

Commands in the Heart



Activity

Commander / Leader: Give every Ranger a colored paper. Instruct the boys to each think about the one person for whom they have the greatest affection.

Do you remember the time that person gave you a pat on the back or a hug that brightened your day just when you needed it? Think of one special thing the person did for you. Let the paper your commander / leader will give you represent all of the good things said and done by that special person. Now tear that paper in half.

Biblical Insight

Was it hard to tear the paper, because of the feelings in your heart? The Mosaic Covenant was written in stone, but some Old Testament passages speak of covenants being written on the heart. Even though the Mosaic Covenant dominated the Old Testament, it is clear that God was at work preparing for the new covenant, which would be introduced—the one Christ instituted with His blood, a covenant written on the heart. This does not mean the believer has the freedom to do whatever he pleases; rather, he is free to live only in

obedience to the Word of God. The believer should have an emotional attachment to the Bible even stronger than the feeling you had when you were told to tear the paper in half.

Composition

What benefits result from having God's Word within the heart? Read the following Scriptures and write down the benefits they suggest. Is there a common goal among the three?

Psalm 37:31 _____

Psalm 40:8 _____

Psalm 119:11 _____

Discussion

Why is it important to have God's laws upon our hearts and not just in our minds? Jesus said, "Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matthew 12:34). We may know all the right answers, but when it really counts, we react according to what is in our hearts. For each circumstance listed below, discuss the response of a person with and without God's laws in the heart. Remember, in each case there are only seconds in which to react.

A rude driver cuts you off.

Your sister yells at you in front of your friends.

The cashier forgets to charge you for your french fries.

Evaluation

"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts" (Deuteronomy 6:6). According to Deuteronomy 6:7, how should God's commands, kept in your heart, affect your daily living? According to John 16:33, what other result comes from the Word kept in your heart?
