



**ALPHA CHOICE  
INNOVATIVE ACADEMY**

**GRADE 8**

**SECOND TERM 2022/2023 SESSION**

**CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE**

**MASTERNOTE**

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## **SYNOPSIS**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
1	PARABLES AND TYPES OF PARABLES
2	PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM
3	PARABLES ILLUSTRATING GOD'S LOVE
4	& 5 PARABLES OF MATURITY RESPONSIBILITY AND ATTITUDE TO POSSESSION
6	MID-TERM EXAM
7	PARABLES ILLUSTRATING CONCERN FOR ONE ANOTHER
8	JESUS CHRIST AND THE LAW
9	JESUS CHRIST IMPROVES UPON THE LAW
10.	REVISION
11	EXAMINATION

## WEEK 1: PARABLES AND TYPES OF PARABLES

### Essential Questions:

By the end of this lesson, I should be able to answer the following questions:

1. Define parable
2. Discuss why Jesus taught in parables
3. List and explain the various types of parables
4. Why do you think that Jesus taught in parables?

**A Parable** is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. It is a picture story which teaches us spiritual truths about God and his kingdom, and the right moral attitudes towards life.

**Why Jesus taught in parables:** Jesus taught in parables so that we might understand his teachings more clearly and obey him. Jesus taught about the kingdom of God; God's love; attitude to earthly possessions; Maturity and Responsibility and Forgiveness.

The **parable** of the **kingdom** teaches us about the kingdom of God. These include the parable of the sower, seed growing secretly, the wheat and tares and the mustard seed.

The **parable** about **God's love** teaches us about the love of God which is neither selfish nor greedy. It illustrates God's love for us in spite of our sinfulness. It is a spiritual kind of love. These parables includes: parable of the prodigal son, the lost sheep and the lost coin.

Furthermore, Jesus narrated two **parables** about what our **attitude** must be towards **wealth** and **riches**. This is because; some rich people have the wrong attitude towards earthly possessions. Rich people think that the most important thing in life is money. They think that the true value of life is the amount of wealth that a person has. Some rich people also think that their wealth is for them alone, and they can use it in any selfish way that they think fit. Jesus condemned these two negative attitudes about wealth in the parables of the: **Rich fool** and, the **Rich Man** and **Lazarus**.

Jesus taught us about **important values** of a **mature** and **responsible citizen** in the parable of the 'TEN VIRGINS' and the 'TALENTS'

As God loves His people, He demands that they should love one another in the same way. Jesus taught two parables illustrating the type of love Christians should have for one another. This is illustrated in the parable of the Good Samaritan and the rich man and Lazarus

## **EVALUATION**

1. Explain the meaning of parable
2. What is the importance of a parable?
3. State two reasons why Jesus taught in parables
4. List and briefly explain the various types of parables taught by Jesus.
5. Read Matthew 13:10-15. Why do you think that the disciples asked Jesus why He taught in parables?

6. Why did Jesus say he taught in parables? (See also Matthew 13:34-35)
7. As christians, how can we understand God's word?
8. How are we different from those who came before Jesus was here?
9. What are the characteristics of a parable?
10. In which book of the bible can the parables of Jesus be found?

## **Week 2: PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM**

Behavioral objectives: By the end of this lesson, I should be able to answer the following questions:

1. List the various types of parables of the kingdom
2. Narrate the parable of the Mustard seed and state two significance of the parable.
3. Write about the parable of the wheat and tares stating three significance of the parable.
4. Discuss the parable of the Sower and three lesson that can be learnt from it

**A Parable** is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. It is a story that teaches a moral lesson. It is a picture story which teaches us spiritual truths about God and his kingdom, and the right moral attitudes towards life.

Teaching in parable was a common phenomenon among Jewish prophets. For example, Prophet Nathan once told David a parable of the ewe lamb to illustrate his sin against Uriah.

**Why Jesus taught in parables:** Jesus taught in parables so that we might understand his teachings more clearly and obey him. Jesus taught about the kingdom of God; God's love; attitude to earthly possessions; Maturity and Responsibility and Forgiveness.

