

Activity Pages

FALL 2023
GOD'S LAW IS LOVE

These Activity Pages Are Designed To:

- Engage students in a way that lecture and open-ended discussion don't.
- Gain insight on what has been learned and what hasn't.
- Encourage students to learn from one another and build vital relationships, in keeping with Proverbs 27:17 and Galatians 6:2.

Tips For Using Activity Pages:

- Instructions are on each lesson's "Involvement Learning" page (for teachers) and Activity Page (for students).
- Use these pages as optional alternatives for "Involvement Learning" activities.
- Limit individual work time and focus on facilitating discussion among learners.
- Encourage students to complete take-home work by discussing their results in the next class session.

Maximize Group Activity Time!

- Instead of viewing group activities as empty time for you as the teacher, look for opportunities to encourage and challenge your students.
- Pray silently during the activity for the participants' spiritual growth! Pray for them by name, calling on the Lord to bless each person.
- Circulate among the groups of learners and observe their interactions to discover your learners' level of spiritual maturity.
- Pray that the Spirit will fall on your classroom, equipping your students with knowledge and filling them with passion to boldly proclaim the good news.

Jesus Confronts Hypocrisy

Lesson 1, Luke 11:37-44, NIV

Movie Script

With your partner, create an outline for a script of a movie that tells the story of a person who tries to be part of a perceived “in” crowd.

Movie Name: _____

Movie Theme: _____

Movie Characters: _____

Movie Plot: _____

We Still Have a Problem

Below are paraphrases of three accusations from Luke 11:37-44 that Jesus leveled against the Pharisees. Work with a partner to decide which of accusations would apply to the modern statement.

Paraphrase 1: “Your outside looks clean, but your inside is dirty.”

Paraphrase 2: “You tithe, but yet, you also neglect God’s view of what’s right and God’s example of love.”

Paraphrase 3: “You crave attention from God’s people and in the public square.”

1. That man asking for money is lazy and irresponsible; I’m not going to show him generosity with my money!
2. I provided money and time for that shelter. I want the shelter to acknowledge how much I gave!
3. I don’t know why the church doesn’t list all the names of the elders and deacons in the church bulletin. My husband gives so much of his precious time to this congregation, and nobody in the congregation is aware of it.
4. It’s acceptable for me to say cruel things to people I disagree with on my anonymous social media account. Those people deserve it, anyway.
5. I don’t need to help my unbelieving neighbors. They’ve got what’s coming for them, and I’m too busy with my time spent at the church.
6. My boss is an arrogant jerk. If I ever invite someone to church, it won’t be him!

Jesus Silences Critics

Lesson 2, Luke 14:1-6, NIV

Three Meals, One Pattern

Read the Scriptures, complete the chart, and answer the questions below.

	Who hosted the meal?	What were the main points of the conversation?	What were Jesus' instructions to the others at the meal?
Luke 7:36-50			
Luke 11:37-52			
Luke 14:1-24			

What pattern(s) do you notice in these Scriptures? _____

How does Luke 14:1-6 reveal the tension between Jesus and the Pharisees? _____

Remember the Sabbath

Paraphrase the following Scriptures to clarify what the Old Testament said about the Sabbath. Then discuss the question with your group.

Genesis 2:2-3 _____

Exodus 16:28-29 _____

Exodus 20:8-11 _____

Exodus 31:14-17 _____

Leviticus 23:3 _____

Deuteronomy 5:12-15 _____

Based on these Scriptures, what were the primary reasons for the Israelites to remember and observe the Sabbath?

Jesus Glorifies God

Lesson 3, John 7:14-24, NIV

Look at the Big Picture

Explore some context for today's text by completing the following chart. Note any pattern(s) in Jesus' teaching and responses.

Scripture	Event	Jesus' Action	Jesus' Response(s)	Jesus' Teaching
John 5:1-15				
John 5:16-47				
John 6:1-15				
John 6:60-71				
John 7:1-13				
John 7:25-44				

