



The Holiness Code

SUPPLIES NEEDED

You will need the following:

- 7 Sheets of Cardstock (8.5" x 11")
- 7 3 mil Laminating Film

DIRECTIONS

- Print pages 2-15 two-sided and then laminate them.
- Hold up the pictures while you read the story on the back during class.

Graphics: Laura Strickland
<http://www.whimsyclips.com/>

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www.freechristianillustrations.com

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**You shall be HOLY
for I am HOLY**

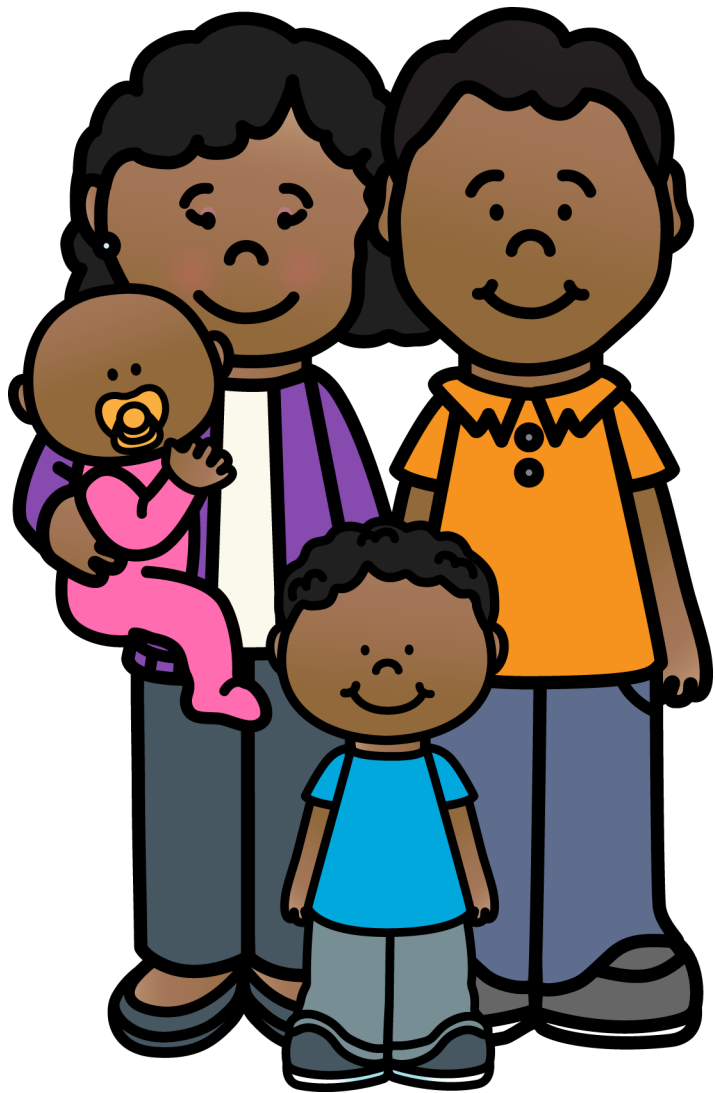


Do you remember what God taught the Israelites in our last lesson? (*clean & unclean animals*) Do you remember the reason why? God said, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” Well guess what...God says almost the exact same thing in Leviticus 19:2. He says, “You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.” Being holy must be very important because God repeats it.

What does holy mean? (*set apart, righteous, godly*)

Leviticus chapter 19 is like a Holiness Code. It’s a list of principles that the Israelites were to follow to set themselves apart from the other nations around them. If they followed these principles, they would be holy and God’s special people.

Let’s look at some of these laws...I bet you will recognize some of them.