#### **PARABLE OF THE SOWER (Matthew 13:1-21, Mark 4:1-20)**

The parable of the Sower teaches us about the Kingdom of God. Both Matthew and Mark give an account of His parable in which Jesus tells us about a certain farmer who went to sow his seeds. Some fell on the footpath and were devoured by the birds. Others fell on the rocky spots with little earth, germinated, but owing to the fact that the roots could not get to the soil because of the rocks, they withered under the scorching heat. The others fell among thorns, germinated but were choked up by the thorns. Finally, the rest fell on good fertile soil, germinated well, grew up and bore plenty fruits.



### **Interpretation of the Parable**

According to Jesus, the seeds that fell on the footpath or way side represent people who receive the word of God but cannot understand it. The birds represent the devil who immediately divert their attention from what they heard and thereby, denying them the kingdom of God. The seeds that fell on the rocky spots represent the people who receive the word with joy, but due to the tribulations and persecutions that follow the gospel they fall aside, as they cannot endure. As for the seeds that fell among thorns, they represent those who hear the word, but because of the love for the material things of this world, they get deceived by such materialism which also chokes the word and as a result, they don't bear fruits. Finally, the seeds that fell on the good soil represent the people who hear the gospel, understand it and bear fruits as well; some hundred fold some six and others thirty.

### **Lessons to Learn from the Parable**

- 1) The parable of the sower shows the various ways people respond to the word of God they hear.
- 2) The way people respond determines the type of reward they get from God on the last day.

### **The Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32)**

The parable of the Mustard Seed is recorded by the three synoptic gospel writers.

Jesus compared the kingdom of God with a grain of mustard seed which man sowed in his field. The mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds but when it grows, it becomes the greatest of shrubs where birds of the air use its branches as their nest.

Significance of the Parable of the Mustard Seed

- 1) The word of God which represents the role of God in our lives has small beginning but with great result.

### **The Parable of the Wheat and Tares**

The parable of the wheat and tares is recorded only in the book of Matthew. In this parable, Jesus compared the kingdom of God with a man who sowed good seeds in his field, but while he was sleeping, the enemy went and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. As the plants grew up, the weeds also appeared. The servants inquired from their master why weeds should be found in the farm where he had sown only wheat. He told them that it was the enemy who did it. They wanted him to allow them to remove the weeds but their master refused. He told them to leave both the wheat and tares as they might remove the wheat while trying to remove the weeds. He told them to allow them to grow together till the time of harvest during which he would instruct the reapers to gather the weeds for burning and the wheat into the barn.

Interpretation of the Parable

Jesus interpreted the parable to mean that the sower of the good seed is the son of man (Jesus), the field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom while the weeds are the evil ones. The enemy who sowed the weed is the devil, the harvest is the close of the age and the reapers are the angels.

### **Significance of the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares**



1. In various churches, there are good and bad Christians fellowshiping together.
2. Men are not scripturally permitted to judge but many people like the servants in this parable want to rush to judgment
3. Men should allow God to judge people.

## **EVALUATION**

1. Using Matthew 13:18-23, Mark 4:14-20 and Luke 8:11-15 what is the meaning of the parable about the Sower and the seed?
2. What does the parables about the kingdom of God illustrate?
3. What does the kingdom of God mean?
4. In the parable of the wheat and tares, what did each part represent?
5. List the parables on the kingdom of God and which book of the bible they are recorded
6. In the parables, What did Jesus compare the kingdom of God to?
7. What is the interpretation of the parable of the wheat and tares?
8. Read Matthew 13:31-32. What do you think Jesus is trying to say with the parable of the tiny mustard seed growing to become a tree?
9. *As a christian, how can we enter the kingdom of God?*
10. *According to Jesus, everyone will be admitted into the kingdom of God?*

## **WEEK 3: PARABLES ILLUSTRATING GOD'S LOVE**

**Essential Questions:** At the end of this lesson, I should be able to answer the following questions:

Narrate the following parable and state two significance of each parable

- i. The lost sheep
  - ii. The lost coin
  - iii. Prodigal son
1. Explain how the action of the father of the prodigal son illustrates the nature of God.
  2. State three character traits that the elder brother of the prodigal son exhibited

The parables illustrating God's love are the parables of the lost sheep, lost coin and the lost son or prodigal son.

