

Fresh Water

In My Heart

"Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD" (Leviticus 19:18, NIV).

WORD!

Leviticus 19:9–18, 33–37, NIV—

“When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. **10** Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God. **11** “Do not steal. “Do not lie. “Do not deceive one another. **12** “Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God. I am the LORD. **13** “Do not defraud or rob your neighbor. “Do not hold back the wages of a hired worker overnight. **14** “Do not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but fear your God. I am the LORD. **15** “Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly. **16** “Do not go about spreading slander among your people. “Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor’s life. I am the LORD. **17** “Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in their guilt. **18** “Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

19:33 “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. **34** The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God. **35** “Do not use dishonest standards when measuring length, weight or quantity. **36** Use honest scales and honest weights, an honest ephah and an honest hin. I am the

The youth of Faith Christian Assembly filled the church’s gymnasium for a special presentation. The presentation was about donating to help the Sudanese in Africa dig wells for fresh water.

“Can you imagine having no fresh water in your community?” asked the woman featured in the DVD. “Can you imagine thousands of people dying because there is no fresh water?” The DVD showed young mothers and their children walking for miles with large containers on their heads to fill with fresh water, then walking miles back home with the heavy containers.

Jasmine was immediately overwhelmed by all she saw and heard. She wanted to do what she could to help. She wanted to take the lead for the campaign. The name of the campaign was “Fresh Water for My African Neighbors.” Right after the presentation, Jasmine found the Youth Director, Mrs. Jones, and told her she wanted to spearhead the campaign.

“This is exciting, Jasmine!” Mrs. Jones said as she handed pamphlets to Jasmine. “Here, take this information home and tell me your thoughts later.”

After reading the material, Jasmine told her mom about the campaign. “Wow, Mom! All we have to do is sacrifice for two weeks and drink nothing but water. And the money we would have spent on soda, juice, and sport drinks will be set aside to donate to the campaign.”

“That’s great!” Mom said.

Two weeks, later the “Fresh Water for My African Neighbors” campaign raised over \$5,000 to send to Sudan. Jasmine was overwhelmed with joy.



LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt. **37** "Keep all my decrees and all my laws and follow them. I am the LORD."

SIDEBAR

Living as God's Just People

Who is your neighbor? Is it the person next door or someone in your neighborhood? No. Your neighbor is *anyone*. Leviticus 19:18 teaches that your neighbor refers to everyone. You can have neighbors in another city or country. Humankind is one big family with lots of neighbors. The justice of holiness involves the compassion exemplified in leaving some grain unharvested so the less fortunate can glean and have food. God's justice calls for compassion, not only for one's fellow citizens, but also for everyone. The Canadians, Irish, Russians, Ethiopians, Mexicans, and Sudanese are all our neighbors.

How to Be a Loving Neighbor

1. **Be at peace with everyone.** Always endeavor to keep peace with your neighbor.
2. **Be a good neighbor.** Try to live in harmony with your neighbor.
3. **Be an example of Jesus in the earth.** Let your neighbor see the Christ in you.
4. **Be compassionate.** Do not hesitate to help those in need.

GOT IT!

A. Justice By Caring

Use Word! to help you find the opposite of the commandments in today's Scripture lesson. The first one has been done for you.

1. Do not lie: **Tell the truth**
2. Do not deceive one another: _____
3. Do not curse: _____
4. Do not hate: _____

B. Neighbors Decree

1. Jammers break into two groups.
2. Group One will list all the habits of a good neighbor.

3. Group Two will list all the habits of a bad neighbor.
4. Each group will act out the traits of a good neighbor and a bad neighbor.
5. After each group performs, talk about the differences between a good neighbor and a bad one.

JAM SESSION

Acting with Compassion

People want to feel significant. *How do we ensure others that they are valued?* We treat them with love, justice, and generosity. Love, justice, and generosity moved Jasmine and the youth group at church to help the people of the Sudan. Some of the Sudanese were without fresh drinking water and needed help. They were suffering and living under poor conditions. Jasmine felt a strong sense of compassion and spearheaded the campaign, which raised thousands of dollars for her neighbors in Africa. *Have you ever had compassion for someone in need outside your country?* The Bible teaches to love your neighbor just as you love yourself. God wants everyone to be treated fairly and equally, no matter where he or she lives.

JAM ON IT!

Love For All!

Jasmine's campaign was called "Fresh Water for My African Neighbors." Research a campaign that you would like to join that will show acts of compassion. Share your findings with the class next week.

LAST JAM

The world is your neighborhood!

QUESTIONS FOR CLASS

Use this space to write down questions you have about this lesson.

Can't Get No Satisfaction!



Walter and Aram walked from school into the new subdivision where Aram's parents had just bought a new home. The lawns were thick and green, and Aram's home was beautiful. On the way into the house, Aram petted his two dogs and went straight to the refrigerator.

"Hey, man, you want something to drink?" Aram had asked his mom to buy some soda and pizza, and to rent some movies for the night. He did not see the soda. "Man! They forgot my soda!" Aram said, pulling out a pitcher of sweet tea his mother had made.

"Hey, Aram. Can I use your phone to call my mom? She's going to need to speak to one of your parents."