Examining the Story

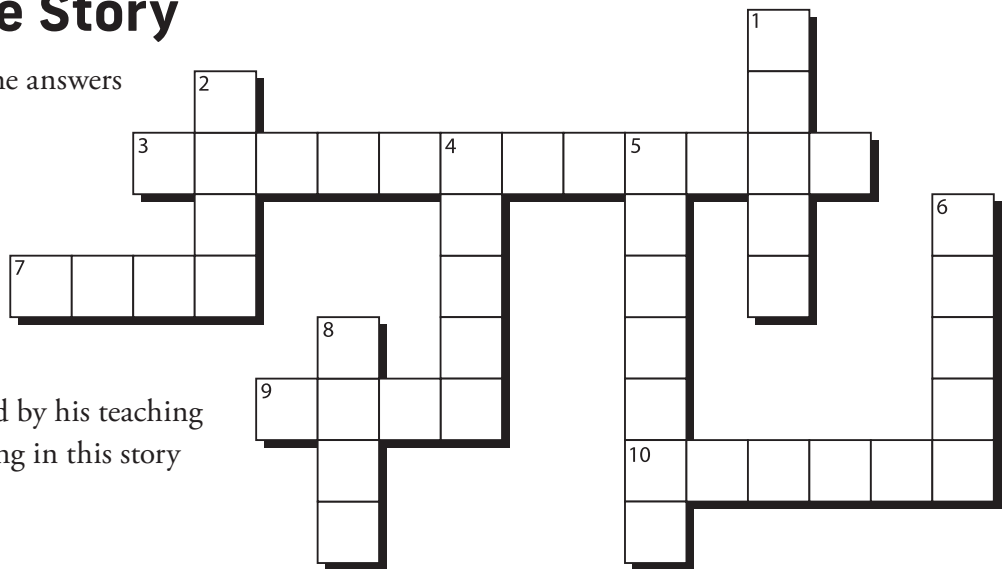
Study today's text to find the answers in the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS

- 3. The illustration in the argument of Jesus
- 7. Jesus accused his critics of wanting to do this.
- 9. Those who were surprised by his teaching
- 10. Where Jesus was teaching in this story

DOWN

- 1. Faulty teachers seek it.
- 2. Those who do God's _____ understand the source of Jesus' teaching.
- 4. He gave the law.
- 5. No work can be done on this day.
- 6. Be careful to do this as God would want.
- 8. Jesus' teaching "comes from the one who _____ me."



Jesus Prevents Two Stonings

Lesson 4, John 8:1-11, 56-59, NIV

When Can You Break the Speed Limit?

Discuss with your small group if it is okay to exceed the speed limit in any of the following circumstances.



1. When you are late to work, church, a job interview, or your child's game.
2. When other traffic is moving so fast, sticking to the speed limit would create a hazard.
3. When someone is tailgating you and looks irate.
4. When you have a sticker in your back window showing you support the police.
5. When you're transporting someone having a medical emergency.
6. When you're trying to escape a natural disaster (tornado, tsunami, forest fire).
7. When you're getting sleepy and want to reach your destination faster.
8. When you're trying to get to the airport to ask the love of your life not to leave you for that job in Paris.

Did your group discuss any difference between what might seem morally okay versus what is strictly legally acceptable?

Behavior and Motivations

The table below shows some of characteristics of the Pharisees in Jesus' day. How many of these characteristics are still showing up in your life? Check the appropriate boxes and jot down any notes about motivations.

Pharisees	Me
1. Diligently studied Scripture.	
2. Sent missionaries to convert others to their beliefs.	
3. Careful to tithe 10% of their resources to God.	
4. Rejected "sinful people" and did not treat them with kindness and mercy.	
5. Thought that disease and disability were signs of sinfulness.	
6. Liked to be honored and noticed for their righteousness.	
7. Offended when others did not follow their man-made rules and traditions.	
8. Wanted political leadership as well as religious leadership.	
9. Rejected prophets who called the nation to repentance and justice.	
10. Did not repent when Jesus called out their hypocrisy.	

Right and Wrong Around the World

Work with a partner to draw lines matching each of the following beliefs with the religion that teaches it. Some beliefs may be taught in more than one religion.