### **THE LOST SHEEP (LUKE 15, 3-7; MATTHEW 18: 12-24)**

In the parable of the lost sheep, Jesus likened the kingdom of God to a man who has one hundred sheep but if one goes astray, he would leave the rest of the ninety nine in the wilderness and search for the one that he lost. When he finds it, he lays it on his shoulders rejoicing. When he comes home, the man calls his friends and neighbours to rejoice with him for he has found his lost sheep. Jesus said that in the same way, there will be joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

### **THE LOST COIN (LUKE 15: 8-10)**

Christ spoke of a woman who has ten silver coins but if she loses one of the coins, she would light a lamp, sweep the house and seek the coin diligently until she finds it. When she finds it, she would tell her neighbours and friends to rejoice with her for having found her coin. In the same way, there is joy in heaven before the angles of God over one sinner who repents of his/her sins.

### **THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PARABLES**

1. These two parables show how interested God is to ensure that the lost soul is saved.
2. God loves us and does not want our soul to perish
3. We should reciprocate God's love by accepting Jesus Christ as our personal
4. Lord and saviour. Thereafter, we should reach out to the lost souls (sinners) and win them for God as our efforts would be highly rewarded.

### **THE PRODIGAL SON (LUKE 15:11-32)**

The parable of the prodigal illustrates God's love for us. There was a certain man who had two sons and the younger one asked the father to give him the share of property belonging to him while the father was yet alive. The father obliged him and the young man took his share, travelled to a distant town where he wasted all he had in reckless living.

Eventually, there was a great famine in that land. Having no more money, he began a job of feeding pigs. Things were so difficult for him that he desired to feed together with the pigs. But the food was not available for him. One day, he came back to his senses and decided to go back to his father to ask for forgiveness, instead of dying of hunger in a foreign land. He said he would ask his father to make him one of his servants and no longer be treated as a son. He then went to his father.

Sighting his son while he was still afar off, the father ran and embraced him and kissed him and was very happy to see his presumed lost son. He declared to his servants: "Bring quickly the best robe and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost and is found." (Luke 15:22-24)

However, the elder son of the man was not happy over the royal reception given to the prodigal son; he said that since he had been working with the father, toiling every day, serving their father, he had never been given anything to make merry with his friends,

but his father reminded him that he (the son) was always with him, hence, all he (the father) had, belonged to him (the son), whereas, his younger brother was dead, and alive, lost and found.



### **LESSONS TO LEARN**

- The prodigal son's decision to return as a servant and not as a son shows a high sense of humility on his part.
- This shows that God loves both the righteous and the sinner provided the sinner is ready to forsake his sin and come back to God.
- Self-righteousness does not justify condemnation of Sinners.
- The elder brother's attitude shows: envy, pride, lack of respect, lack of love for the brother or lack of forgiveness and selfishness

### **THE INTERPRETATION OF THE PARABLE ABOUT GOD'S LOVE:**

In this parable, Jesus is teaching us something about God's relationship with us. God is our Father who loves us very much and cares for us. He wants us to be good children always. When we do wrong and become bad children, God our father is not happy with us. He will leave the good children and search for us till he the good relationship of love is restored between him and us. Therefore, we see that God is a loving and searching

Father who will never give up however bad we are. He knows we can repent and become good children again. And when we do that, there is a great joy for God and our parents, teachers and elders. He wants us to be good children always.

**EVALUATION:**

1. List two parables that illustrates God's love
2. Narrate the parable of the prodigal son. State how the action of the father illustrates the nature of God.
3. What three character traits did the elder brother exhibit?
4. Narrate the parable of the lost coin
5. List one parable that teaches about forgiveness for the repentant sinner?
6. Narrate the parable of the lost sheep
7. What is the moral of the parable of the lost sheep?
8. How does the parable of the lost sheep challenge us?
9. What did the shepherd do when he found his lost sheep?
10. What does the lost coin represent?

