

Week 7: God's Law

Memory Verse: "Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day." (Psalm 119:97)

Day 1: Did Our First Parents Continue in the State They Were Created?

Weekly Memory Verse: "Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day." (Psalm 119:97)

Question: Did our first parents continue in the state they were created? **Answer:** Our first parents, being left to the freedom of their own will, fell from the state wherein they were created, by sinning against God.

Picture a beautiful garden where everything is perfect. The flowers bloom in brilliant colors, the trees are heavy with delicious fruit, and gentle animals play peacefully together. This was the Garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve lived in perfect happiness with God. They had everything they could ever want or need, and most importantly, they lived in perfect friendship with their Creator.

But something sad happened in this perfect place. God had given Adam and Eve one simple rule to follow: they could eat from every tree in the garden except one. This wasn't a hard rule - there were hundreds of other trees with wonderful fruit! God gave them this rule because He loved them and wanted them to show their love and trust in Him by obeying.

The catechism tells us that our first parents "fell from the state wherein they were created, by sinning against God." This means they chose to disobey God's clear command. They had the freedom to choose, and sadly, they chose wrongly. When they ate from the forbidden tree, everything changed. Sin entered the world, and their perfect relationship with God was broken.

Think about when you break a rule your parents have given you. Maybe they told you not to touch something fragile, but you touched it anyway and it broke. Suddenly, you feel different around your parents - maybe scared or ashamed. That's a tiny picture of what happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Their sin broke their perfect relationship with Him.

This is why our memory verse is so important. When we love God's law and think about it all day, it helps us remember how good His rules are for us. God's laws aren't meant to make

us unhappy - they're like loving instructions from a perfect Father who wants the very best for His children. Adam and Eve's choice reminds us how important it is to trust and obey God's good commands.

Hymn: Trust and Obey

Prayer Points: • Thank God for His good laws that guide us • Ask God to help us trust His commands even when we don't understand them • Pray for hearts that love God's Word like the psalmist did

Day 2: God's Commandments

Weekly Memory Verse: "Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day." (Psalm 119:97)

Lesson Verse: "Keep my commandments and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye." (Proverbs 7:2)

When you go to a playground, there are usually rules posted at the entrance. "No running on wet equipment." "Children under 5 must be supervised." "No pets allowed." At first glance, these might seem like they're trying to stop you from having fun. But when you think about it, every single rule is there to keep you safe and help everyone enjoy the playground together.

God's commandments work the same way, but they're even better! Our lesson verse tells us to "keep my commandments and live" and to guard God's teaching "as the apple of your eye." The apple of your eye is the most precious, protected part - it's what you guard most carefully because you need it to see. God is saying His teachings should be that precious to us.

When God gives us commandments like "Honor your father and mother" or "Do not lie," He's not trying to make our lives boring or difficult. He's giving us the very best instructions for how to live happily and safely. Just like a loving parent who tells their child not to touch a hot stove, God's commands protect us from things that would hurt us and guide us toward what will bring true joy.

The wonderful thing about God's laws is that they show us what God Himself is like. When He tells us to be truthful, it's because He is perfectly truthful. When He tells us to be kind, it's because He is perfectly kind. Following God's commandments doesn't just keep us safe - it helps us become more like Him!

Sometimes obeying God's commands might seem hard, especially when our friends are doing something different. But remember, God sees everything and knows what's best for us

in ways we can't even imagine. When we choose to follow His good laws, we're choosing the path that leads to real life and happiness.

Hymn: How Firm a Foundation

Prayer Points: • Thank God for giving us His perfect commandments • Ask God to help us see His laws as precious gifts, not burdens • Pray for wisdom to obey God even when it's difficult

Day 3: What Is Sin?

Weekly Memory Verse: "Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day." (Psalm 119:97)

Question: What is sin? **Answer:** Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God.

Imagine you're playing a game of soccer, but instead of following the rules, you pick up the ball with your hands and run toward the goal. Or picture trying to bake cookies but ignoring the recipe completely - adding salt instead of sugar and baking them for three hours instead of ten minutes. In both cases, you're not following the pattern or rules that were given, and the results won't be good!

The catechism gives us a very important definition of sin. It says sin is "any want of conformity unto, or transgression of, the law of God." That might sound like big words, but it's actually quite simple. "Want of conformity" means not matching up to God's perfect standard - like when we fail to love others as much as we should. "Transgression" means crossing over the line - like when we tell a lie or disobey our parents.

