

To the Teacher

The information below is to help you in teaching the lesson. DO NOT read this page to the students. Instead, teach the information in your own words. Be sure to finish the student's lesson as well. The Scripture references in parentheses are for additional study, to round out the information given in the lesson. Become familiar with these passages as well, to provide additional Scriptures to your students.

Lesson 27 – Our Standard for Belief and Life (Teacher's Lesson)

Opening: Answer the opening question.

Study Notes:

Joshua 1:7-8

Verse 7 – What was required for success? Obeying the Law.

God's definition for "success" is not riches, power, or position, but obedience to His Word.

How much of the Law did God exhort Joshua to obey? All of it.

We cannot choose to obey only those parts of the Bible that are easy – we must know and put into practice all of God's Word.

Verse 8 – What are the three things that God told Joshua to do with respect to His Word?

Recite it, meditate on it, do it.

Scripture should permeate every area of our lives. We should memorize it so that what goes into our minds comes out through words and actions.

Psalm 119:137

All of God's laws are right because God's character is just. God is never wrong and He always wants the best for us.

Luke 21:33

The Word of God will never pass away. Because God is eternal, we can trust that His Word will always be with us. He will protect the Scriptures because it is His letter to humanity.

John 17:17

Because God does not and cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18), we can trust that His Word will always be the truth. Man's interpretation can twist the meaning (2 Timothy 3:16), but His Word is still the truth.

1 Timothy 4:16

Our beliefs must be carefully tested against the Word of God. Any that clash should be brought into agreement with the truth of Scripture. Our beliefs and our actions must also be in perfect agreement. With this we show that we are servants of Christ, and living holy lives, others will be influenced and will imitate us (1 Pedro 2:12).

Summary: The Bible is the source of our knowledge about God's standard of belief and behavior.

Application:

The purpose of this checklist is not to make people feel guilt, but to explain that the standard of God is perfection and that in His grace God accepts us as we are. Explain that the purpose of the Law was never to take away sin, but to make us aware of sin, thus allowing repentance (look at Romans 3:19-20).

Lesson 27 – Our Standard for Belief and Life

The Standard

Do you think that there are a lot of laws or a few?

In a lesson that we studied before, we learned that God Himself inspired the writing of the 66 books of the Bible. This gives the Bible its authority. It tells us what to believe and how to live. “The fathers of the faith” knew the importance of the Word of God. Read Joshua 1:7-8 and answer the following questions.

Verse 7 – What was required for success?

How much of the Law did God exhort Joshua to obey?

Verse 8 – What are the three things God told Joshua to do with respect to His Word?

What does the Bible say about itself? Read the verses below and note what they say about the Bible.

Psalm 119:137 –

Luke 21:33 –

John 17:17 –

1 Timothy 4:16 –

Reality Check

Of all the things that we should and should not do in the Bible, probably the most well-known list is the Ten Commandments. Let’s see how well we put the Word of God into

practice. Read each commandment and place a mark on the line below to demonstrate where you think you fall on the “Scale of Obedience.”

1. *Exodus 20:3* – God’s will must come first in all our decisions and actions.
Always obey ----- Sometimes obey ----- Rarely Obey

2. *Exodus 20:4-6* – No “thing” should be more important to us than God.
Always obey ----- Sometimes obey ----- Rarely Obey

3. *Exodus 20:7* – The name of God should not be taken lightly.
Always obey ----- Sometimes obey ----- Rarely Obey

4. *Exodus 20:8-11* – One day of the week should be set apart for worship and family.
Always obey ----- Sometimes obey ----- Rarely Obey

5. *Exodus 20:12* – Parents should be respected.
Always obey ----- Sometimes obey ----- Rarely Obey

6. *Exodus 20:13* – Murder, or attitudes that could lead to murder are prohibited.
Always obey ----- Sometimes obey ----- Rarely Obey

7. *Exodus 20:14* – Adultery, or attitudes that could lead to adultery are prohibited.
Always obey ----- Sometimes obey ----- Rarely Obey

8. *Exodus 20:15* – Taking another’s property is prohibited.
Always obey ----- Sometimes obey ----- Rarely Obey

9. *Exodus 20:16* – We should always be truthful.
Always obey ----- Sometimes obey ----- Rarely Obey

10. *Exodus 20:17* – Desiring what belongs to another is prohibited.
Always obey ----- Sometimes obey ----- Rarely Obey

The Word of God is our standard, and the standard is perfection. Of course, none of us can live up to the standard, which is why we need Jesus. If you did not do as well as you wanted to on the test above, thank God for the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. It doesn’t depend on how well you do, but on His grace.

Scripture to Memorize:

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Salmo 119:105