## **WEEK 4 AND 5: PARABLE OF MATURITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND ATTITUDE TO POSSESSION**

### **Essential Questions:**

*By the end of this lesson, I will be able to answer the following questions:*

- 1. Explain why you would want to behave like a responsible and matured citizen*
- 2. Narrate the parable of the ten virgins and the moral lessons*
- 3. Describe the parable of the talents and highlight the moral lessons*
- 4. Narrate the parable of the unforgiving servant and mention the lessons*
- 5. Explain the parable of the Rich Fool and state the moral lessons.*
- 6. Highlight why you must use your talent wisely.*

As we grow up and become adults in the society, we are expected to behave in the right way that will ensure peace, progress and prosperity of our nation. When we behave with maturity and responsibility, we are said to behave in the right way.

What then are the moral qualities of a mature and responsible citizen? The mature and responsible citizen is the one who:

- Uses his talent for the benefit of the whole community and not for himself alone;
- Plans and prepares himself thoroughly before embarking on any project;
- Is kind to others,
- Cares for the needs of others and helps to supply them

Jesus taught all these important values of a mature and responsible citizen in the parable of the 'TEN VIRGINS' and the 'TALENTS'

### **THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS (MATTHEW 25:1-13)**

Jesus taught many things about the kingdom of God. For example, He used the story of ten virgins attending a wedding reception in one of the lessons. These virgins brought their lamps to the bridegroom's place, but only five of them were wise enough to take extra oil along for their lamps. As the bridegroom was late in coming, they all slept off. At

midnight, the girls got up and cleaned their lamps. Five of them discovered that their oil had been used up. They were foolish not to have brought extra oil along. When the foolish girls asked the wise ones for oil, they refused claiming that what they had would only be sufficient for them. The wise virgins then asked the foolish ones to go and buy some oil. They went but before they returned, the bridegroom had arrived. Those who were prepared and in a state of readiness followed him into the wedding hall. The wise girls, therefore, attended the wedding with him while the foolish virgins could not, as no one opened the door for them when they came back. The bridegroom denied knowing them and ordered them to keep away from the venue of the wedding.



### **THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS:**

The parable teaches on using our gifts and abilities in the service of God and the people in our community. It is about a man who before he left his country, called together his three servants, and distributed his property to them. “To one, he gave five talents, to another, he gave two, and to another he gave only one; ‘to each’ servant ‘according to his ability’. The shares of the property received by the servants were not to be their own, but were to be used in the master’s service during the period of his absence. The first two servants understood their master’s motive for giving them the talents. The one who received the five talents went at once to trade with them and made five talents more, likewise the servant who got two talents. He invested it in business and made two talents more. The third servant, because he was lazy, went and hid his talent. When their master returned, he called the servants to give an account of what they did with the money he gave them. The first two brought good reports that they made more money than they were given. The master praised each of them and said ‘well done’ good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a little. I will set you over much, enter into the joy of

your master. The third servant came forward and gave his own reasons for not making profitable use of his share of the talents. He could not do anything with his own, so he decided to hide it. He also did not trust his master and said bad things about him, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow. So I was afraid and went and hid your talent in the ground, here you have what is yours.'

The servant did not want to accept responsibility for his failure and laziness. He wanted to pass the blame to his master. This was absolutely unreasonable and wrong. As a result the master gave the order in verses 28-30.

The third servant in this parable was an immature and very irresponsible person in the community, who failed to make adequate use of his talent, and ended up paying dearly for it.

### **PARABLE OF THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT (MATTHEW 18:21-25)**

A king wanted to settle accounts with his servant. One particular servant owed him ten thousand talents. This was huge and so he could not pay. But the king forgave him after he pleaded he needed time to pay. This servant later came across a fellow servant who owed him only hundred denarii (one talent). But the wicked servant had his fellow servant jailed for this later lesser amount and was condemned by the king. This is because the unforgiving servant was not matured and responsible in his attitude.

### **THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL (Luke 12:13-21)**

This parable talks about our attitude to our possession. Whatever God has blessed us with must be used for not just ourselves but for the benefit of others. A man had plenty of food after a huge harvest. As a result of this, he became very proud and said to himself that he had so much to eat and drink for many years to come and did not bother to share with others. But that night God said to him. "*You fool! Tonight your soul will be taken away from you.*" That night the man died and did not even taste anything from his harvest. This was because he occupied his heart with earthly things and cared less for the needy.





