International Bible Study Commentary
Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible
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International Bible Lessons
Teaching English as a Foreign Language
Teacher Page: Called to Be Holy
Leviticus 20:26; 1 Peter 1:13-21 (English Standard Version)

Before You Teach

A Note to the Teacher: This lesson is a flexible resource bank and contains more material than you will need for one class. Before teaching, choose and mark the activities and questions that best fit your students' English level, interests, and available time. You are not expected to use everything.

Suggested 60-Minute Selection: Choose 2 warm-up questions, 4-6 vocabulary words, 4 comprehension questions, 2 discussion or speaking questions, and 1 writing activity. The writing activity may also be assigned as homework.

Purpose and Scripture Materials

Purpose: Teach English as a Foreign Language using Leviticus 20:26 and 1 Peter 1:13-21 in the English Standard Version as the reading texts.

New to TEFL? We recommend certification training through The TEFL Academy, which will teach you how to use and write TEFL lessons such as this Teacher-Led English Lesson.

Recommended Level: A2-B1 with teacher support | Lesson Length: 30-45 minutes; extend to 60 minutes with additional activities.

Pronunciation Practice: Students can read along with the Scripture audio. Pause after each verse or sentence so they can repeat difficult words and phrases with the teacher's help.

Lesson Resources

Scripture Text: Leviticus 20:26; 1 Peter 1:13-21 ESV (provided handout)
Scripture Audio: Leviticus 20:26; 1 Peter 1:13-21 ESV
Use the handout for verse assignments and read-along pronunciation practice.

1) Lesson Overview

Theme: The LORD calls His people to be holy because He is holy and they belong to Him. Peter urges believers to prepare their minds, live as obedient children, and set their hope on grace. They were ransomed from futile ways by the precious blood of Christ. God raised Christ from the dead so that their faith and hope are in God.

English Skills: Reading, listening, vocabulary building, pronunciation, recognizing commands, explaining reasons with because, expressing purpose with so that, comparing passages, speaking practice, and writing.

Outcome: Students can explain what the passages say about holiness, identify commands for daily conduct, and describe how Christ gives believers reasons for faith and hope in God.

Teacher Tip

Help students read, write, listen to, and speak English while studying the ESV text. Encourage complete sentences, ask gentle follow-up questions, and give students time to think. Adjust activities to fit their ages, number, English proficiency, and available class time.

Teacher Awareness

Read in short sections: Leviticus 20:26; 1 Peter 1:13-16, 17-19, and 20-21. Explain holy as set apart for God and reflecting His goodness, not being superior to other people. In verse 17, fear includes reverence and taking God's judgment seriously. Explain the lamb image as sacrificial language describing Christ's purity and costly redemption. Use age-appropriate language when discussing blood and sacrifice. Explain exile as living away from one's homeland; do not require personal disclosures.

2) Suggested Lesson Flow

1. Begin with two warm-up questions.
2. Assign each student one or more verses to study and read aloud.
3. Ask what the assigned verses say and mean.
4. Identify the call to holiness shared by the two passages.
5. Play the Scripture audio while students read along.
6. Review vocabulary and practice difficult pronunciation.
7. Use selected comprehension, discussion, and speaking questions.
8. Finish with one writing activity and the final question.

3) Warm-Up Questions

Choose 2. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- How can people prepare their minds before an important task?
- What does it mean to belong to someone who loves you?
- Why is it important to treat people fairly?
- How can hope affect the choices a person makes today?

4) Vocabulary

Choose 4-6. Mark the words and prompts you plan to use.

Word or Phrase	Meaning	Teacher Prompt
holy	Set apart for God and reflecting His goodness.	Why should God's people be holy? (Lev. 20:26)
sober-minded	Thinking clearly and seriously; exercising self-control.	How should believers prepare their minds? (1 Pet. 1:13)
obedient	Willing to follow instructions or commands.	What kind of children should believers be? (v. 14)
conduct	The way a person behaves.	In what part of their conduct should believers be holy? (v. 15)
impartially	Fairly, without favoring one person over another.	How does the Father judge? (v. 17)
ransomed	Freed by the payment of a price.	From what ways were believers ransomed? (v. 18)
perishable	Able to decay or be destroyed.	Which perishable things does Peter name? (v. 18)
blemish	A mark, fault, or defect.	How does Peter describe the lamb? (v. 19)

5) Bible Text Comprehension

Choose 4. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- Why does the LORD say His people should be holy? (Lev. 20:26)
- Why has the LORD separated His people from the peoples? (Lev. 20:26)
- On what should believers set their hope fully? (1 Pet. 1:13)
- What should obedient children avoid being conformed to? (v. 14)
- In what part of their conduct should believers be holy? (vv. 15-16)
- How does the Father judge each person? (v. 17)
- From what were believers ransomed? (v. 18)
- With what were they ransomed, rather than silver or gold? (vv. 18-19)
- How does Peter describe the lamb, and whom does it represent? (v. 19)
- What did God do for Christ so that believers' faith and hope are in God? (v. 21)

6) Scripture Discussion

Choose a total of 2 from Scripture Discussion and/or Speaking Practice. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- How does belonging to God help explain the call to be holy?
- How does Leviticus 20:26 help us understand 1 Peter 1:15-16?
- Why does Peter connect clear thinking and self-control with hope?
- How can knowing that God judges impartially affect daily conduct?
- Why is the contrast between silver or gold and Christ's blood important?
- How does God raising Christ from the dead give believers a foundation for faith and hope?

Language Coaching Tip

Invite fuller responses: 'Can you tell me more?' 'Why do you think that?' or 'Can you say that in a complete sentence?' Model reasons with because: 'God calls His people to be holy because He is holy.' Model purpose with so that: 'God raised Christ and gave Him glory so that our faith and hope are in God.' Correct gently.

7) Speaking Practice

Choose a total of 2 from Speaking Practice and/or Scripture Discussion. Mark the activities you plan to use.

- Summarize Leviticus 20:26 and 1 Peter 1:13-21 in your own words.
- Describe three commands Peter gives believers in verses 13-17.
- Explain how the call to holiness connects the two passages.
- With a partner, ask and answer: What did not ransom believers, and what did?
- Explain the meaning of holy, obedient, and conduct in three sentences.
- Speak for 30-60 seconds: How can faith and hope in God shape daily choices? Use an imagined example if you wish.

8) Writing Task

Choose 1. Mark the writing activity you plan to use in class or assign as homework.

- Option A: Summarize Leviticus 20:26 and 1 Peter 1:13-21 in 6-8 sentences.
- Option B: Write a paragraph explaining why God calls His people to be holy and how this affects their conduct.
- Option C: Write four sentences about the passages. Use because in two sentences and so that in two sentences.
- Option D: Write five sentences using these words: holy, obedient, conduct, ransomed, and blemish.

9) Wrap-Up

Wrap Up

The LORD calls His people to be holy because He is holy and they belong to Him. Peter tells believers to prepare their minds, set their hope on grace, and live as obedient children. They should honor the Father who judges impartially. They were ransomed from futile ways by the precious blood of Christ, described as a lamb without blemish or spot. God raised Christ from the dead and gave Him glory so that their faith and hope are in God.

Remember

God calls His people to reflect His holiness in their conduct and to place their faith and hope in Him through Jesus Christ.

Final Question

How can belonging to God and trusting in Christ shape the way a person lives each day?