20; 7:7

Psalms 119:1-9

Which tablets of God's Law should we look to so they can serve these functions?

2 Corinthians 3:3

Should we write the laws of God's covenant on our bodies and foreheads as commanded in Deut 6:8?

Jeremiah 31:31-34

License to Sin? (*Romans 5-6*)

Were people who preceded Moses considered sinful for disobeying laws that had not yet been given?

Romans 5:12-14

Then what value was there in adding the law?

Romans 5:20-21

Does this mean that we should sin as much as we can so God can be even more gracious?

Romans 6:1-2, 6-7, 14

Does this freedom then permit us to sin as we please, knowing that God will give us His grace?

Romans 6:15-16, 18

Why would we want to be slaves to righteousness?

Romans 6:22-23

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Law - Good or Bad? (*Romans 7:1-13*)

Should we therefore work to obey the Law so we can be slaves to righteousness?

Romans 7:1, 4

How does dying to the Law help us *bear fruit to God*?

Romans 7:5-6

Is Paul saying that the Law is evil and to be avoided?

Romans 7:7-9

Then how can sin and death come out of the Law?

Romans 7:12-13

Who's In Control? (*Romans 7:14-25*)

Why is all of this so hard to understand?

Romans 7:14

How does our unspiritual nature show up in relation to the Law?

Romans 7:15-16

What is the cause of this conflict if we died to the Law?

Romans 7:17-20

Do we just need to focus more on the Law?

Romans 7:21-23

Is there any way out of this mess?

Romans 7:24-25

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. What are recent examples where God has directed me through the Law that He placed in my heart?
(*Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 15:17-20; Romans 2:14-15; 1 Corinthians 9:9-13; 2 Corinthians 3:3; Ephesians 6:5-6*)
2. What areas of God's moral law have I treated as if they don't apply to me?
(*Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 6:1-8; Proverbs 28:9; Matthew 5:17-20; 23:23-28*)
3. When has God's Law been effective as a curb in my life?
(*1 Timothy 1:9-10; Matthew 5:21-32; Galatians 3:19; 5:16-25*)
4. When has God's Law been effective as a mirror in my life?
(*Romans 3:20; 7:7; James 2:8-11; 1 John 3:4*)
5. When has God's Law been effective as a guide in my life?
(*Psalms 119; Ezekiel 36:27; Romans 6*)