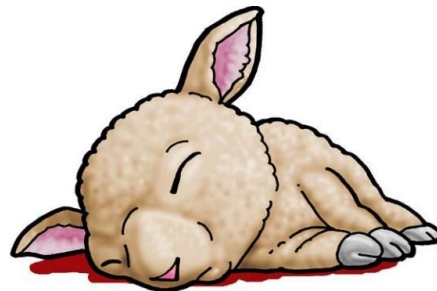
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“Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep My Sabbaths”

What does it mean to revere your parents? (*respect, obey*)

What did keeping the Sabbath involve? (*not working on the 7th day*)

Where have you heard similar rules/laws? (*10 Commandments*)



“Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves cast metal gods...Now when you offer a sacrifice of peace offerings to the Lord, you shall offer it so that you may be accepted.”

Again we have something from the 10 Commandments: don't worship idols. And then God adds that they need to make sure to make their sacrifices to Him in an acceptable way. Remember all the instructions on sacrifices were in the first seven chapters of Leviticus. Do you remember what was an acceptable sacrifice to God? (*bull, lamb, goat, male, unblemished*)



“Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap the corners of your field...nor shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger.”

This is God telling the Israelites to leave some of their harvest in their fields so that the poor or those traveling will be able to eat. Remember they didn't have McDonald's, so travelers were dependent on strangers letting them have some food as they traveled.

The story of Ruth is a good example of an Israelite, Boaz, leaving enough grain in the field for a poor widow to gather enough food.



GOD



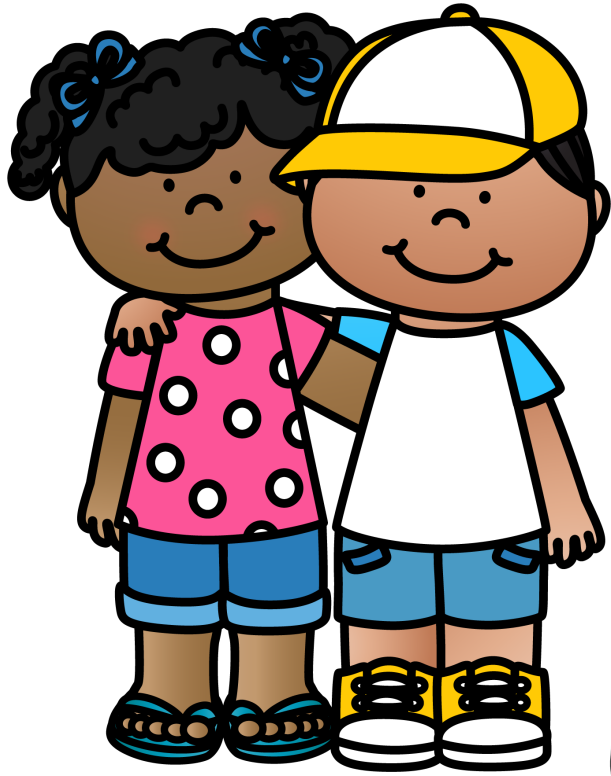
“You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by My name, so as to profane the name of your God”

These again are similar to the 10 Commandments. Do not steal, do not lie, do not use God’s holy name in vain.



“You shall not curse a person who is deaf, nor put a stumbling block before a person who is blind...”

Well that wouldn't be nice would it? We shouldn't talk bad about anyone, but especially a deaf person, because they can't hear what you're saying. And how mean would it be to put something in front of a blind person so that they tripped and fell?



God goes on to say:

“Do not go about spreading slander (*gossip*) among your people. Do not do anything that endangers your neighbor’s life. Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart. Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself.”

Have you ever heard that last part before? Most people call that the Golden Rule:

“Love your neighbor (or others) as yourself.”

Jesus even quotes this in Matt. 22:37-40. Jesus says:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

And James 2:8 calls this the “royal law”.

Do you feel like all these rules are a burden/too hard? (*maybe*) Do you think God had a good reason for making all these rules? (*Yes*) Do you think if everyone followed these rules, we would all get along and be happy with each other? (*Yes*) Do you think God knows what’s best for us? (*Yes, He does*)