

Leviticus 19:9–18

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Leviticus 19:18

MEMORY VERSE

“Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against one of your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.”

Leviticus 19:18

“Mom?” called Mariah. “We’ve been talking about some laws in Leviticus that have to do with loving your neighbor. I understand these relate to who we are as Christians, but I thought we were free from the Old Testament laws.” Mom replied, “Well, we are free in that the Law doesn’t hold the power to condemn us. But it also doesn’t save us. The Law showed the Israelites when they were living below God’s standards. It revealed their sin and pointed them back to God’s salvation. As Christians, we have Jesus’ salvation. We don’t use the Law as a checklist for gaining salvation, but it still tells us how God expects us to treat others.”

Read Leviticus 19:9–18. God had set the Israelites apart as His own people. He wanted them to represent Him in this world. This meant they had to show others how much God loves and values all peoples. Today, the Church stands as God’s called-out people. We are His representatives here on earth. If we don’t express God’s love in tangible ways and teach our children to do the same, who will?

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

The family sits around the table, lights a candle, and turns out the lights. Next, a family member takes the candle and holds it. He or she shares a personal story about someone who has recently irritated him or her, making sure not to mention names. That person then passes the candle to another family member, and that person shares a similar experience. This process continues until each family member has had an opportunity to respond. A family member reads: **We are called to love all people, even those we may find difficult to love.**

Explore . . .

Family members take turns reading Leviticus 19:9–18 by candlelight. Then, a family member starts a discussion by asking: **Why do you think God gave these specific laws to the Israelites? Which ones are relevant today? What do these laws tell us about our heavenly Father? If you could focus on just one of these laws this week, which one would you choose?**

Transform . . .

Each family member thinks of a way to minister to the person they talked about in the Connect share time. This practical goal should be accomplished in the next few days. Finally, a parent says: **At the end of the week, let’s get together and share the results of our actions.**

Pray together that your family members will begin to see others as God sees them—with love, compassion, and grace.