

Lesson 16: The law of love

Aims for each learner:

- To seek to love the Lord with all our heart, and our neighbours as ourselves.
- Be secure that God's love for us does not depend on our love for Him.
- Understand that we owe everything to God, out of gratitude.
- Memorize Mark 12:30-31.

Cultural clues:

- Muslims' motivation for obedience
- Muslims, BMBs & hospitality

Prepare: Bread and Juice for the Lord's supper, if you wish.

Opening

Last week's practical task: How well did you control your anger this week? Divide into the same pairs as at the end of last week and share with each other what went well, and what didn't. *After 5 minutes sharing, pray this prayer, asking learners to repeat after you each phrase:*

Our Father God... Thank you for your promise that if we confess our sins... You are faithful and just... and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness... Please forgive for the angry words we each spoke last week... Cleanse us and fill us afresh with your Spirit... to serve you better this week. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

Lesson 16 home study review:

Question 1: First: Lord, God, heart, soul, mind, strength **Second:** neighbour, yourself

Question 2: love

Question 3: a) False; b) True

Introduce today's topic: Now we are following Jesus Christ, what rules or law should we live by? *Christ's law or Christ's shariah.* We call Christ's shariah the law of love. Today, let's learn about God's love for us, our love for God and our love for other people.

Discussion

God loves us first (Questions 1-5)

Look at the picture of the two servants. Which servant is happier to serve his master? What is the meaning for us? *We serve God in gratitude for saving us. Others serve from fear of punishment.*

Question 4: Read the question.

- Are we completely safe and secure in God's love?
- So will he send us to hell, even for a time?
- Why then should we serve God with all our heart?

Yes, if we are in Christ.

No, Christ has paid for all our sins. Most Muslims say they cannot be sure if they will go straight to heaven or spend some time in hell.

God proved his love (Questions 6-10)

Questions 7-8: Christ's followers worldwide have two special ceremonies. We learned about Baptism before. The other is called the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. We take part to remember and celebrate the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for us on the cross. **Read the whole of questions 7-8.**

- How often do you take part in the Lord's Supper? Or have you never had the opportunity?
Some groups of believers do it frequently, others less often. Some learners may not have yet taken part.
- What do they call this ceremony in your group of believers?
- What are your emotions when you take the bread and the grape juice?
- Does your group of believers use wine or grape juice? If wine, is that a problem for you?



In Muslim countries, most churches use non-alcoholic juice. In the West it varies from one denomination to another. Some BMBs drink alcohol, others do not, so adapt this question to your learners. Where wine is used, a teetotal person might consider that taking a small sip is different from 'drinking' in other settings.

- Should we let non-believers take the bread and grape juice? *No. It is for Christ's own followers.*

The law of love (Questions 11-13)

Read 1 John 4:7-13:



- Which verse says that God is love? How does this make you feel?
- Which verses show that God loved us first before we did anything in return?
- How did God show us his love?
- How should we respond to God's love, according to verses 7 and 11?
- No one can see God himself, yet what can they see when we love one another? See verse 12.

Verse 8.

Verses 9-10.

God sent his Son (v.9) as an atoning sacrifice (v.10).

(By contrast, the Quran teaches that God loves those who make themselves pure.)

By loving one another

They see that God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.



Question 13: Review and practise the memory verse: Mark 12:30-31

- This summary of Christ's law is very short and simple to memorize. But is it simple to obey?
- Who makes us able to obey this law of love? *God's Spirit in our lives.*

Question 14: Round which bullet point did you put a circle? Why? *Advisor should share too.*

Loving our neighbours as ourselves (Questions 15-25)

Question 17: Look at the four pictures. Discuss who is obeying Christ's shariah (law).

- In Picture A, why does the husband want to make his wife happy?
- In Picture B, to obey Christ's law, what should the husband do?
- In Picture C, in what ways might God answer this lady's prayer?
- In Picture D, the girl is disobeying Christ's shariah (law). What will be the result?

Question 19: Read and discuss the question.

Question 22: Read the true story in the box.

- Read the section after the story box. What did you write here?

Question 24: Look at the pictures of Farida and Asghar.

- Which one are you like?

Question 25: Read the whole of question 25 and the speech bubble.

- What do you think? Is it possible to love our enemies? *See Philippians 4:13!*
- Can you give any real examples of Christ's followers who loved their enemies?
- If people in this world and in our communities, started to love their enemies, what would be the outcome?

One true story is of Farid in Lesson 10. Another is told in Nik Ripken's book 'The Insanity of God' about a man who spent years in prison, where the guard treated him horribly. Many years after his release he met the guard, who by then was old and sick. The believer prayed for this man and brought him medicine.

Conclusion

Obeying today's teaching:

- 1 Peter 4:8 says "love each other deeply". What difference will today's lesson make in your life?
- **Read together the practical task.**
- Keep going with the home study and practical task each week!

Pray together:

Take the Lord's supper together if you feel it is appropriate. Then have a time of prayer, thanking Jesus for his body and blood, and praying that he would help each of us follow the law of love.