### EVALUATION:

1. Explain the meaning of parables.
2. Which parable teaches about maturity and responsibility?
3. What is spiritual maturity?
4. Who do the five wise maiden and five foolish maiden represent in the parable of the ten virgins?
5. What did the servant do after the king forgave the debt? (Matthew 18:28.)
6. Which parable teaches us about the value of forgiveness?
7. How are we sometimes like the unmerciful servant?
8. What is the main message of the Parable of the Talents?
9. What does the parable of the rich fool teach us?
10. Why did Jesus say the parable of the rich fool?

## WEEK 7: PARABLES ILLUSTRATING CONCERN FOR ONE ANOTHER

**Essential Questions:** by the end of this lesson, I should be able to answer the following questions:

1. Discuss the parable of the Good Samaritan and explain the significance of the parable.
2. Narrate the parable of the rich man and Lazarus and indicate two lessons that could be learnt from it.
3. Highlight three ways by which Christians can use their wealth for the benefit of the society.

As God loves His people, He demands that they should love one another in the same way. Jesus taught two parables illustrating the type of love Christians should have for one another. This is illustrated in the parable of the Good Samaritan and the rich man and Lazarus

### THE GOOD SAMARITAN (LK 10: 25-37)

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said a man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers who attacked him and made away with his belongings, leaving him half dead. By chance, a priest who was going down the road saw him and passed through the other side. A Levite also came to the place and saw him. He took passed through the other side. But when a Samaritan who was also travelling through the road saw him, he had compassion on him. He went to his aid, dressed up his wounds, administered first aid and took him to where they took care of him. The next day he deposited two denarii with the inn keeper, requesting him to take care of the man with a promise to pay all the charges when he comes back.

### Significance of the Parable of the Good Samaritan

Jesus taught us how a good neighbour should behave. Before this time, Jews took their neighbour to mean anybody next to them or their fellow Jew. By this parable, Jesus

showed that Christians should always show love to the needy, irrespective of tribe. We must show love to all who are in need without discrimination.

### **THE PARABLE OF THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS: (LUKE 16: 19-31)**

There was a rich man who lived in a beautiful house and wore fine clothes. He used to have parties in his house every day. At the gate of this rich's man's house sat a poor man called Lazarus. His body was full of sores and dogs came to lick his wounds. He would beg the rich man to give him food, but the rich man would not give him. The rich man was very selfish and wicked towards Lazarus.

Lazarus became very lean and died as a result of hunger; and the angels cried to Abraham's bosom. The rich man died and was also buried. The Rich man went to Hades or Hell where he suffered terribly. When he looked up, he saw Abraham afar off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out:

"Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame. "

But Abraham said:

"Son remember that in your life time, you received good things; and Lazarus in like manner evil things. but now he is comforted here , and you in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from here to us".



The rich man became miserable and begged that a message be taken to his brothers on earth, through Lazarus. He said to Abraham:

“Then I beg you, father to send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers so that they may warn them, less they also come into this place of torment”.

But Abraham said:

“They have Moses and the prophets: let them hear them.

And he said:

“No father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.

“And Abraham said

“If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead”.

The significance of the parable: The rich man, in the parable of the Rich man and Lazarus, represents those rich people in the world who think that their wealth is for them alone. They are so selfish that they use their wealth to satisfy themselves. They do not share part of their wealth with the poor and the needy around them. This selfish attitude towards wealth is wrong. This is because it is God who gives them the riches. Therefore, God is the real owner of their wealth.

They have been entrusted with God’s property and so, they are the stewards of God, looking after his property for him. They are to use the wealth to help the poor and the needy. They are to share with those who do not have.

### **The Significance of the Parable of the Rich man and Lazarus**

1. People should spend their resources in helping the poor and the needy
2. People should not waste their resources on unnecessary feast and enjoyment all the time. It doesn’t encourage spiritual growth.
3. People should endeavour to serve God diligently while they are alive in order to inherit the kingdom of God.

### **Ways in which Christians can use their wealth for the benefit of the society are:**

1. In showing mercy to those in need
2. As donations at any Christian launching

3. Sponsoring religious organizations
4. Embarking on social projects beneficial to mankind

## **EVALUATION**

1. What did Jesus tell the Pharisees before telling this parable?
2. Where was the beggar Lazarus laid each day?
3. When the rich man died where did he go?
4. What did the rich man want Lazarus to do?
5. What question was Jesus answering when he told the parable of the Good Samaritan? (Luke 10:25, 29.)
6. What is the main message of the parable of the Good Samaritan?
7. What questions prompted the parable of the Good Samaritan?
8. How does the parable of the Good Samaritan apply to the world today?
9. What are the qualities of a good Samaritan?
10. What type of person is a Samaritan?