Think of God's law like a beautiful pattern for living. God designed this pattern perfectly because He knows exactly how we were made and what will make us truly happy. When we sin, we're either falling short of this beautiful pattern or stepping completely outside of it. Either way, we're not living the way God designed us to live.

Here's what makes this both serious and hopeful: sin is serious because it breaks our relationship with our perfect, holy God. Every time we sin, we're saying "I know better than God" or "I don't trust God's way." But it's also hopeful because God has provided a way to fix what sin breaks. Through Jesus, God offers forgiveness and the power to live according to His good design.

Our memory verse reminds us that we can actually learn to love God's law! When we understand that His commands are given in love and lead to the best possible life, we begin to treasure them and think about them throughout our day, just like the psalm writer did.

Hymn: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Prayer Points: • Ask God to help us understand what sin really is • Thank God for His perfect law that shows us how to live • Pray for forgiveness when we fall short of God's good design

Day 4: Just

Weekly Memory Verse: "Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day." (Psalm 119:97)

Lesson Verse: "The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he." (Deuteronomy 32:4)

When you're playing a game with your friends and someone cheats, what do you say? "That's not fair!" Deep in your heart, you know there's a right way and a wrong way to do things. You have a sense of justice - the feeling that things should be done correctly and fairly. This feeling comes from God, because God Himself is perfectly just.

Our lesson verse calls God "The Rock" and tells us that "all his ways are justice." A rock is solid, unmovable, and dependable. You can build on a rock and trust it to hold firm. That's what God's justice is like - it's solid, unchanging, and completely reliable. Unlike people, who sometimes make unfair decisions or change their minds about what's right, God's justice is always perfect.

What does it mean that God is just? It means He always does what is right. He never makes mistakes, never shows favoritism to the wrong people, and never lets true wrongdoing go unpunished. When God made His laws, He made them perfectly just - they're exactly right for how He created us to live.

Think about a wise judge in a courtroom. A good judge listens carefully to all the facts, follows the law exactly, and makes decisions based on what's truly right, not on who they like better. God is like the perfect judge - but even better! He knows every thought, every motive, and every detail of every situation. His judgments are always completely fair and right.

This might sound scary at first, because we know we've all done wrong things. But here's the wonderful news: God's justice and His love work together perfectly. Because God is just,

He had to punish sin. But because God is loving, He sent Jesus to take that punishment for us. God's justice was satisfied, and His love was shown in the most amazing way possible.

When we love God's law, like our memory verse says, we're learning to love the same justice and righteousness that God loves. We're growing to become more like Him!

Hymn: Crown Him with Many Crowns

Prayer Points: • Praise God for being perfectly just and fair • Thank God that His justice and love work together in Jesus • Ask God to help us love justice and fairness like He does

Day 5: Martin Luther

Weekly Memory Verse: "Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day." (Psalm 119:97)

Long ago in Germany, there lived a young man named Martin Luther who was very worried about God's law. Martin had become a monk, spending his days praying and trying to follow every single rule perfectly. He would confess his sins for hours, sometimes remembering tiny things he thought he had done wrong. Martin was so afraid of not keeping God's law perfectly that he made himself miserable trying to earn God's love.

The church leaders in Martin's time taught that people had to do good works and follow many extra rules to be saved. They even sold special papers called "indulgences" that they claimed could forgive sins if people paid money for them! Martin knew this wasn't right, but he didn't yet understand the wonderful truth about God's grace.

One day, while studying the Bible, Martin read these words from Romans: "The righteous shall live by faith." Suddenly, like a bright light turning on in a dark room, Martin understood! He realized that we can't earn God's love by perfectly keeping the law. Instead, God gives us His righteousness as a gift when we trust in Jesus. We're saved by faith alone, not by our good works.

This discovery changed everything for Martin. On October 31, 1517, he wrote 95 statements about what the Bible really taught and nailed them to the church door in Wittenberg. This started what we call the Protestant Reformation - a time when many people rediscovered the true gospel message.

Martin Luther learned to love God's law in the right way. He understood that God's law shows us our need for a Savior, but it's Jesus who saves us, not our perfect obedience. The law is like a mirror that shows us we need to be cleaned up, but only Jesus can actually make us clean.

Martin's life reminds us that we can love God's law like our memory verse says, not because we're trying to earn God's love, but because we're grateful for the love He's already given us through Jesus. God's law guides us in how to live as His beloved children.

Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Prayer Points: • Thank God for Martin Luther's courage to teach the truth • Praise God that we're saved by faith, not by perfect law-keeping • Ask God to help us love His law as grateful children, not fearful servants