

SABBATH SCHOOL

Jr. High School Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level J • Unit 3 • Week 2

LOVE FOR NEIGHBOR: THE LAST SIX COMMANDMENTS

OBJECTIVE:

To get a better understanding of the Golden Rule and how the last six commandments teach love and respect for all with whom we might come in contact.

INTRODUCTION:

Do: Read as a group Leviticus 19:18 (New Living Translation): "Never seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD."

Say: Leviticus 19:18 is the "royal" law because it is the source of all the rules for guiding human relationships. Today we are going to answer two very important questions: 1) Who is your neighbor? 2) How do you love your neighbor?

Do: Allow students to volunteer responses.

LESSON:

Do: Use a dictionary to look up and read the meaning of "neighbor." *Webster's Dictionary*, for instance, has definition 3 as "one's fellow human being" and definition 4 as "a person who shows kindness or helpfulness toward fellow humans."

Say: Let's talk about who a neighbor might be as defined by the Bible. A neighbor is not merely someone who lives nearby or that you know. A neighbor is anyone we come into contact with. It is even our brothers and sisters!

Here's a real-life example: In 2004, presidential candidate Howard Dean was challenged by someone to quit being so negative about President George Bush. The person asked Mr. Dean, "What about loving your neighbor?" Mr. Dean angrily responded, "George Bush is NOT MY NEIGHBOR." Was Howard Dean right or wrong? Why?

Let's see how Jesus Christ defined a neighbor.

Do: Read Luke 10:29.

Say: Christ was asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Christ answered with the story of the person robbed on the highway.

Ask: What do you think Christ meant by this parable?

Say: Christ wanted us to learn that anyone is our "neighbor" even if they're of a different race, culture or background. When we help someone, we are being a neighbor.

Now let's think about the second question: How do we love our neighbor?

If we properly love God, we will end up loving people.

Do: Read Luke 10:25-37 (NLT):

"One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: 'Teacher, what must I do to receive eternal life?'

"Jesus replied, 'What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?'

"The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.'" And, "Love your neighbor as yourself."'

"'Right!' Jesus told him. 'Do this and you will live!'

"The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbor?'

"Jesus replied with an illustration: 'A Jewish man was traveling on a trip from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes and money, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. By chance a Jewish priest came along; but when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt deep pity. Kneeling beside him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with medicine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two pieces of silver and told him to take care of the man. "If his bill runs higher than that," he said, "I'll pay the difference the next time I am here." Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?' Jesus asked.

“The man replied, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’

“Then Jesus said, ‘Yes, now go and do the same.’”

Say: Jesus gave two basic commandments in the New Testament:

- Love God with your whole heart, soul and mind.
- Love your neighbor as yourself.

Do: Read Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT): “Jesus replied, “‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Read Romans 13:8-10 (NLT): “Pay all your debts, except the debt of love for others. You can never finish paying that! If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill all the requirements of God’s law. For the commandments against adultery and murder and stealing and coveting—and any other commandment—are all summed up in this one commandment: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no wrong to anyone, so love satisfies all of God’s requirements.”

Say: We should not limit our love for others. We should love them to the same degree we love ourselves. Have you heard of the “Golden Rule”? It says, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Do: Have the students help you make a list of things that you would want kids at school or in the neighborhood to do to you or for you. Then make a list of things you would not want others to do to you or for you. (Possible items for list 2: lie, steal, hurt you, say bad things to you, be mean to your parents, want your things, etc.)

CONCLUSION:

Say: So when we are told by God and Christ in the Bible in Matthew and Mark, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” it is really receiving from others what you want for yourself. [List the last six commandments and give a basic explanation of each.]

RELATED ACTIVITY:

Say: Today we are going to role-play. I am going to give a situation. It might even be something that has happened to you. We will talk about how God would want us to act in that situation. We’ll find the best way to handle these situations by thinking about the commandment that would apply.

- You are over at your friend’s house, and there is a new toy, bike or computer game. You really would like to play with it. You want it really badly. You just keep thinking about it and thinking about it. Finally you go get it and take it home. There are at least two commandments that were broken. What commandments are they? [Answer: Tenth Commandment—don’t covet; Eighth commandment—don’t steal.]

- You are at church services and you see, at the top of a church bag or on a chair, a piece of candy or a pretty writing pen. You would like to have it. It is just sitting there in view of all. What will you do? What would God want you to do? What commandment tells us? [Answer: Tenth Commandment—don't covet; Eighth Commandment—don't steal.]
- A kid on the bus is being mean to you and calling you names. It makes you very mad, and you want to hurt him. What should you do and think before you act by pushing him or calling him names back? In Matthew 5:21-22 Christ said, "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' [meaning empty head] shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire" (NKJV). What commandment should we be thinking of? [Answer: Sixth Commandment—don't murder.]
- You are in class and you are taking a test. You didn't have time to study enough because you had to help your mom with the younger kids and work around the house. You want to do well on the test to make your parents happy. You can see classmate's answers and some of them are the ones you don't know. What will you do? Which of God's commandments would tell us what we should do? [Eighth Commandment—Don't steal.]
- Your mother has asked you to do some chores around the house (take out the trash, clean your room, clean up after the dog, etc). You don't want to do it. You get mad and ignore what she asked. What commandment should you be thinking about? [Fifth Commandment—honor and obey your father and your mother.]
- A friend lets you listen to some music on a CD that he downloaded off the Internet. You really want this music. He offers to loan you the CD so that you can make a copy. You know it was not purchased, it is a "pirated" copy. But you don't have enough money to buy the CD and you won't get your allowance for two more weeks. What will you do? Which commandments tell us what we should do? [Tenth Commandment—don't covet; Eighth Commandment—don't steal.]
- You see another person romantically kissing someone who is not their mate. You know that this is not a good thing to do because the Seventh Commandment says . . .? [Answer: Don't commit adultery.]
- There is a cute girl/boy in your class. You really like them and think about them all the time. You would like to have them as your boyfriend/girlfriend. You want them to notice you and now all you can think about all the time is this cute boy/girl. What commandments should you be aware of? [Tenth Commandment—don't lust; Seventh Commandment—don't commit adultery.]