

Through the Bible In One Year

The Adventure of Many Lifetimes

Unpublished Work, December 2005, Laura Gardner.

Theme: Loving Like God Fulfills the Law
Week 5 Small Group Bible Study & Sunday School Lesson

Open (Sharing our Own Stories & Getting To Know One Another)

1. What rules did your family have for you as a child? 2. What was the penalty for breaking those rules? 3. What would be the most important rule you have imparted or would want to impart to your children?

Going Deeper Into God's Word Together

Read aloud Exodus 19:16-20; Psalm 27:1-8; Matthew 22: 34-40

Exodus: 1. It was evident by all the physical signs (thunder, lightning, thick clouds, loud trumpet blast) that God was present on Mt. Sinai. Where have you felt that you were truly in God's presence? How did you feel about approaching God there? 2. Moses tells his people to set limits around the mountain and set it apart as holy. What area(s) have you set limits around and made holy? What does "holy" mean to you? 3. Why is it significant that God's first "rule" is that you shall have no other gods before you? What other gods might creep into our lives?

Psalms: 1. David describes God as his light and salvation. How would you describe God? 2. David seeks one thing: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life. What does it mean to you "to dwell in His house?" Is that what you also seek? 3. In what ways does David wish God to show His love for him? In what ways do you need God to express his love for you?

Matthew: 1. When questioned by the Sadducees as to the greatest commandment, Jesus replies, "Love the Lord with all your heart, soul and mind." Why is it important that we love God so totally? 2. The second commandment Jesus gives is "Love your neighbor as yourself." Why is difficult to love our neighbor if we don't love ourselves? What is the source of healthy self-love? 3. Which of these two commandments do you find the most difficult to obey? Why?

Reflecting On What God Is Telling Us:

1. How much of God's love is flowing from you to others? ____ a rushing river ____ a gentle stream ____ a small trickle? 2. What thoughts or actions do we need to make that flow increase?

Applying/Putting Into Practice What God's Told Us

What is one action you could take this week that would show someone that you are trying to love like God?