## **WEEK 8: JESUS CHRIST AND THE LAWS**

### ***Essential questions:***

By the end of this lesson, I should be able to answer the following questions:

1. Define law and state the disadvantages of not obeying the law in our society.
2. Narrate how Jesus obeyed the civic and religious law.
3. Describe How Jesus modified the law on Sabbath.

Laws are made to control the behavior of people in a society so that everyone can go about his or her work in safety and in peace. Without laws, there would be lawlessness, disorderliness, chaos and destruction of life and property.

The Israelites had their own laws which was to govern their relationship with Him and with one another. The laws, which define their relationship with one another is known as the Civil law. Examples are: Not mixing with sinners and outcast and payment of their tribute to the Roman Government. In addition, they had laws which tell them their duties to God. This law is known as the Religious law. Examples are the ten commandments, ceremonial laws like washing of hands before eating, laws on religious duties such as payment of the temple tax, fasting, prayer and alms giving. Jesus obeyed both the civil and religious laws of the Jews.

### **Jesus' attitude to the civil and religious laws:**

Jesus had a positive attitude towards the civil and religious laws. He said he has not come to destroy these laws but to fulfill them.

### **Jesus paid tax: (Matthew 22: 15- 22):**

One of the civic laws is the payment of tax. The Roman Government, which ruled over the Jews at that time, had imposed tax on them. The tax collected was used to provide them with all the social amenities they needed. And every citizen was expected to carry out this responsibility by paying the tax. Jesus emphasized this responsibility when the Pharisees asked him whether it was right to pay tax to the Roman Government or to God. In reply, Jesus said:

“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God what is to God’s”.

Jesus’ answer means that the Jews should obey the civil laws by continuing to pay tax to the Roman government. At the same time, they should not forget to obey the religious laws with respect to God.

### **Jesus obeys the religious laws: (Matthew 17: 24-27)**

Every male Jew by the age of nineteen was required to pay the Temple tax. This was used to maintain the temple. Jesus complied with this law and paid the temple tax of half shekel when the collectors of the Temple tax approached him. He told Peter to go the sea and take the money from the mouth of the fish he would catch and pay for the two of them, and Peter did.

### **PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE (LUKE 2:21-24).**

Right from the time He was born till the time He died on the cross, Jesus obeyed all the laws of Moses to show that He was humble, and not above the laws governing the

society into which He was born. As a result, when He was eight days old, He was circumcised and given the name Jesus which was the same name given to Him by the angel of the Lord that announced His holy conception and birth. Jesus Christ means True God and Saviour of the world (1John 5:20).

Jesus was presented in the temple of the Lord for dedication after His mother Mary had performed Jewish purification rites according to the law. The law states that every firstborn male child shall be called holy to the Lord. In accordance with the law of the Lord, Mary offered a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons for his purification after the birth of Jesus.

#### THE OBSERVANCE OF SABBATH (Mark 2: 23-28, 3:1-12)

Jesus was walking through some cornfields on the Sabbath. As his disciples walked along with him, they began to pick the ears of corn. The Pharisees said to Jesus. "Look, it is against our law for your disciples to do that on the Sabbath day".

Jesus answered, "Have you never read what David did that time when he needed something to eat? He and his men were hungry, so he went into the house of God and ate the bread offered to God. This happened when Abiathar was the high priest. According to our law, only the priests may eat this bread but David ate it and gave it to his men".

And Jesus concluded, "The Sabbath was made for the good of human beings, they were not made for the Sabbath. So the son of man is Lord even of the Sabbath".





## MORAL LESSONS

Jesus obeyed civil and religious laws and became responsible and law abiding. However, it is difficult to obey the civil and religious laws all the time by our own effort. We must learn to ask God to give us spiritual power to obey all the laws of the church and laws of our country.

