

Justice and Obedience to the Law

Printed Text • DEUTERONOMY 5:1–3; 10:12–13; 27:1–10
Devotional Reading • MATTHEW 22:36–40

Words You Should Know

- A. **Peace Offering** (Deuteronomy 27:7) shelem (Heb.)—A voluntary sacrifice of worship that represented thankfulness to God
- B. **Take heed** (v. 9) sakat (Heb.)—To be quiet

Teacher Preparation

Unifying Principle—The Protection of Justice.

People often struggle to do what they know is right. How can people find the strength and motivation to do what is right? Deuteronomy 10 teaches that obedience to God’s Law is for our own well-being.

- A. Read the Bible Background and Devotional Reading.
- B. Pray for your students and lesson clarity.
- C. Read the lesson Scripture in multiple translations.

O—Open the Lesson

- A. Begin the class with prayer.
- B. Display the Ten Commandments for the class to see. Explain that while these commandments are clear, some of the decisions we face may fall into “gray areas” of these commandments. For example: Am I considering buying a new car because I really need one, or because I covet the cars of my friends? Is putting my parent in a nursing home for the purpose of offering the best care, or am I dishonoring my parent by not caring for that parent in my home? Have participants consider similar dilemmas they face.
- C. Have the students read the Aim for Change and the In Focus story.
- D. Ask students how events like those in the story weigh on their hearts and how they can view these events from a faith perspective.

P—Present the Scriptures

- A. Read the Focal Verses and discuss the Background and The People, Places, and Times sections.
- B. Have the class share what Scriptures stand out for them and why, with particular emphasis on today’s themes.

E—Explore the Meaning

- A. Use In Depth or More Light on the Text to facilitate a deeper discussion of the lesson text.
- B. Pose the questions in Search the Scriptures and Discuss the Meaning.
- C. Discuss the Liberating Lesson and Application for Activation sections.

N—Next Steps for Application

- A. Summarize the value of trusting God’s commands as a source of justice.
- B. End class with a commitment to pray for the courage and strength to do the right thing, even when it is difficult.