



MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE

God's Way: Session 1

The Loving Lawgiver

Key Statement: The law of God 1) begins with love, 2) demands perfection, and 3) ends with love.

::CONNECT::

Option 1: Reflective Writing/Discussion

- Pass out paper and a pen to each student. Inform them they have three minutes to write about anything—song lyrics, a poem, a short story, etc.
- When the three minutes are up, invite students to share the poems verbally with the group.
- Discuss how the poems reflect things that are important to each person. If someone wrote about food, then food is likely important to him or her. If someone wrote about not wanting to write a poem, it can be inferred that he or she does not like poetry. If someone wrote something funny, that individual obviously values humor.
- Explain that just like our off-the-cuff writing showed something about us, the Ten Commandments show something about God's love. Consider going through all Ten Commandments and discussing how each one shows love (e.g., stealing shows respect for other people's work, etc.)

Option 2: Right vs. Wrong

- Break students into groups. Lead each group to pick a different Commandment from the Ten Commandments.
- Inform each group that they are to act out two skits. In the first skit, they are to show someone technically obeying the Commandment, but with a bad heart. In the second skit, the person is to obey the Commandment with a proper heart.
- Discuss the patterns you saw in the different skits. Chances are, the skits of people obeying from a good heart were prompted by love. After all, the end of the law is love; the goal of all these laws is to show love.
- Alternative: if you have fewer students, you can perform the same exercise by simply leading students to brainstorm examples of obedience out of duty and obedience out of love.

::CONVEY::

If you are pressed for time this week, consider spending the majority of your Convey time by focusing on points one and three of the session.

Remember, this is merely a suggested outline adaptation for a middle school group. If you decide to incorporate one or more option into your group time, you will likely have to be very selective on the material you decide to teach through. Keep in mind that each class is different, and as the leader guide suggests, personalize the lesson content for your class by determining what elements are most applicable. Don't feel pressured to teach through all of the content in a single meeting, but instead help middle school students to see the main overall point and big picture the lesson is conveying.

::COLLIDE::

See Leader Guide