## EVALUATION:

1. What are laws?
2. How will the society be if there were no laws?
3. What are religious laws?
4. What are civil laws?
5. List two examples of civil law practiced by the Jews
6. List two examples of religious laws practiced by the Jews
7. List one civil and one religious law that Jesus obeyed?
8. State the importance of the presentation of Jesus in the temple.
9. What is the purpose of the sabbath according to Jesus?
10. How did Jesus react to the civil and religious laws?



## WEEK 9: JESUS CHRIST IMPROVES UPON THE LAW

Essential Questions: At the end of this lesson, I should be able to answer the following questions:

1. Discuss how Jesus improved on the following laws
  - A. Murder
  - B. Retaliation
  - C. Vows
  - D. Adultery
  - E. Love of enemies

### CONTENT

“Do not think that I have come to do away with the Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets. I have not come to do away with them, but to make their teaching come true.

The dual role of the laws—to condemn and to point the way to true life—is fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and in the coming of the Spirit to Jesus’ new covenant people. Jesus was the first obedient human and the faithful Israelite who fulfilled the law yet bore the curse of humanity's punishment so that others could have life and the status of covenant righteousness. Tim references Matthew 5:17-20:

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven

### TEACHING ABOUT MURDER (MAT 5: 21-26)

“You have heard that people were told in the past, do not commit murder, anyone who does will be brought to trial. But I tell you : whoever is angry with his brother will be brought to trial , whoever calls his brother ‘you good for nothing’ will be brought before the council and whoever calls his brother a worthless fool will be in danger of going to hell fire . So, if you are about to offer your gift to God at the altar and you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there and go make peace with your brother first then come to offer your gift to God.

“if anyone brings a lawsuit against you and takes you to court, settle the dispute with him while there is time, before you get to court. Once you get there, he will hand you over to the Judge who will hand you over to the police and you will be put in jail. There you will stay until you pay the last penny of your fine

### **ADULTERY (MAT 5: 27-30)**

“YOU have heard that it was said “do not commit adultery”. But now I tell you anyone who looks at a woman and wants to possess her has committed adultery in his heart”. So if your right eye causes you to sin take it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose part of your body than to have all of them thrown into hell.

### **TEACHING ABOUT VOWS (MAT 5: 33-37)**

“You have also heard that people were told in the past, do not break your promise but do what you have vowed to the Lord to do”. But now I tell you, do not use any vow when you make a promise. Do not swear by heaven for it is God’s throne nor by earth for it is the resting place for his feet nor by Jerusalem for it is the city of great Kings. Do not even swear by your hair because you cannot even make a single hair white or black. Just say ‘YES’ or ‘NO’ anything else comes from the evil one.

### **RETALIATION (REVENGE) MAT 5: 38-41**

He next touches upon the "law of retaliation". “You have heard that it was said an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth ’But now I tell you, do not take revenge on someone who wrongs you. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, let him slap the left too. And if someone sues you to court for your shirt, let him have your coat as well. When someone ask you for something, give it to him and if someone wants to borrow something, give it to him.

we think that here Christ is dealing with the traditional interpretation which admitted of personal revenge, of men taking the law into their own hands and revenging themselves

### **LOVE FOR ENEMIES (MAT 5: 43-48)**

“You have heard that it was said love your friends, hate your enemies’. But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you so that you can become the children of your father in heaven. For he makes his sun to shine on good and bad people alike, and gives rain to those who do good and evil as well. Why should God reward you if you love only the people who love you? Even the tax collectors do that. And if you speak only to your friends, have you done anything extra ordinary? Even the pagans do that, you must be perfect just like your heavenly father is perfect.

### **EVALUATION:**

1. What did Jesus say about fulfilling the law?
2. What should be our attitude to our enemies according to the bible?
3. What was Jesus trying to expantiate concerning the sixth commandment(Thou shall not kill)
4. What was Jesus trying to expantiate on the seventh commandment (Thou shall not commit adultery)
5. What did Jesus teach concerning retaliation?
6. What did Jesus say concerning vows?
7. As Christians, whom's perfection did Jesus compare ours to?
8. Why is swearing with heaven and earth unacceptable according to Jesus?
9. Do you think Jesus Christ really fulfilled the laws?how?
10. In your own term, define law