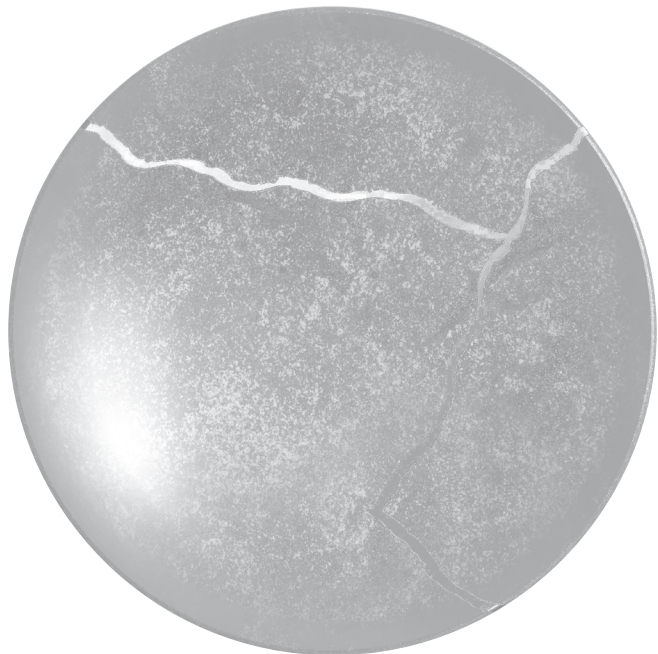
Buddhism	1. Murder is wrong.
Christianity	2. Children should obey their parents.
Hinduism	3. Stealing is wrong.
Islam	4. It is right to offer devotion to a divinity.
Judaism	5. It is good to study religious texts.
	6. Human life does not end at death.
	7. There will be rewards and punishments in the next life.
	8. We should pray and/or meditate.

What differences are there between the philosophical teachings of a religion and how those teachings are implemented by its followers in real life?

Repaired with Gold

Kintsugi is a Japanese artform that involves repairing broken pottery pieces with gold. The idea is that, in both art and life, we can create something strong and beautiful by displaying our flaws rather than hiding them.

Write on the cracked dish some examples of your flaws that God is in the process of beautifully repairing. If you'd like, share them with a friend as a celebration of what God can do.



Still on the Books

Each of the following laws is still on the books in some US states. Work with a partner to decide if each of these laws is a good idea or a bad idea. What do you suggest would be a suitable punishment for breaking each law?

	Good idea!	Bad idea!	Punishment?
Blaspheming God's name (Michigan).			
Fans over 16 years old may not swear at players or officials during sporting events (Massachusetts).			
Using a false name at a hotel (New Hampshire).			
Playing dominoes, hunting, shooting, playing cards or racing on Sundays (Alabama).			
Conducting a bingo game lasting longer than five hours (North Carolina).			
Wearing slippers in public after 10:00 p.m. in New York City (New York).			
Wounding a fish with a firearm (Wyoming).			

World-Record Marriages

According to Guinness World Records, Glynn "Scotty" Wolfe, a minister from California, held the record for the largest number of monogamous marriages: 29! Three were remarriages to women he had previously divorced; five ended with the death of the wife. His shortest marriage ended after just 19 days while his longest lasted 11 years. Wolfe passed away in 1997 at 88 years old, having fathered 40 children, only 1 of whom attended his funeral. None of his surviving previous wives attended. Discuss with a partner:



- Did Wolfe's marriages break the letter of the law? the spirit of the law? Why or why not?
- What does the reaction of his family after his death tell you about him as a husband and father?
- How does this story fit in with what Paul writes in Romans 7:1-3?

A Recipe for Winning Arguments

With a partner, read through the following suggestions for winning arguments. What others would you suggest or avoid? Which of these do you see Paul using in Galatians 2:11-21?

Do	Don't
Stay calm and listen carefully.	Use personal attacks.
Use facts.	Get distracted by tangents.
Ask questions.	Deliberately make your opponent angry.
Appeal to higher values.	Exaggerate your opponent's position.
Use logic.	Raise your voice.
Look for a win-win solution.	Make it about winning.
Other ideas:	Other ideas:

Call and Response Prayer

Respond "Amen" after each thought below. Write a summary prayer of your own on the lines provided.

Lord, thank you that we are not justified by works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ.

Lord, teach us to avoid the sins that prevent us from living by faith.

Lord, thank you that we died to the law so that we might live for you.

Lord, thank you that we have been crucified with Christ and that he lives in us.

Lord, thank you that the life we now live in the body, we live by faith in your Son, who loved us and gave himself for us.

Lord, help us not to set aside your grace.

Lord, we agree that righteousness cannot be gained through the law, for if it could, then Christ died for nothing.

One in Christ

Complete the acrostic below to define what it means to be righteous. Cite verses that support your choices.

R
I
G
H
T
E
O
U
S

Gospel to Abraham

Work with a partner to circle related words and phrases and draw lines between them. Then pick out one word or phrase that stands out to you and discuss its significance to the gospel.

