

Study Hints for Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons
Leviticus 19:17-18; Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Mark 12:28-37
Sunday, May 25, 2014
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be the answers to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. If someone is holding a grudge against someone, what are some things they can do to obey God?

Remember God’s command not to hold a grudge and resolve to obey God. Consider how Jesus acted toward those many would hold a grudge against if in the same situation.

Pray for everyone in the situation that makes you want to hold a grudge: those who injured others and those injured.

Pray for everyone to do the right thing; what God would want them to do.

Pray for all who have done wrong to do right, including yourself.

Forgive the person as an act of the will. You may need to forgive the person many times when you are tempted to hold a grudge against them again.

Pray that you will love the person as Jesus loves you and has forgiven you. If a crime has been committed, the most loving thing for the criminal might be that they receive justice to help them change and help those they have harmed. An unforgiving spirit and holding a grudge will harm the person who refuses to forgive even as they seek justice.

2. In what ways can Christian families help each member in the family live faithful and obedient to Jesus Christ as their Lord?

Read the Bible and discuss what you are learning—even if you do not read the Bible together, you can share what you are learning with others in the family.

Talk about trusting in Jesus, believing the Bible, and obeying God.

Live with the goal of being the best Christian example you can be—the Lord Jesus being your Helper.

Talk about current events, current moral standards (or the absence of moral standards), people the world admires, heroes in the Bible and Christian history, what a follower of Jesus would do these days in different places in the world.

Compare and contrast Christian beliefs and Bible teachings with those that are not Christian.

3. In what ways did Jesus show that obeying the Law of God was important?

He loved God and others, and demonstrated His love for God and others.
He obeyed the Law of God and disobeyed traditions that set aside the Law of God.
He quoted the Law of God and referred people to what the Scriptures taught.
He explained the Law of God and how to obey God.
He died on the cross to uphold God's Law and justice when God forgave sinners.

4. What reasons can you give for thinking the scribe who asked about the greatest commandment might have become a sincere follower of Jesus?

He focused his question on what the Bible taught.
He asked an honest question—Jesus knew he was not trying to trick Him.
He agreed completely with Jesus' answer and said so publicly, even before other scribes.
He called Jesus "Teacher," after he heard Jesus' correct answer according to the Bible.
He said Jesus' answer was right and true, which made Jesus a "Teacher."
Jesus said the scribe was not far from the Kingdom of God, so the scribe might have been inspired to do what he needed to do to enter the Kingdom of God.

5. Why do you think Jesus answered the scribe directly instead of in a parable?

Jesus knew that a teachable crowd was also listening to their conversation.
The scribe sincerely wanted to learn, so a parable was not necessary: see chapter 4 in the Gospel of Mark; especially, "When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, 'To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables;'" (Mark 4:10-11).

— © Copyright 2014 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.
You may reprint or reproduce Study Hints for Thinking Further for not-for-profit use.