"Yeah. Hold on. Mom? Mooooooooommm? Where is my soda?" Aram went off shouting through the house.

Just then, Aram's father came into the house from the backyard. "Hey! You must be Walter. How are you doing?"

"I'm doing well, Mr. Johnson. May I use the phone, and could you speak with my mother when I call her to let her know I arrived safely?"

"No problem, just pass me the phone after you call her."

After Walter called his mother, he asked Mr. Johnson if he could sit at the kitchen table to do his homework. Aram had already headed upstairs to set up the video game system so he could play his new games.

Mr. Johnson watched the young man take supplies from his backpack. "Walter, I hope you rub off on my son." He went to the stairway. "Aram, you come on down here and do your homework with your guest. Then you can go upstairs and play."

After the boys finished their homework, they went upstairs to play video games. Immediately, Aram started complaining.

"Man, my parents said we're having spaghetti tonight. We were supposed to have pizza! I can't believe it. They didn't get the movies I asked for, and now they say we're going to play Monopoly as a family—with my sister! This is horrible!"

"Spaghetti? I love spaghetti! Monopoly is fun!" Walter grinned. "And your sister isn't that bad."

In My Heart

"The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, 'If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!'"
(Numbers 11:4–6, NIV).

WORD!

Numbers 11:1–6, NIV—Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the LORD, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp. **2** When the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the LORD and the fire died down. **3** So that place was called Taberah, because fire from the LORD had burned among them. **4** The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, "If only we had meat to eat!" **5** We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. **6** But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!"

Verses 10–15—Moses heard the people of every family wailing at the entrance to their tents. The LORD became exceedingly angry, and Moses was troubled. **11** He asked the LORD, "Why have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me?" **12** Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land you promised on oath to their ancestors? **13** Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, 'Give us meat to eat!' **14** I cannot carry all these people by myself; the burden is too heavy for

me. **15** If this is how you are going to treat me, please go ahead and kill me—if I have found favor in your eyes—and do not let me face my own ruin.”

SIDEBAR

What More Could You Want?

The Israelites had been enslaved in Egypt, and although life was hard, many of them had become used to life in slavery. Once they were free and struggling to live on their own, some of them wanted to return to slavery, so they could have what was familiar and what they considered comfortable. Moses had to work hard to encourage his people to continue to push forward to the greater reward of being free in their own land, and often they complained and struggled against him while he tried to move them into the promise God had given them. Often people prefer what is familiar even when it is not good for them, because change and new things seem scary and too hard.

How to Be Satisfied

1. Make new friends.
2. Learn to live with less.
3. Use your extra money to buy something for someone in need.
4. Visit a children's hospital.

GOT IT!

A. True or False

Use “Word!” to help you with this activity. Circle T for True or F for False.

- T F** 1. When the Israelites complained, God felt bad for them.
- T F** 2. The Israelites missed the food they ate while in Egypt.
- T F** 3. The Israelites wanted pizza, potatoes, and strawberries.
- T F** 4. When Moses heard the people complaining, he began to agree; he missed Egypt too.
- T F** 5. Moses asked God to kill him if he was going to have to continue to deal with the Israelites and their complaining all by himself.

B. What Is Valuable to You?

Get five index cards from your teacher. On the white side of each index card write a number between one and five. On the other side of each card, write something that is valuable to you. Write the most valuable thing on the #5 card, and your least valuable on the #1 card. Your #5 card should have something on it that means a lot to you, and your #1 should have something that isn't as important to you. After everyone in your class has completed their five cards, trade them with other students in the room. Trade with everyone until you have one of each number of card, but make sure that only one of them is one of your own original cards. When everyone is done trading, make a list of what everyone has for #5, 4, 3, 2, and 1. *Do you agree that all the things listed as most valuable are equal in value? Why or why not? Do you agree that all the things listed as least valuable are equal in value? Why or why not?*

JAM SESSION

Truly Blessed

Walter and Aram attend the same school but lead very different lives. Walter is being raised by his mother, and he does not have the new house, dogs, and games that Aram has, yet he is thankful for what he has. Aram lives with both of his parents, lives in a new home, and has a lot of new toys and clothes, and he has a hard time recognizing his blessings and is always looking for more. In our Scripture, Israel is newly freed from Egypt, but the people are unable to see the blessing of being free instead of enslaved. Their focus is wrong. Aram walks into the house not looking for his parents to say hello; he immediately went looking for the things he had asked for and was not thankful for what he had in his home. Both the Israelites and Aram needed to pay attention to what they had. Sometimes we need to change our focus, not looking at what we don't have but looking at exactly what we do have and what God has blessed us with. We are better able to bless others when we have an attitude of gratitude for all the blessings God has given us.

JAM ON IT!

Take Inventory

This week, write down a list of all the new things you've received this year. When you finish, look at that list to see how many of those things you don't even pay attention to anymore. Do you even know where all of those things are? How many of them are old to you now? Then make a list of things you are thankful for that cannot be bought. Which list is more important to you? Come to class next session ready to share how thankful you are for the things and people on your second list.

LAST JAM

Each day provides its own gifts.—Chinese proverb