

eavesdropping

"You Lost Me at Leviticus" // Group Discussion Guide

What has your experience been with the Old Testament Law?

The Old Testament Law was not written to you, but it was written for you.

Read Matthew 5:17-18. What do you think Jesus is trying to say to us here? How can the Law be for you if it wasn't written to you?

The Law Was Essential.

God was separating a group of people for himself to show the world what it looks like to be in the care of a loving God. How difficult do you think it was for the Israelites to shed the ways of the Egyptians? How has your own culture or upbringing affected the way you understand God?

The Law Was Innovative.

The idea that every life is equally and intrinsically valuable was repeatedly emphasized in the Old Testament Law. Practically speaking, have you found that most people in our culture embrace this principle or oppose it?

The Law Was Beneficial.

The ancient Israelite people were "blessed" when they obeyed the Law. Though they may not have known at the time, God included all sorts of health and dietary restrictions to benefit them. What can we learn from this about the nature of God's commands, especially when we don't understand the reasoning behind them?

The Law Was A Response.

Why was God constantly reminding the Israelites that he rescued them from slavery?

God's message at the heart of both the Law and the gospel is:

"I did this for you, because I'm in this for you." NOT "I did this for you, now do this for me."

How frequently do you find yourself living by the second principle instead of the first? How does this change of mind change the way we live our lives?

The Interpretive Journey

1. Grasp the text in their town.
What was the original author trying to say to the original audience? What is the context of the passage?
2. Identify the gap.
What are the differences between the original audience and us?
3. Bridge the gap.
Is there a timeless theological principle that is not bound to any person or circumstance?
4. Cross into the New Testament
Can we find a passage in the New Testament that modifies or qualifies this principle?
5. Grasp the text in our town.
How can we apply this principle to our lives?

Leviticus 19:9-10

If you have time, try taking this passage through the Interpretive Journey:

"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God."