Genesis 12:2-3

“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;
I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.
I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 15:5-6

“Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 18:18-19

“Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”

Genesis 22:17-18

“I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Freedom as an Heir

Lesson 9, Galatians 3:23–4:7, NIV

What Is Freedom? Part 1

Circle the five statements listed below that best describe your personal idea of freedom and answer the question that follows.

Paid time off
from work

The open road and
a full tank of gas

Singing at the top
of your lungs

Sending your last
child off to college

Having the house
to yourself

Being self-employed

A blank check

Dancing to your
own rhythm

Eating whatever
you want

Worshipping God
in your own way

Paying off your
mortgage

Other

A day at the beach

A weekend fishing trip

What does freedom mean to you? _____

What Is Freedom? Part 2

Work with your partner to list five things that describe what freedom in Christ means to you both. Pray together for an opportunity to share these things with an unbelieving friend this week.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Freedom from Expectations

Lesson 10, Acts 15:1-11, NIV

Which Is Better?

For each pair, circle the option that you prefer. Compare your answers to your partner's. If you and your partner choose different answers, discuss why you chose your preferences.

Coffee	OR	Tea
Books	OR	Movies
Summer	OR	Winter
Cake	OR	Pie
Mountains	OR	Beaches
Fruit	OR	Vegetable
Sweet	OR	Savory
Dog	OR	Cat
Breakfast	OR	Dinner
Comedy	OR	Drama

My Personal Practices

1. List any practices that you consider to be religious or spiritual.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Circle those practices in which you participate on a regular basis.

2. What is the attitude of your heart as you observe these practices?

3. What might need to change so that these practices better strengthen your faith in Jesus?

Freedom in Love

Lesson 11, Romans 13:8-10; 1 Corinthians 13:8-13, NIV

Love and Romance

An online search for “top love story movies” invariably turns up, instead, a list of “top romance movies.” (Go ahead, try it!)

Are love and romance the same or different? Explain.

Hollywood screenwriters know that a strong love story often includes an unlikely pairing, a specific challenge, and some degree of sacrifice by one or both members of the duo. Write down the title of a memorable love story you’ve seen (or peek at a list online). Describe the sacrifice involved.

The Bible on Love

Work with a partner to look up these Bible verses. What does each verse say about God’s love?

1 John 4:18 _____

John 15:12–13 _____

Psalms 107:8–9 _____

Proverbs 10:12 _____

List any other favorite verses about love:



Freedom from the World

Lesson 12, Colossians 2:16-23, NIV

Real or Fake?

The following items are substitutes for something else. Name the original item, then brainstorm other items that can be substituted for something else.

Plant-based meat _____

Margarine _____

Karaoke _____

How do you distinguish whether something is the original or a substitute?

How do you distinguish whether something is real or fake?

Stay Connected

List ways that a believer can stay connected to Christ. (Read Colossians 3 for some ideas.)

Share with your partner one way that you will practice staying connected to Christ in the upcoming week.

Freedom to Edify

Lesson 13, 1 Corinthians 10:23–11:1, NIV

Just Because You Can

In a small group, brainstorm examples of lawful behavior that may have a negative impact on another person.

Write about a time you were challenged to avoid an activity that was lawful but might have had a negative impact on another. Sharing what you wrote will be optional.

How Shall We Act?

With a partner, discover what Paul says in the following passages about how we should act in our daily behavior.

Romans 14:13-18 _____

Romans 14:19-21 _____

Write words or phrases about how you can implement what you've learned in the week ahead.



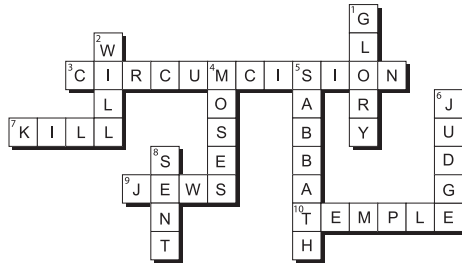
Lesson 1

We Still Have a Problem

1. Paraphrase 2
2. Paraphrase 3
3. Paraphrase 3
4. Paraphrase 1
5. Paraphrase 1
6. Paraphrase 1

Lesson 3

Examining the Story



Lesson 5

Right and Wrong Around the World

All five religions teach all 8 of the listed beliefs.

Lesson 12

Real or Fake

- Plant-based meat—Animal meat
- Margarine—Butter
- Karaoke—Concert