

**God's Laws Are Practical with Good Reasons**  
**International Bible Lesson**  
**Leviticus 23:15-22**  
**Sunday, February 14, 2016**  
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*"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. Leave them for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you. I am the LORD your God"*  
*(Leviticus 23:22).*

If an Israelite farmer asked why God forbade farmers from harvesting their entire crop, a good and sufficient answer from God would be, "I am the LORD your God." Mature believers can tell anyone asking questions about why they should obey God, "Because the LORD said so." Early in the believer's relationship with God, they need to learn to trust in God and understand that God has the best interests of everyone concerned whenever God gives a command. Because God is their Lord and King, believers obey God even when they do not understand why. In a similar way, good parents command their young children, "Do not run into the street." Based upon their ability to

understand, if the child asks “why,” a parent might reply, “Because I said so.” Children eventually understand that parents make rules to protect them, and believers eventually understand why God’s laws are good. God’s rules for farmers showed them the best way to care for the poor and the foreigner, and God gave His law for the benefit of farmers as well as the needy. Instead of commanding farmers to harvest their whole field and provide bags of grain for every needy person who came to their door, God’s command showed farmers how to help those able and willing to work. God’s law helped farmers encourage a good work ethic among the needy. God’s law also helped the farmer avoid selfishness and remain loving toward God and others in practical ways.

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## **Thinking Further**

1. What major feast followed the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread? When did it occur? What did the Christians name the feast in the Book of Acts?
  2. What could be used for wave offerings according to Leviticus 23:15-22?
  3. What kind of bread was used for Passover? What kind of bread was used for the feast in Leviticus 23:15-22?

**4. How might you compare the work of yeast in bread and the work of the Holy Spirit in believers?**

**5. How were the poor and foreigners in the land to be cared for by farmers?**