Refreshed IN THE WORD
For thy word hath quickened me
PSALM 119:50

Torah Studies

Connecting the Torah and Jesus

STUDY 20

Holiness in Everyday Life

Day 20 · Leviticus 19

See how love for God reaches our words, work, families, and neighbors. Explore Leviticus 19 and the command Jesus placed at the heart of loving others.

For personal reading and study with friends

King James Version · Complete Scripture passages

Read and share online

Read one section at a time. Take turns reading the verses aloud, discuss the questions, and choose one practical response. Every passage referenced in the teaching is included in full.

Let’s begin together

Father, show us what holiness looks like in ordinary life. Make our words honest and our actions loving. Help us notice people who need care. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Leviticus 19 speaks to the whole community, not only the priests. Its laws cover worship and daily relationships. Holiness means belonging to God and reflecting His character. This chapter shows that worship and the way we treat people belong together.

Main truth: Loving God becomes visible in honest, fair, and caring treatment of our neighbors.

1. Holiness begins with belonging to God

Leviticus 19:1-8

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.

3 Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.

4 Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God.

5 And if ye offer a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the LORD, ye shall offer it at your own will.

6 It shall be eaten the same day ye offer it, and on the morrow: and if ought remain until the third day, it shall be burnt in the fire.

7 And if it be eaten at all on the third day, it is abominable; it shall not be accepted.

8 Therefore every one that eateth it shall bear his iniquity, because he hath profaned the hallowed thing of the LORD: and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

God grounds His command in His own holiness. Israel was to honor parents, keep His Sabbaths, reject idols, and handle peace offerings as He directed. “Holy” does not mean acting important. It means taking God seriously and letting His instruction shape our behavior.

2. Leave room for someone else to eat

Leviticus 19:9-14

9 And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest.

10 And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I am the LORD your God.

11 Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.

12 And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

13 Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither rob him: the wages of him that is hired shall not abide with thee all night until the morning.

14 Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD.

Farmers were to leave part of the harvest for poor people and foreigners. Workers were to receive their wages promptly. People with hearing or sight disabilities were to be protected from cruelty. Holiness reached the field, the workplace, and the way someone treated a neighbor who could not easily defend himself.

Leviticus 19:15-18

15 Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.

16 Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.

17 Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.

18 Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.

Fair judgment must not depend on whether a person is rich or poor. God also addresses gossip, hatred, revenge, and grudges. Loving your neighbor includes speaking truthfully about a wrong while refusing to feed hatred. A loving correction seeks someone’s good; gossip spreads someone’s trouble.

3. Read difficult laws honestly

Leviticus 19:19-22

19 Ye shall keep my statutes. Thou shalt not let thy cattle gender with a diverse kind: thou shalt not sow thy field with mingled seed: neither shall a garment mingled of linen and woollen come upon thee.

20 And whosoever lieth carnally with a woman, that is a bondmaid, betrothed to an husband, and not at all redeemed, nor freedom given her; she shall be scourged; they shall not be put to death, because she was not free.

21 And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the LORD, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, even a ram for a trespass offering.

22 And the priest shall make an atonement for him with the ram of the trespass offering before the LORD for his sin which he hath done: and the sin which he hath done shall be forgiven him.

Verse 19 gives Israel rules about mixtures in farming, animals, and clothing. The next verses address sexual wrongdoing involving an enslaved woman who was promised in marriage. The man must bring a guilt offering; his act is called sin. The passage reflects an ancient system in which the woman was not free. We must not turn that setting into permission to own or exploit people.

Leviticus 19:23-31

23 And when ye shall come into the land, and shall have planted all manner of trees for food, then ye shall count the fruit thereof as uncircumcised: three years shall it be as uncircumcised unto you: it shall not be eaten of.

24 But in the fourth year all the fruit thereof shall be holy to praise the LORD withal.

25 And in the fifth year shall ye eat of the fruit thereof, that it may yield unto you the increase thereof: I am the LORD your God.

26 Ye shall not eat any thing with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times.

27 Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt thou mar the corners of thy beard.

28 Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD.

29 Do not prostitute thy daughter, to cause her to be a whore; lest the land fall to whoredom, and the land become full of wickedness.

30 Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.

31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

New fruit trees required patience before their fruit could be enjoyed. Israel was also warned against false spiritual practices, certain mourning customs, and exploiting a daughter sexually. These different laws shaped a people whose worship belonged to the Lord. We should seek His guidance and protect people rather than use them for profit or personal wishes.

4. Love reaches the person who feels outside

Leviticus 19:32-37

32 Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.

33 And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him.

34 But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

35 Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure.

36 Just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin, shall ye have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt.

37 Therefore shall ye observe all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: I am the LORD.

Honor older people. Love the foreigner as yourself. Use honest weights and measures. Israel knew the experience of living as strangers in Egypt, and that memory was to shape their welcome. Today, fair prices, truthful measurements, patient listening, and kindness to newcomers are practical places to begin.

5. Jesus brings the command into focus

Mark 12:28-34

28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

32 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:

33 And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

Jesus joins love for God with love for neighbor. He quotes the neighbor command found in the chapter we just read. These are not competing duties. Love for God is meant to shape love for people. Knowing the right words matters, but Jesus calls us to a life that actually practices them.

Talk it over with friends

1. Which everyday command in this chapter surprised you?

2. What is the difference between loving correction and gossip?

3. Who could you welcome or help this week?

Put it into practice

Choose one concrete act of neighbor love: pay what you owe, share food, welcome someone new, or stop passing along a rumor. Do it quietly and sincerely.

A verse to carry with you

Mark 12:31

31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Your neighbor is a person to love, not a problem to avoid.

Let’s pray together

Father, make our love practical. Teach us honesty in our work, kindness in our words, fairness in our decisions, and generosity with what You give us. Help us love You with our whole heart and love our neighbors as ourselves. In Jesus’ name, amen.

I love you, my friends.

Scripture and sources

Scripture text was checked against the King James Version published by eBible.org. The complete verses are reproduced with their historical wording. Verse numbers and layout are adapted for reading; editorial footnotes are omitted. Tap any Scripture reference to view its source.

Bible edition and text