

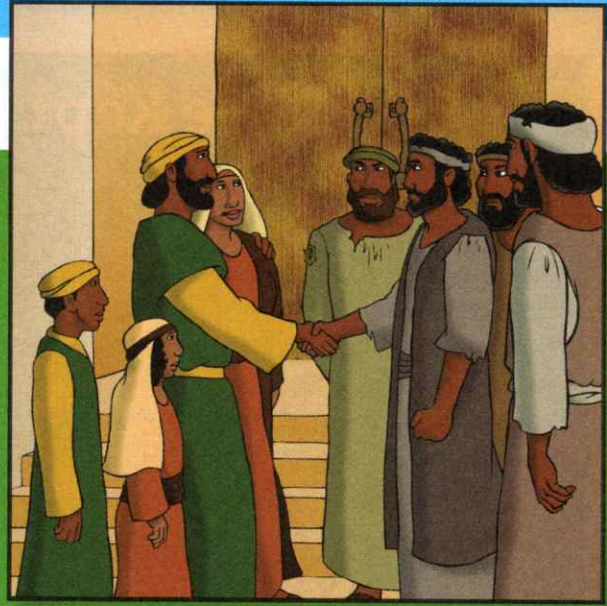
January 16, 2022

BIBLE LESSON

7



KEY VERSE: [God's words to His people]: "Be careful to do everything I have said to you." (Exodus 23:13a)



# Justice for All

Lesson Scripture: **Exodus 23:1-12**

## God's Word

**1** "Do not spread false reports. Do not help a guilty person by being a malicious witness. **2** Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd, **3** and do not show favoritism to a poor person in a lawsuit. **4** If you come across your enemy's ox or donkey wandering off, be sure to return it. **5** If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, do not leave it there; be sure you help them with it. **6** Do not deny justice to your poor people in their lawsuits. **7** Have nothing to do with a false charge and do not put an innocent or honest person to death, for I will not acquit the guilty. **8** Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and twists the words of the innocent. **9** Do not oppress a foreigner; you yourselves know how it feels to be foreigners, because you were foreigners in Egypt. **10** For six years you are to sow your fields and harvest the crops, **11** but during the seventh year let the land lie unplowed and unused. Then the poor among your people may get food from it, and the wild animals may eat what is left. Do the same with your vineyard and your olive grove. **12** Six days do your work, but on the seventh day do not work, so that your ox and your donkey may rest, and so that the slave born in your household and the foreigner living among you may be refreshed."

# Bible Story

## Justice for All

### Exodus 23:1-12

This lesson teaches us how to live at peace with one another. We should not spread mean or nasty talk. We should avoid telling lies in court and helping those who are guilty of crimes. We should avoid joining a mob that is intent on causing damage. We should not let the opinions of the majority cause us to lie. We should not tell untruths about a poor person.

We should return our neighbor's animals that have strayed away from home. If we see our neighbor struggling, we must stop and offer to help, even if that neighbor does not like us. We should not slant or twist justice against the poor.

We must never lie and accuse someone of doing evil or cause an innocent or honest person to be put to death. Anyone guilty of this would not be allowed to go free.

We must not take bribes. One's taking bribes helps him or her ignore something wrong that he or she clearly sees. A bribe always hurts the person who is in the right.

We must not mistreat any foreigners who are living among us. We must remember our own experiences.

We must plant and harvest crops for six years, then let the fields go unplanted on the seventh year, as well as allow the poor to harvest any crop that grows voluntarily—leaving the rest for the animals. We should work for six days and rest on the Sabbath. This also applies to our animals and our servants.

## Live by the Rules (Part 1)

Tyler and Dayna's mom had had enough! It seemed that everyone did what they wanted to do—nobody followed the rules anymore! She decided to make sure that everyone knew what the rules were. She would let them know the consequences for breaking the rules also. Enough was enough!

"What's wrong with Mom?" Dayna asked. "She seems a little upset."

"I don't know," Tyler replied. "But I did notice that she was mumbling to herself and slamming doors."

"Did you do something to make her mad?" Dayna inquired.

"Me? I thought that you'd done something!" Tyler responded.

"Me? It's never me," Dayna said. "It's always you!"

"It's both of you," Mom noted as she entered the room. "And I have had enough!"

## Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius



Hello! Nicholas and Cornelius here! Do we have rules around here for our travels? I'm sure we do—or we could get into some pretty serious trouble. In addition to having rules for travel, we also have to obey the laws of the places to which we travel. Why are rules necessary? Can't we just do what we know to do, and everything will go along smoothly? Is it possible to have too many rules?

## Live by the Rules (Part 2)

"Starting immediately—as in right this minute—there's going to be some changes!" Mom stated.

"Changes . . . what sort of changes?" Tyler asked. "I like things the way they are."

"Well, I don't," their mom said. "That's why I've made this chart of the rules and the consequences for breaking them. There won't be any questions because I'm posting them right here on the kitchen bulletin board."

"Mom, do you think that's necessary?" Dayna questioned. "We've never had a list of rules before."

"And I'm tired of things the way they are," their mom commented. "Now, take a seat and we're going to go over these rules and make sure that both of you know what's expected of you."

## Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius



Hello! Nicholas and Cornelius here!

As Tyler and Dayna are learning in today's story, sometimes rules are set up so that things will run smoothly. Sometimes, rules are set up so that we understand what our duties are. And sometimes, rules are set up so that people know how to treat one another. It seems that Dayna and Tyler's mother had to make some changes in order to have peace in her home!

## It All Adds Up

To complete this activity, find the intersection of two numbers that add up to equal the given number under each line. Write the letter found at that intersection on the line. (It does not matter which combination of numbers you use to come up with the given number. For example, if the number "3" is given, add 1 + 2 or 2 + 1 to locate the letter "P.")

	1	2	3	4	5
1	O	P	A	E	S
2	P	A	E	S	L
3	A	E	S	L	R
4	E	S	L	R	T
5	S	L	R	T	U
6	L	R	T	U	N

"B  $\frac{\quad}{5}$  C  $\frac{\quad}{4}$  R  $\frac{\quad}{5}$  F  $\frac{\quad}{10}$   $\frac{\quad}{7}$   $\frac{\quad}{4}$   $\frac{\quad}{11}$  D  $\frac{\quad}{2}$

$\frac{\quad}{5}$  V  $\frac{\quad}{5}$   $\frac{\quad}{8}$  Y  $\frac{\quad}{9}$  H I  $\frac{\quad}{11}$  G I H  $\frac{\quad}{4}$  V  $\frac{\quad}{5}$

$\frac{\quad}{6}$   $\frac{\quad}{4}$  I D  $\frac{\quad}{9}$   $\frac{\quad}{2}$  Y  $\frac{\quad}{2}$   $\frac{\quad}{10}$ ."